

NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
AGM 2023
May 26, 2024

Chair: President Scott Poupart

Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB

Attendance: Scott Poupart, Justin McGuigan, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Mike Lewis, Charles Kavanaugh, Mike Walton, Harry Farrell, Dwayne Stephenson, Serge Gallant, Roger Pitre, Kevin Theriault, Brian Scott Worden, Tim Corbin, Jody Price, Charles MacNeil

Meeting called to order at 11:55 a.m.

General Introductions - Membership was made aware that elections would be held this year.

Review of Agenda - Motion to accept by Harry Farrell and seconded by Ivan Comeau.

President's Report – Scott Poupart

It has been another busy year for the NBAFC Executive and Board with many initiatives being worked on in many different directions. We acknowledge our working relationships with the Office of the Fire Marshal which continues to be very supportive of our initiatives and championing these on our behalf with various government ministries. As well we work closely with the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and the Maritime Association of Fire Chiefs to align common concerns, initiatives and support lobbying on behalf of the fire service to all levels of government.

On your behalf I have attended the following:

The New Brunswick Association of Fire Prevention Officers and Educators Spring Workshop

The Environment and Local Government Fall Conference

The 2023 Maritime Fire Chiefs Association Atlantic Leadership Conference

The 2023 Canadian Fire Chiefs Association Fire-Rescue Canada Conference

The 2023 Government Relations Week

And with the assistance of fellow executive and board members we have represented the NBAFC at several firefighter funerals, association meetings and the 2023 Fire Chief of the Day celebration.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS (NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE) - I attend the monthly online meetings of the NAC as the New Brunswick Representative. We are kept up to date on key issues that are being raised by fire services across the country. There are lots of similarities in the issues from coast to coast. These issues are summarized and where appropriate the CAFC lobbies the Federal government for support. During December of this past year, I attended Fire Chiefs on the Hill as part of Government Relations Week. We had a good representation from our province and I urge anyone interested in attending one of these functions to do so.

Participation is open to members of the CAFC and you will get to experience the amount of work and effort going into lobbying on our behalf by the CAFC. As with our provincial board we go to the federal government with a list of priorities, many of which come from the data gleaned from the annual census that each fire department is asked to fill out. Although not all of our priorities or asks are granted each year, we continue to push them forward. An example of success this year was the increase in the federal non-refundable tax credit from \$3000 to \$6000. Our ask was for an increase to \$10000, but this incremental increase indicates we are being listened to. Other priorities brought forth included those around establishing a National Fire Administration and Risk reduction of fire and emergency to communities nationally and prepare for this year's wildfire season.

The CAFC website provides a wealth of information, including training opportunities. They rely on membership to drive their organization much the same as we do, if you are not a member you should consider joining.

AMALGAMATION - We are now well into the government reform and amalgamation. One concern that we will have to monitor as we move forward is the retention of membership within our associations. There is no doubt the reduction in the overall number of fire departments throughout the province may impact membership and the dues used to run our associations. We must all make it a priority to let our newly formed entities know that membership should be representative of each fire station and not solely by department to ensure vital information flows in both directions and associations maintain a healthy membership.

WORKSAFENB - On November 20th, we held a Microsoft Teams meeting with WorkSafe NB to discuss the gap in the coverage of presumptive cancers for our firefighters and the continual struggle to adjudicate claims on a timely basis. We were informed that, in fact, this was already being addressed and the root of the issue was the fact our province had a Firefighter Compensation Act separate from our Workers Compensation Act. This is not the case in most jurisdictions across the country. On April 19th, at our NBAFC quarterly meeting in Saint Andrews, the board of directors and guests sat in on a presentation by WorkSafe NB on the process to be followed for the above-mentioned merger on the two acts. A public consultation period including survey has been held and we will be apprised of the next steps and will communicate information to our members as they arise.

JOINT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - I attend the meetings of the Joint Emergency Services Committee, whose mandate is to address matters relating to the coordination of emergency services response identified by member organizations, local governments, regional service commissions (including through their public safety committees), and the provincial government, and shall be composed of agencies and organizations identified from time to time by the Minister in this Terms of Reference. Participating agencies will undertake to make joint, mutually supporting and complementary recommendations and where consensus or direction results, take related actions to help keep New Brunswick safe, secure and resilient. This committee will attempt to meet quarterly.

CANADIAN WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY FOCUS GROUP - We sit at this table as the voice of the NBAFC, this is a national strategy with committees throughout the country working towards the following vision;

A resilient Canada where all parts of society are engaged to prevent and mitigate unwanted wildland fires. The desired future state is one of unity-everyone in society works together to prevent and reduce the damage caused by wildfires. Different groups collaborate, using the best available information, to create inclusive, common practices and shared responsibilities that everyone can follow and participate in. Promoting awareness with a commitment to building prevention and mitigation capacity across the nation will best position Canada to minimize wildland fire risk and severity.

FIRE DISPATCH - Fire dispatch continues to be a challenge within New Brunswick. We have seen various issues including provincial fire departments moving dispatch services to an out of province provider at lower costs and services provided. This is not the answer especially when it comes to dispatching fire services to medical calls. I would like to recognize Riverview Fire Chief Robin True for the work he has done in researching and gathering information on this challenge. In January at our Quarterly meeting Chief True presented a brief that was prepared for the permanent chiefs group entitled Dispatching Fire Departments to Medical Calls. In his conclusion and I quote

“Dispatching fire departments to medical calls is a complex issue. This is in large part owing to the fact the NB 9-1-1 system was not designed to facilitate dispatching fire departments to medical calls. Over the years a patchwork of solutions was developed to overcome this shortfall with the involvement of MCMC and fire dispatch centres. It is time for the Province of New Brunswick to develop a provincially consistent dispatching solution that accounts for today's reality, the NB fire service plays an important role in pre-hospital emergency medical care in many of our communities. It will be important however for the NB fire service to be consulted in development of a solution along with other stakeholders.”

