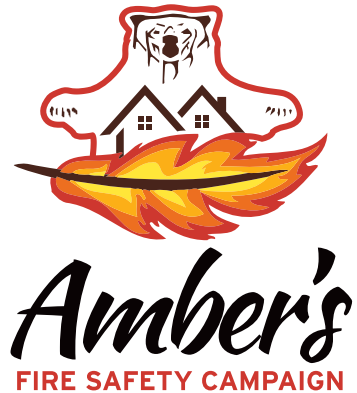


A close-up, low-angle shot of a CD-ROM disc. The disc is partially visible, showing its reflective surface and the central hub area with concentric rings. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a gentle glow.

$$\Delta \sigma \cdot \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{e}_2 \cdot \nabla \mathbf{p} \geq \mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{L} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{e}$$


AMBER'S FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN UPDATE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2017



**Increasing fire safety
and fire protection in
Nishnawbe Aski Nation.**



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Fatal house fires are all-too common in NAN First Nations and the chronic lack of firefighting services and substandard housing is a deadly combination. House fires are especially devastating in remote communities where overcrowding is the norm and entire families are left homeless every time a home is lost.

“Our community has suffered tremendously from fatal house fires and every loss is remembered as if it was today. A home is a basic human right afforded to all people in a first world country - it is one of the three pillars of the pyramid of needs. Our people should not be at risk of harm in their own homes.”
- *Mishkeegogamang First Nation Chief Connie Gray-McKay*

INTRODUCTION

The Amber's Fire Safety Campaign is Nishnawbe Aski Nation's response to help end the countless fire-related tragedies that have devastated our communities. NAN is working with Tribal Councils, various levels of government, municipal fire departments and other agencies to coordinate efforts to improve fire safety and fire-fighting services in all of our communities to prevent further loss of lives.

Fire Safety Campaign will:

- » Provide a smoke detector in every home in NAN territory
- » Enhance fire prevention education and increase fire safety awareness
- » Develop plans for fire protection, fire-fighting equipment, services and infrastructure
- » Develop partnerships with key fire protection organizations



**People living in First Nations are
10 times more likely to die in a
house fire than the rest of Canada.**

– FIRE PREVENTION IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES, CMHC, 2007

HISTORY

HOW IT ALL STARTED

Amber Strang is a name that connects tragedy to safety in respect to fire protection and prevention. A house fire in Pikangikum First Nation claimed nine lives in March 2016. This house fire took away the futures of three generations of the Strang family, including five-month-old Amber. Amber's Fire Safety Campaign was established in May 2016 to increase fire safety and help prevent tragic house fires that continue to claim lives in NAN First Nations.

Amber's Fire Safety Campaign has a focus on knowledge building, community engagement, education and empowerment of communities. This basis is set to counteract a lack of clarified roles and responsibilities, lack of resources and support for community fire departments, fire fighter volunteers and the lack of funding.

TORONTO STAR

According to a report, only two of 18 northern communities the association visited last winter had any organized fire protection services at all.

– TORONTO STAR



Photo Credit: Jesse Winter, Toronto Star

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TORONTO STAR

Excerpts taken from reports published in the Toronto Star entitled Fire And Death In Canada's First Nations – February 4, 2017 and Ottawa Backs Fire Safety Legislation For First Nations – May 2, 2017.

- » The federal government doesn't know the death toll of these fires because it stopped keeping track of on-reserve fire fatalities in 2010.
- » Though the factors contributing to these deaths are numerous and complex, many of the homes that burned to the ground — with people inside them — did not meet basic building or fire code requirements. Many didn't have a working smoke detector.
- » For the more than 328,000 First Nations people who live on reserve, the chances of dying in a house fire are 10.4 times higher than in the rest of the country, according to a 2007 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. report, compiled when the government was still collecting the data.
- » In 2013, when she (Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett) was the Liberal indigenous affairs critic, she said the deaths are "a critical issue of public safety," and called for long-sought changes that First Nations leaders and fire prevention experts have been pushing for years.
- » In an emailed response to the Star's questions, Bennett's office blamed the previous Conservative government for cancelling the data collection in 2010 and said it is looking at ways to start tracking fire data again.

