



Youth to Learn Fire Safety and Firefighter Skills at *Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Conference*

Date: Monday, March 21, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Ninety youth participating in the *Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Conference* will soon know a lot more about home fire safety, fire prevention and careers in the fire service to share with their families and friends. The Victoria Fire Department and the First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC are hosting three "Fire Prevention: Be a Firefighter" interactive workshops during the four-day conference that kicks off today in Victoria and runs until March 24, 2016.

This year's national conference provides Aboriginal youth 14 – 24 years of age with exciting presentations and a choice of 60 interactive workshops in four topic areas: Cultural and Spiritual, Physical, Mental, and Emotional. The conference provides youth unique experiences and an opportunity to engage with their peers, Elders and community mentors.

Youth participating in the "Fire Prevention: Be a Firefighter" workshops will learn about fire science, the reality of house fires and steps to take to increase fire safety in their homes and communities. Fire prevention topics will cover smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, home escape planning and hands-on fire extinguisher training.

Youth in firefighter gear will climb ladders, pull charged hose lines and search a darkened room for an "injured" mannequin. Fire services staff will share information about careers and volunteering in rural, on-reserve and municipal fire departments.

Thirty youth will participate in each workshop to be held at Fire Station #3 at 740 Bay Street. Victoria Fire Department and First Nations' Emergency Services staff, firefighters and fire prevention officers are excited to have the opportunity to work together in offering the workshops to youth.

The "Fire Prevention: Be a Firefighter" workshops are made possible by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Kidde Canada, the Victoria Fire Fighters Charitable Foundation, Local 730 Fire Fighters, the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC and Fire Prevention Officers of BC.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: The media is invited to attend the firefighting skills component of the workshop on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. at Fire Station #3.

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For More Information:

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