The New Brunswick Association of Fire Chiefs will continue to work with our Associations and directorship to lobby for a reliable and sustainable solution to this important challenge.

MEDIA - We continue to be approached by our media outlets for comments on several initiatives and concerns relating to the fire service within New Brunswick. With the assistance of both 1st Vice President McGuigan and 2nd Vice President Pitre, we have been able to give interviews in both official languages on several media platforms. The fact that we are being asked for our input is a positive sign that we are being recognized as a positive voice of our provincial fire services.

In conclusion, it has been an honor and a privilege to represent the New Brunswick Association of Fire Chiefs as your President during the past two years and I thank the Board of Directors and the membership for the support that you have shown me during my tenure as President.

I move my report be approved as submitted. Motion to accept the report, seconded by Justin McGuigan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Fundraising Committee - Mike Walton

FENETY	\$46,615.47	INVESTA	\$510,000	Bank	\$361,395.25
--------	-------------	---------	-----------	------	--------------

Grant funding \$482,500.00 for 2024 is as follows:

\$6,500	Poster campaign and workshop
\$50,000	Mobile Burn Unit (MBU) cost (past year)
\$65,000	Installing a hydrant at the NBCC training grounds
\$115,000	Modular classroom at NBCC training grounds
\$126,000	Fire prevention kits
\$120,000	6 line extinguishers, Rolling Suitcase Hazard House, garage, stove and Sparky costume for each association.

Reminder we want the MBU trailer to be used. Call Remi at 506-726-0776 and book that unit. Information can also be found on our sit under resources. Also, we have the interactive trailers available.

Motion to accept Tim Nickerson and 2nd by Charles Kavanaugh.

Firefighter Certification Board – Jody Price

International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) and Pro Board and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) is done.

Awards Committee – Kevin Theriault – Reminder there are several awards; do not forget to nominate members. These awards are ways to say thank you to your/our volunteers.

Training and Workshops Committee – Jody Price & Serge Gallant

The workshop will be September 6 & 7th, 2024. If you have never been to it, take advantage of it. Book your hotel room early and send someone. It is top-notch training. The form will be online soon. If you have a training idea, let us know. We want fresh ideas. First come, first serve; it fills up fast.

Hazmat – Mike Lewis

Moncton Hazmat is fully operational. We are looking to establish a list of people able to help relocate the interactive trailers throughout the province, there will be compensation for this. The OFM has 4 new members. 1 dog, Regional Fire Investigators (RFIs) in Chaleur/Acadian Peninsula (Jamie Innes) and Charlotte County (Joe Richardson). and MBU coordinator Remi St. Cour. OFM has smoke alarms available for fire departments. Departments, these are for high priority areas. We are looking to establish a list/process in cooperation with DNRED for large events.

We have purchase 6 LBX extinguishers that the Inspectors will have. They can be used for training. We have created a NB Burn camp.

Fire Prevention – Karen Trecartin

The association is in the process of rebranding. We just held our annual Seminar in April. It was well attended. We are currently working on building our membership and starting sub committees. We have redone our website and hope it will be used as a reference.

Convention & Games Committee – Harry Farrell

Due to lack of interest this year's games have been cancelled. Hoping to have renewed interest next year.

Permanent Chief Committee – Jody Price

Members have asked to establish a subcommittee with the OFM on how Inspections are done. Concerns with having 6 regional dispatch centers was discussed.

Motion to accept report by Jody Price and 2nd by Marc Cormier.

Volunteer Chief Committee - Tim Corbin

Last met of May 24, 2024. They have mention issues getting payment from DNRED in a timely manner. They had some concerns on increase of Hazmat section in 7th edition. Amalgamation still causing issues. Clarification on the FF Tax credit was asked – **what count for the 200 hrs.? as per CRA site -**

Eligible volunteer firefighting services with a fire department include: responding to, and being on call for, firefighting and related emergency calls as a firefighter, attending meetings held by the fire department and participating in required training related to preventing or suppressing fires.

Maritime Fire Chief Association – Charles Kavanaugh

The convention will be in Summerside, PEI, June 27-30, 2024. The theme will be Weather-Related Events.
Reminder to fill out your CAFC survey.

Industrial Fire Chiefs – Brian Worden

Meet 3 times in the last year. Working on having industrial FF added to the cancer legislation. Working on our workshop – June 22 at Point Lepreau. Just had Saint John Airport join.

Next-Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) – Justin McGuigan

There have been a lot of developments in radio communications both in technology and in the way that we use it. A brief update was given. Reminder to report any issues that you have. If they don't know about it, it will not be resolved. It was noted that 3rd party applications will be more closely regulated.

Local Government – No report.

DNRED – Tony Cole No Report

Aboriginal Council No report

New Business: Constitutional Change – Awards will be reviewed.

Reminder for the WorkSafe survey on presumptive cancer. Have your family fill out the survey. You have until

ELECTIONS - Nomination & Resolutions Committee – Kevin Theriault

Scott Poupart is nominated for President.

First, second, and third calls from the floor, there are no other nominations. Scott accepts nomination.

Roger Pitre, Justin McGuigan and Dan Hamel are nominated for First Vice President.

First, second, and third calls from the floor, there are no other nominations.

Voting takes place and Roger Pitre is selected as 1st Vice President.

Second Vice President nominations were Kevin Theriault, Dan Hamel and Jeffery Waters-Gray.

First, second, and third calls from the floor, there are no other nominations.

Voting took place and Kevin Theriault is selected as 2nd Vice President.

meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.