- » The government will create an indigenous Fire Marshal's office and improve tracking of fire-related data on reserves, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett's office said in a statement to the Star on Tuesday.
- » "We will continue to work in full co-operation with the aboriginal firefighters association of Canada and other key partners on these and other critical elements that we know are needed to enhance fire safety for first nations communities across Canada," the statement said
- » The federal government supports creating new legislation governing fire protection and prevention services on First Nations reserves across the country, Bennett's office confirmed.
- » Following the Star's series, Bennett first promised the government would start tracking on-reserve fire data and create a national fire marshal's office should an upcoming report from Wiggins' association recommend one.
- » One official with Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society estimated that it would be a 15- to 25-year mission just to bring fire services in Ontario First Nations up to adequate levels. Steve Nolan, the president of ONFFS, said he doesn't know if he'll see it in his lifetime.

TORONTO STAR

A Star investigation has found that at least 173 people have died in fires in First Nation communities across the country since the government stopped tracking the deaths seven years ago. At least 25 of them are children. – TORONTO STAR

FIXING THE ISSUES

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and NAN Housing and Infrastructure Department implemented this approach with the endorsement by Chiefs-in-Assembly during the NAN Spring Chiefs Assembly held in Timmins. INAC also offered partnership for this initiative in a letter from July 8, 2016. After the approval and funding partnerships were formed a kick-off meeting was held August 17th, 2016 with:

- » Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- » Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- » Ontario First Nations Technical Services
- » Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society
- » Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada
- » the Fire Marshall of Ontario
- » the Fire Chiefs of:
 - Sioux Lookout
 - Greenstone
 - Timmins
 - Thunder Bay

INAC will partner with NAN on this important three-year initiative to promote awareness and education of fire prevention in NAN communities.

– LETTER FROM INAC, JULY 8, 2016



Increasing fire safety and fire protection in Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

GOALS

Long-term goals of Amber's Fire Safety Campaign include:

- » Provide every home in NAN territory with a smoke detector (within the year) and residential fire extinguishers
- » Development of partnerships for the campaign
- » Increasing fire safety awareness and education, including support for certification in wood burning systems and fire prevention services
- » Development of a comprehensive plan for fire protection including fire-fighting equipment, services and infrastructure including water distribution systems and fire hydrants

The Amber's Fire Safety Campaign is committed to providing smoke alarms in every home within NAN territory.



EDUCATION

TRAINING

PARTNERSHIPS

**CAPACITY
BUILDING**

PILLARS OF AMBER'S FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

EDUCATION

In addition to providing fire prevention materials, community members must be educated in installing and maintaining smoke detectors, best practices for fire prevention, and fire prevention education for both teachers and students.

TRAINING

NAN must coordinate certification opportunities with those who offer wood-energy products and installation and maintenance services to NAN communities

and to those who conduct inspections of wood-burning systems on-reserve.

PARTNERSHIPS

NAN must continue to develop partnerships with various stakeholders and organizations in order to successfully sustain the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign. Opportunities to partner with others, including Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society, Aboriginal Firefighter's Association of Canada, CMHC, OFNTSC, and Office of the Fire Marshall must also be pursued.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Fire prevention must be a consistent priority at both the tribal council and community level. In order to facilitate this goal NAN will advocate for the creation of Fire Prevention Officers at tribal councils, advocate for including community fire prevention in community portfolios, and identify sources of funding for fire safety and prevention.

We will work with tribal councils, various levels of government, municipal fire departments and other agencies to coordinate efforts to improve fire safety and fire-fighting services in all of our communities so that no more lives are lost.

– NAN GRAND CHIEF ALVIN FIDDLER



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE RESOLUTION AND LAUNCH

At the NAN Spring Chiefs Assembly in 2016 a resolution (see Appendix A) was carried to create Amber's Fire Safety Campaign. This was created to provide Fire Safety awareness and education within NAN communities. NAN then launched the campaign and established both short and long-term goals and partnerships with a number of outside organizations. After establishing the campaign and forming partnerships INAC provided a promise of partnership for the three-year initiative.

AMBER'S FIRE SAFETY LOGO

Amber's Fire Safety logo was selected in October 2016 from a contest held in the schools of NAN communities. Out of 40 entries, Caiden Gagnon from Johnny Therriault School in Aroland First Nation was picked as the winner. The winning logo is being used on all fire prevention material produced through Amber's Fire Safety Campaign.



**Caiden Gagnon from
Johnny Therriault
School in Aroland
First Nation.**



AMBER'S FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN WORKING GROUP

- » Aboriginal Fire Fighters Association of Canada
- » Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- » Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- » Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- » Office of the Fire Marshall of Ontario
- » Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation
- » Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society
- » Fire Chiefs from:
 - Thunder Bay Fire Rescue
 - Sioux Lookout Fire Department
 - Timmins Fire Department
 - Greenstone Fire Department



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones
et du Nord Canada

Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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Ontario First Nations
Technical Services
Corporation



PROMOTIONAL & COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS

NAN developed a number of promotional and communications tools to use in assisting with the delivery of the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign messaging.



