



## Fire Prevention Week in First Nations' Communities

Dear Principle,

Fire Prevention Week 2022 is October 9-15<sup>th</sup>, and First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia (FNESS) needs your help!

First Nations' Emergency Services Society is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support First Nations' communities across BC to develop and sustain safer and healthier communities. My name is Alisha Juma and I am the Fire Services Coordinator at FNESS. I am reaching out to you to discuss this year's FNESS FPW School Program and seek your support for teachers to deliver a few simple but important fire safety activities.

### **Context**

Sadly, fire losses (deaths, injuries, and destruction of property) in First Nation communities, particularly those on remote First Nations communities, far exceed those in comparable off-reserve communities. Per capita, the fire incident rate in First Nations communities is almost 2.5 times greater and fire death rate more than 10 times higher. Most concerning is that our children under the age of five and our elderly are at greatest risk.

### **FPW Campaign**

Our FPW campaign includes materials for Band Offices, Fire Departments, Schools, and families. We want to reach as many people as possible to hopefully begin to shift that fire loss data I talked about above. This year's FPW theme, 'Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape', puts the spotlight on getting out of the home quickly should fire strike; critical to reducing loss of life.

### **School Program 'Teacher Package'**

The School Program leaves no child behind. It targets students from kindergarten through grade twelve and includes parents and caregivers in a very important family assignment. The program is easy to deliver, and all materials are provided. Should your teachers need support and/or resources, we are always here to help.

The Teacher Package contains everything teachers need for classroom delivery.

- Introductory Letter
- Classroom Activities
- Family Homework Assignment
- Teacher Recognition

To support teachers, a video has been created that describes these FPW resources and how to use them effectively. All resource materials, including the video, can be found on our [website](#). We would appreciate your help presenting this package to your teachers and encouraging their use in the classroom.

### **Requesting a Fire Safety Presentation**

It's always great to hear messages taught in the classroom reinforced by fire professionals. If your school would like a presentation or visit from the Fire Department or a FNESS representative, please contact me.

In closing, I want to thank you for your time and your interest in supporting FPW activities in your school. Together, through education, we can make a big difference in the lives of many. Your school's participation will be recognized with a framed *Fire Safety Education School Certificate*, presented to you, your staff and students following Fire Prevention Week activities.

If there are questions, please feel free to contact me at [ajuma@fness.bc.ca](mailto:ajuma@fness.bc.ca). For more information about FNESS, our programs including the Fire Prevention Week campaign, please visit our website at [www.fness.bc.ca](http://www.fness.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alisha Juma". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alisha Juma  
Fire Services Coordinator  
First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia