

Harper Government Announces Measures to Improve Fire Protection on Manitoba First Nations

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ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

"Investments in firefighting assistance and training are crucial to maintaining the health and safety of First Nation residents," said Minister [John Duncan]. "This investment will strengthen the ability of Manitoba First Nations' firefighters to protect the people and homes in their communities."

"Every reserve in Manitoba will be a little more prepared in fighting structural fires, thanks to this new equipment making its way into First Nation communities," said Gerald Houle, President of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Association of Native FireFighters. "Being prepared is the first step in making sure our firefighters are able to help protect our communities."

FULL TEXT

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwire - Feb. 21, 2012) - The Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, announced today federal government support to improve fire protection on Manitoba reserves.

"Investments in firefighting assistance and training are crucial to maintaining the health and safety of First Nation residents," said Minister Duncan. "This investment will strengthen the ability of Manitoba First Nations' firefighters to protect the people and homes in their communities."

"Our Government is committed to improving the quality of life for First Nation people across Canada," said the Honourable Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety. "This funding will help First Nations in Manitoba, and across Canada, to build stronger, safer and more viable communities."

The Manitoba Association of Native FireFighters will manage the purchase and distribution of equipment, and will work in partnership with Manitoba tribal councils in the delivery of education and training related to fire prevention and protection.

"Every reserve in Manitoba will be a little more prepared in fighting structural fires, thanks to this new equipment making its way into First Nation communities," said Gerald Houle, President of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Association of Native FireFighters. "Being prepared is the first step in making sure our firefighters are able to help protect our communities."

Funds will be used for the purchase of:

-__six fire trucks,
-__three garages for fire trucks,
-__227 sets of turn-out gear and breathing apparatus,

-__training for volunteer firefighters, and
-__fire prevention education for communities.

This \$4 million investment is in addition to the \$3.2 million funding for operations and maintenance of fire protection services on First Nations in Manitoba in 2011-2012.

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