- » Fire Safety awareness rack cards
- » A tradeshow booth
- » Thermos water bottles
- » Reusable bags

In addition, NAN delivered the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign messaging through a number of sources, including the NAN Advocate and website, Facebook, Twitter, and the Wawatay newspaper.



SMOKE DETECTORS INITIATIVE

The smoke detector initiative was one of the main goals of the campaign. It also worked in parallel with INAC’s Be Fire Safe program that delivered smoke detectors to the remaining NAN First Nations. Since the beginning the Amber’s Fire Safety Campaign has provided a total of 1048 smoke detectors to Attawapiskat, Aroland, Brunswick House, Weenusk, Whitewater, Koocheching and McDowell Lake.

COMMUNITY	SMOKE DETECTORS
AROLAND	84 smoke detectors and 3 strobe lights were ordered on January 13, 2017 and delivered to the community
ATTAWAPISKAT	648 detectors were ordered on October 11, 2016 and delivered to the community
BRUNSWICK HOUSE	64 smoke detectors were ordered on February 17, 2017 and delivered to the community.
WEENUSK	184 detectors and 3 strobes were ordered on January 13, 2017 and delivered to the community
WHITEWATER	28 detectors were ordered on January 18, 2017



Amber’s Fire Safety Campaign provided a total of 1048 smoke detectors in 2016/17.

FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION INITIATIVE

So far, the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign has provided fire prevention education to 9 NAN communities. The facilitators used the Learn Not to Burn curriculum to educate the students and to demonstrate how to use them with the teachers. Some also chose to use the Tapp-C (The Arson Prevention Program for Children) book to help with the education in the classrooms.

Aroland First Nation – Greenstone Fire Department delivered fire safety education to kindergarten through grade 8. The education started with a fire drill, followed by both school and home fire safety and evacuation processes.

Attawapiskat First Nation – The Timmins Fire Chief delivered a 2-day program to kindergarten through grade 8, as well as to the staff. The fire safety presentations were delivered to approximately 30-40 students at a time over the two days. While the staff sessions focused on instruction and an overview of the Learn Not to Burn curriculum.

Pikangikum First Nation – Students in kindergarten through to grade 7 were

**We will work...
to improve fire safety
and fire-fighting
services in all of our
communities so that no
more lives are lost.**

– NAN PRESS RELEASE MAY 19, 2016

given a fire safety course, though no fire department was able to attend. The teachers were also provided a presentation on how to integrate this education into the core curriculum. NAN partnered with OPP's Project Journey in the organization and delivery of this initiative.

Bearskin Lake First Nation – An inspection of the fire extinguishers and emergency lights was performed; a fire drill was conducted and the principal was provided with copies of the Learn Not to Burn book to distribute to teachers. Also, a fire truck training session was given within the community that nine community members attended.

Brunswick House First Nation – Morris Douglas, Fire Prevention & Protection consultant of Matawa Tribal Council

completed Fire Prevention education at Brunswick House community centre. Brunswick House First Nation does not have a school so Fire Prevention education was delivered at community centre.

Mishkeegogamang First Nation – Students in kindergarten through to grade 8 were given fire safety training as well as information on fire drills and home escape plans.

North Caribou Lake First Nation – The Learn Not to Burn program was presented to all of the classes at the local school as well as to the staff. A fire fighters training

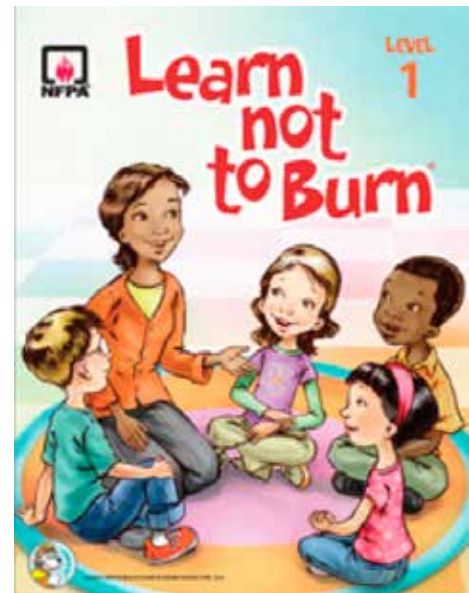
session was also presented within the community that three people attended.

Constance Lake First Nation – Greenstone Fire Department presented the Learn Not to Burn program to grade 1 through 8, with about 20 students in attendance.

