

# National Fire Incident Database Project

## Factsheet



Canadian Association  
of Fire Chiefs

### WHAT

The National Fire Incident Database Project was launched in August 2011 by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) to explore the development of a web-based database of fire statistics that would be available to fire departments and organizations across Canada.

The research project will outline the scope for a national system, including types of data to be collected, hardware and software, partner roles and contributions, funding sources, and resources required to set up and maintain the system.

### WHY

Canada currently lacks a national system for collecting fire statistics. A NFID would collect and analyze fire data, providing Canadian fire services with information they need to make evidence-based decisions in order to target their resources, operate more efficiently and increase their fire prevention capacity.

### WHO

The project funder is the Canadian Police Research Centre, a federal program administered by the Defence Research & Development Canada – Centre for Security Science. The Centre provided the CAFC a \$149,000 grant for the project.

Len Garis, Fire Chief for the City of Surrey and President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of B.C., has been selected to be the CAFC's representative on the project. B.C.'s University of the Fraser Valley is coordinating the project research and consultation on behalf of the CAFC. Working with Chief Garis to manage the research team is Dr. Darryl Plecas, Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice Research for the UFV's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Noted criminology researcher Paul Maxim, Associate Vice-President of Research at Wilfrid Laurier University, is conducting the research.

### HOW

The broad spectrum of fire service agencies and stakeholders across Canada are being consulted as part of the research. A key focus of the research will be ensuring the proposed database will meet the needs of Canadian fire services. Consultation includes:

- Meetings with Fire Marshalls/Commissioners from each province in fall 2011.
- Regional meetings with stakeholders across the country in early 2012.
- Surveys for stakeholders who wish to provide input but cannot attend the regional meetings.

The research team will also investigate existing public and private Canadian data management systems, international best practices and other countries' national databases, with the view to potentially finding a model on which to base the NFID.

### WHEN

The NFID project began in August 2011 and is expected to be completed by summer 2012.