



# Improving Wood Stove Safety in First Nations: Webinar.

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NAN territory has a variety of different cultural, geographic and climatic contexts. Each requires unique considerations in order to successfully complete community projects.



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## Background of NAN Wood Stove Exchange Project

Remote NAN First Nation communities face a combination of significant geographic, logistical and economic issues that make it very difficult to participate in any environmental initiative.

**Resolution 16/35:** Amber's Fire Safety Campaign has given NAN the mandate to increase fire safety awareness and education by advocating and supporting certification of NAN members for wood burning systems and for fire prevention training.

**Resolution 17/30:** NAN Clean Air Project has mandated NAN to look for solutions to improve air quality in NAN First Nation residences.





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## Amber's Fire Safety Campaign

In May of 2016 NAN, Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, with the support of NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly, launched Amber's Fire Safety Campaign to increase fire safety within the territory.

Goals of the campaign is to:

- Provide every home in NAN territory a smoke detector.
- Developed partnerships for the campaign through our Working Group; which include; ISC, CMHC, OFNTSC, Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society, Aboriginal Fire Fighters Association of Canada, the Fire Marshall of Ontario, the Fire Chiefs of Sioux Lookout, Greenstone, Timmins and Thunder Bay.
- Increase fire safety education and awareness, including support for certification in wood burning systems and fire prevention services;

NAN had four pillars that are the focus of our campaign which include;

- Education
- Training
- Partnerships
- Capacity Building



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Here is a simplified version of our project timeline. Dates/activities needed to be altered due to COVID-19 but this should have been how the project panned out.

Approximate Date of Activity	Activity
Fall of 2019	Wood stoves purchased and prepared for winter road delivery
Winter of 2019/2020	Wood stoves travel to communities via the winter roads
Winter/Spring of 2020	Home assessments are completed WETT training can begin
Summer of 2020	Stove installations and inspections
Winter of 2020	Old stoves will travel back to Thunder Bay for proper decommissioning and recycling



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## Challenges Experienced During the Wood Stove Exchange

There is a recognized need for appropriate wood stove safety education and distribution of material to be shared with community members.

High efficiency stoves require different install and operational techniques that communities may not be familiar with yet. Which is why the WETT training is an important component of this project.

One of the most challenging aspects we are experiencing is how to complete the training component during this time. Although WETT has now gone virtual with their courses, this is still a roadblock for NAN communities.



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## Success Stories from the Wood Stove Exchange

Education and knowledge sharing is a key component of the project because it allows the community to have individuals who are familiar with the wood burning systems and have completed their WETT training on site in community. Being able to; operate, repair, install and assist others in the community on their own terms.

We have heard from a community that they have continued to install and inspect wood burning systems using their WETT certified individuals beyond what NAN has provided.

Although it is difficult to measure preventative efforts, we hope that with the training and education resources we have provided will encourage more discussion around fire safety within the community.





# Thank you

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