Eabametoong First Nation – A set of workshops were held over 5 days within the community. The community members were encouraged to participate in the daily activities. The community would like NAN to return with a fire safety program for the school.

TRAINING

NAN has coordinated and initiated Code Compliance training under Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) in Mishkeegogamang First Nation. WETT Inc. is an education association that promotes the safe and effective use of wood-burning systems in Canada. Also, the campaign is planning a WETT training program in Deer Lake First Nation and Pikangikum First Nation. This training program will assist community members to become certified wood-burning system inspectors and installers.



FUTURE OBJECTIVES

SMOKE DETECTOR INITIATIVES

Amber's Fire Safety Campaign will continue to work with communities that received smoke detectors. The second phase of the work is training, inventory and reporting of installed smoke detectors. Initiatives will be taken to hire fire service consultants to work with the First Nations on smoke alarm/carbon monoxide detector theory and installation. As well, the hiring of local community members to perform inventory of smoke alarms/carbon monoxide detectors. Lastly, as the campaign has not yet received reporting or confirmation of smoke detector installation, monitoring of the reporting progress will continue.

FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION

The continuation of the delivery of Fire Prevention education programs and associated curriculum packages at the community level is required.

FIRE SERVICES INVENTORY

As part of the Fire Prevention Education Initiative an appraisal and inventory of each of the 49 NAN communities of equipment, water and infrastructure will be conducted. This will include a risk assessment and allow for further tailored education and equipment provisions.

**SMOKE AND
CARBON
MONOXIDE
ALARMS SAVE
LIVES.**





COMMUNICATIONS

Amber's Fire Safety Campaign looks to continue the success of Fire Safety awareness and prevention for the 49 NAN communities. Development of a plan to communicate the campaign to the 49 communities through information, to ensure new fire prevention material and fire safety messaging has been completed. NAN will also continue to produce further Amber's Fire Safety Campaign materials, as well as general fire safety information.

This communication plan may include placing information about the campaign in a number of different mediums, such as to Wawatay radio and newspaper, NAN Advocate and website, The Rising Sun magazine and a number of in-flight magazines in NAN territory, including Wanakoosh and AirCreebec.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Amber Fire Safety Campaign working group has been a great asset to reaching the goals of the campaign. The working group brings years of experience and knowledge in the area of Fire Prevention and have provided the recommendations used to develop the scope of the work and activities identified in year one and year two.

We need the support to address the issues that cause house fires.

**– CHIEF CONNIE
GRAY-MCKAY,
MISHKEEGOGAMANG
FIRST NATION**

NEXT STEPS

ACTION ITEM	INFORMATION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE	COST
Consultation & Engagement with NAN First Nations regarding the tiered funding program & legislation	This will identify the unique challenges NAN communities face in fire protection and prevention	Indigenous Services (INAC) – Infrastructure & Housing Departments	Immediate	\$250,000
Develop a Fire Protection Strategy for NAN Communities	A northern strategy will reflect the unique challenges NAN communities face	Collaborative - Communities - PTO's - Tribal Councils - Government	Immediate	\$150,000
Establish a funding model based on actual needs identified	Population based funding is not adequate to address fire protection in smaller communities	Indigenous Services (INAC) – fund a NAN Fire Protection & Prevention Needs Assessment	Needs assessment – Immediate Funding Model – 12 months	Dependent upon needs assessment
Building First Nation capacity to manage Fire Protection and Prevention	Establishing a Fire Chief in each community through core funding to create a sustainable fire protection program	Indigenous Services (INAC)	Immediate	\$2,625,000 annually

ACTION ITEM	INFORMATION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE	COST
Develop a Regional First Nations Fire Protection Authority	Future self governance must be considered in developing a long-term authority to manage Fire Protection in Northern Ontario First Nations	Collaborative - First Nations Leadership - PTO's - Tribal Councils - Government	Within 5 years	Dependent upon development of the structure
Implement a Communications Protocol for Government Fire Protection Policy and Legislation	There must be consistent & structured communication between governments and First Nations regarding Fire Protection Policy, Strategies and Legislative changes	Collaborative - Indigenous Services (INAC) - PTO'S - Tribal Councils - Communities	Immediate	\$275,000
Establish a long-term commitment from Indigenous Services to support Amber's Fire Safety Campaign for 5 years in addition to the current agreement	The campaign must have long-term commitments from government to meet its goals	Indigenous Services (INAC)	1 year	\$875,000 total (\$175,000/year)

