

ONTARIO REGION UPDATE



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For newsletter questions, or to ask for a French version of the newsletter, please email Ontario Region Communications: ontario-communications@sac-isc.gc.ca



Nursing in a First Nations Community

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is hiring northern community nurses in First Nations communities. Northern community nurses deliver care to clients of all ages, building relationships that last a lifetime. To read about recruitment and retention allowances for ISC nurses in remote and isolated communities, please visit [the announcement](#). For general information, visit [ISC's nursing webpage](#). The webpage includes information such as [how to apply](#), and [testimonials](#) from nurses with experience working in First Nations in Canada.



Help is Here Whenever You Need It

Support is available 24/7 for all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Please find a list of mental health helplines below, able to provide culturally relevant support. To find more services and resources, [click here to go to the Indigenous mental health page](#).



Hope for Wellness Helpline

Phone: 1-855-242-3310

Online chat: www.hopeforwellness.ca

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Support Line

Phone: 1-844-413-6649

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line

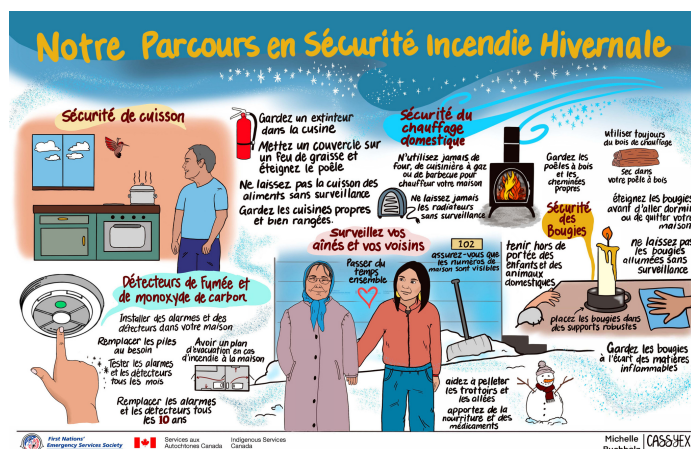
Phone: 1-866-925-4419

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Services

Phone: 9-8-8 (call or text)

Practicing Fire Safety This Winter

Fire safety is important, especially during the winter months when we spend more time indoors with potential fire hazards, like furnaces, wood stoves, and candles. The First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) of British Columbia have crafted [several creative communication resources](#) that may be helpful in promoting fire safety and prevention this winter in your communities. The most relevant have been outlined below. Several resources are also available in French.



Our Journey through Winter: Fire Safety

FNESS has illustrated several videos that can be used for social media and presentations, as well as illustrated graphics that can be used across most mediums (e.g., posters, Facebook):

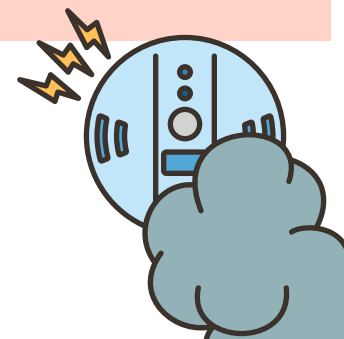
Graphics

- [Our Journey through Winter Fire Safety](#) (example above)
- [Candle Safety](#)
- [Check on your elders & neighbours](#)
- [Cooking safety tips](#)
- [Home heating safety tips](#)

Burn Awareness Week (BAW)

Every year, one week is taken during February to increase awareness about the seriousness, prevention and treatment of burns. FNESS has created a range of resources that can be reused or repurposed each year.

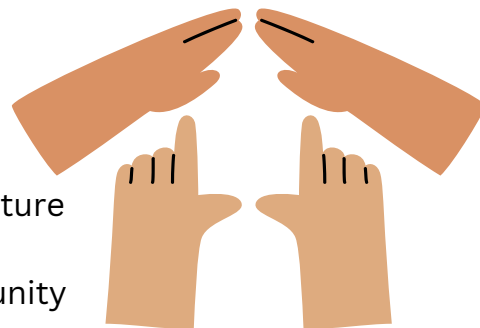
- * [Click here](#) for all Winter Fire Safety products
- * [Click here](#) for all BAW products.



Call for Proposals: Research to respond to housing and infrastructure challenges

Infrastructure Canada's [open call for proposals](#) is still accepting applications under the [Research and Knowledge Initiative](#) (RKI). Funding through RKI supports projects that help address housing needs in meaningful ways. For example, projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Innovative ways to increase new housing
- Evaluations about the impact of the environment on regional infrastructure needs
- Assessments of past strategies that improved infrastructure and housing in at-risk communities
- Ways to apply international practices to support community resiliency and improved quality of life in Ontario



For more information about the Research Knowledge Initiative, such as how to apply, visit [Infrastructure Canada's website](#). Applications are **due by February 9, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time)**.

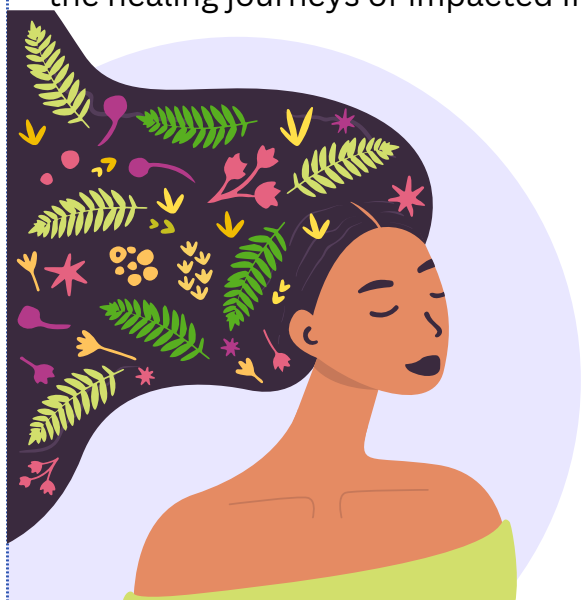


Indigenous-led Projects: Ending violence against Indigenous women and gender-diverse people

Funding was recently announced for [31 Indigenous-led projects that work towards ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people](#). Approximately \$7.1 million will support 18 projects that improve data collection, fill gaps in knowledge, and overall, better support evidence-based solutions that are led by Indigenous Peoples, for Indigenous peoples. Another \$6.2 million will fund 13 Indigenous-led projects that focus on the healing journeys of impacted Indigenous families and survivors.

In the Ontario region, eight projects are being funded. This includes projects from the First Nations Information Governance Centre, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, Ontario Native Women's Association, and Tungasuvvingat Inuit.

[To read about each funded project, click here](#). For general information, please read the [news release](#).



Do You Have a Community Story Story to Share?

Last year, this newsletter began including stories that spotlight Indigenous projects and success stories. We want to share more community stories in 2024. To begin the writing process, we usually touch base with the story's owners to exchange information, identify key details they would like included, and other important pieces for their story.

We are interested in any topic, including water operations, fire safety, emergency management, social programs, and local health and mental health initiatives. Each story entry should fit on one standard printing page. This equals a 300 word maximum, with room for photos. If you need some flexibility on these requirements, we are happy to work with you to optimize your page. Photo descriptions do not count towards the total word maximum. To check out past stories and other content about Community & Partners, all archived newsletters can be found on our [OneHealth Portal](#).

If your community has completed a unique project or initiative, or if you have a story you would like to share, we would love to hear more about it and help you spread the word. Please email us to set up an initial touch-base at ontario-communications@sac-isc.gc.ca. Thank you to everyone who has shared their story so far.