ACTION ITEM	INFORMATION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE	COST
Wood Energy Technology Transfer Inc. (WETT) Training for all NAN First Nations	WETT Certification of community members builds capacity at a community level and increases the ability to manage their own Fire Protection program	Collaborative - Indigenous Services (INAC) - PTO'S - Tribal Councils - Communities	4 communities annually (starting 2018/19)	\$264,000/year
Utilize partnerships and municipalities to conduct training initiatives	Pilot Project to provide fire fighter training for community members	Windigo Tribal Council, Shibogama Tribal Council, Sioux Lookout Fire Department, Sioux Lookout MNRF, Mishkeegogamang First Nation & Lac Seul First Nation	Immediate	\$350,000
Build on INAC's Be Fire Safe program smoke detector initiative and Ambers Fire Safety Campaign smoke detector initiative	Provide resources to support phase two which would allow communities to install the remaining smoke detectors	Indigenous Services (INAC)	Immediate	\$175,000

**THERE IS NO TIME FOR PLANNING
DURING AN EMERGENCY.**

APPENDIX 1 - RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 16/35: AMBER'S FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) First Nations are facing major fire safety issues, especially with house fires, fire protection and fire infrastructure;

WHEREAS NAN First Nations are experiencing common fire safety deficiencies such as a chronic lack of fire services, including lack of education on fire safety awareness, funding for community Fire Prevention Officers, and the uncertified use of wood-burning systems in homes;

WHEREAS a federal study completed by Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation Fire Prevention in Aboriginal Communities (2007) found that people living in First Nations are 10 times more likely to die in a house fire than people in the rest of Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the NAN Executive Council to develop a NAN First Nations Amber's Fire Safety Campaign named after Amber Strang, the youngest

victim of the 2016 Pikangikum First Nation house fire that claimed nine lives;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the campaign should provide Fire Safety awareness and education, including support for certification of NAN members in wood-burning systems and fire prevention services;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the campaign should meet the goal of providing a smoke detector in every home in NAN territory with a year, and should explore donation-driven partnerships to provide communities with residential fire extinguishers;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly support Pikangikum First Nation Council Resolution dated May 4, 2016, requesting NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly to call on the Ontario and Canadian governments to convene a joint federal/provincial public inquiry into three related matters: (1) a realistic plan to resolve the third world conditions of the Pikangikum First Nation and set a course for a prosperous future; (2) an assessment of the fire protection services for all remote



First Nations in northern Ontario; and (3) an assessment of similar fire safety issues that apply to all NAN First Nations;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Amber's Fire Safety Campaign and the call for a joint federal/provincial inquiry shall be synchronized with the pursuit of a long-term plan to address fire protection and safety, fire services, fire emergency structures, assessments of housing data for all NAN First Nations to assist them with fire safety issues, fire hydrants, infrastructure and increased resources to build good quality homes that meet fire safety and other applicable standards;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that NAN will report on progress to Chiefs-in-Assembly at the 2016 Keewaywin Conference.

DATED AT TIMMINS, ONTARIO THIS 18th DAY OF MAY 2016.

MOVED BY: Proxy Paddy Peters,
Pikangikum First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Connie Gray-McKay,
Mishkeegogamang First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

APPENDIX 2 - LETTER OF SUPPORT



Office of the Fire Chief, Thunder Bay Fire Rescue
330 Vickers St., N
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 4B2
(807) 625-2103



November 30, 2017

Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs

Dear Committee Members,

I have had the honour and opportunity to participate with the Amber Campaign with respect to Fire Safety in First Nation communities.

The commitment of all those participating has been encouraging and I firmly believe it will produce positive results.

A Fire Safety program must be built on the 3 Lines of Defense and prioritized similar to other communities in Ontario and Canada.

They are Public Education, Enforcement and Fire Suppression activities in that order.

Amber Campaign has Public Education well under way and it should grow and evolve.

Enforcement would be ensuring all homes and other structures have adequate modern smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and a robust program to maintain the patency of that protection.

Fire Suppression capacities should be reviewed and attention given to each community's ability to realistically achieve and maintain that capacity. One model will not fit all communities. But one aspect that could fit all communities is passive fire suppression.

Specifically residential sprinklers. These sprinklers would be intended to extend escape time in the event of fire after the alerting from the detectors. They would supplement other traditional suppression tactics while keeping local fire fighters safer.

Thank you for being able to express my comments to the committee and I look forward to continuing with the Amber Campaign.

John Hay
Fire Chief



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

$$\Delta\sigma\Delta\omega\Delta V\Delta t\Delta P\Delta PL\Delta\alpha$$

nqn.on.ca