

NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
AGM 2023
May 25, 2025

Chair: President Scott Poupart

Delta Beausejour, Moncton, NB

Attendance: Scott Poupart, Justin McGuigan, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Mike Lewis, Charles Kavanaugh, Harry Farrell, Dwayne Stephenson, Serge Gallant, Roger Pitre, Kevin Theriault, Brian Scott Worden, Tim Corbin, Jody Price, Charles MacNeil, Corey Nicholas, Ivan Corbet, Stephen Armour, Brad Calhoun, Tony Cole

Meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m.

General Introductions - Membership – no elections this year

Review of Agenda - Motion to accept by Dave Gallant and seconded by Dwayne Stephenson.

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 Executive met with the new Minister of Justice and Public Safety Robert Gauvin and his team in January. This was a very cordial and informative meeting. There is no question the minister is very engaged in the interests of the fire service.

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

The Environment and Local Government Fall Conference

The 2024 Maritime Fire Chiefs Association Atlantic Leadership Conference

The 2024 Canadian Fire Chiefs Association Fire-Rescue Canada Conference

The 2024 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 2024 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. Our two main priorities remain establishing a National Fire Administration intended to help Canada address and coordinate issues related to wildfire, explosives, housing policy, construction, tariffs, federal

response to emergencies, green technologies, marine transportation, clean energy, defense, first response, mental health training, emergency management and others with our fire departments
Investment in fire and life safety equipment intended to restore the cache of aging fire and emergency equipment in the face of increasing call volumes, and complexity of calls.

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. The health and size of our membership across the country demonstrate to our federal government the importance of the issues we bring forth.

The 2025 fire census is now been sent out across the nation. To facilitate completion, it has been broken down into two paths, one for those who are repeat respondents and those who are responding for the first time. We will post the link on the NBAFC website and encourage every fire department within New Brunswick to take the time to respond to this. The data collected and combined with that received from across Canada forms the arguments we present to the federal government on your behalf. Data doesn't lie, we need to show the government where we are struggling and need their help.

<https://cafc.ca/page/Welcome2025Census>

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 that 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. With some of our new entities employing Executive Directors of their fire services or Public Safety Directors that oversee fire, we must work to make our new communities understand the importance of having their fire chiefs, chief officers and firefighters attend our events to receive information first hand and not rely solely on information being passed on down if their attendance is replaced with these individuals. A win-win may be having them attend as part of a representative group from their respective areas, together they can learn and discuss the best path forward for their respective fire services.

WORKSAFENB - Presumptive cancer legislation. As of an update this past week the merging of our Firefighter Compensation Act and our Workers Compensation Act is still in the discussion stage. As this initiative drags on more of our members are facing the frustration of case adjudication. This is not acceptable and is not the case in most jurisdictions across the country. It is the intention to elevate the concern and pressure for action on this file by requesting a meeting with Premier Holt.

WorksafeNB has also begun holding information sessions around the province to educate fire chiefs, officers and interested parties on the obligations we have under the General Regulations 91-191. Although there are exemptions for firefighters under these regulations in emergencies. Non-emergency related tasks such as training must adhere to the general regulations themselves. This is a soft and educational approach to our fire service to inform us that we will see more visits and inspections from this group in the future. This should not be looked upon as a bad thing, but rather another governmental group looking out for our best interests.

JOINT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - The Joint Emergency Services Committee, was born out of a response to the mass shootings in Nova Scotia in 2020. This tragic event demonstrated the challenges of keeping responding agencies informed and out of harm's way as much as possible. The committee 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, although we have seen some improvements in the last year. We do meet with the PSAP Managers during their annual meetings to bring our concerns, suggestions for resolution, and offer of support to the ongoing efforts to improve the interactions between our groups.

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 Pitre and 2nd Vice President Theriault, 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.

PATH FORWARD - As with our provincial fire services, our association needs to be able to adapt to the ever-changing issues and challenges from our membership. To this point, your board will reflect on several key points before our next AGM. Some of these will include board make up to ensure we have the right groups sitting at our table to discuss and resolve the issues brought forth by our membership, financial planning to better reflect our current financial wealth, steps to ensure this for the future and to efficiently allocate funding to the projects we undertake to sustain our priorities such and training and education.

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

I move my report to be approved as submitted. 2nd by Charles MacNeil.
Report approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Fundraising Committee – Jody Price

FENETY	\$38,760.73	INVESTA	\$539,082.13	Bank	\$371,171.48
--------	-------------	---------	--------------	------	--------------

Grant funding \$300,000.00 in bank balance is marked for the following:

\$65,000	Installing a hydrant at the NBCC training grounds
\$115,000	Modular classroom at NBCC training grounds
\$20,000	NBCC Fire Training Site grant
\$ 25,000	Professional Leadership Grant
\$75,000	Live Fire Improvements

It was discussed that our current accountant is going into semi-retirement and will close his business. She will be working part-time for an accounting firm and can take us with her. The motion was made to retain Allain & Associates was made by Jody Price, 2nd by Michal Furrow. Voted upon and passed. Motion made by Jody Price to accept his Finance report as read, 2nd by Jeffery Waters-Gray. Voted upon and passed.

Constitution and By-Laws – Roger Pitre

Nothing pending. Reminder: if anyone sees something that should be reviewed or any recommendations please let us know.

Firefighter Certification Board – Jody Price

The Gold seal certification is given by the OFM. Most departments use the NBCC FF 1 and FF2. The OFM has gone through staffing changes. This will hopefully give a more streamlined system to get the seals.

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 – Serge Gallant

In 2024, we had 15 sessions, 180 students/FF, and 60 support staff. 2024 went very well. The workshop will be September 5 & 6, 2025. 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.

Fire Prevention – Carol Gilmore

Our annual education seminar April 25-27 at the Radisson Kingswood Hotel in Fredericton. We had great speakers both local and from BC and Halifax, some of the topics covered were emergency power supply for buildings, homeless outreach, wildfire resilience and hands on training with OFM trailers, fire extinguisher props & hazard houses.

The seminar was very well received and we had great attendance from many departments so thank you for supporting us as we work on growing resources and developing education for all our public educators.

Every department in attendance received a jump drive full of educational resources, which includes school curriculum in both official languages and a backpack to help with carrying materials when providing education in the community. We want to thank DNRED and FireSmart NB for sponsoring this initiative. We appreciate their partnership with us and look forward to helping spread fire smart safety messages throughout the province.

OFM Bulletin - The OFM sent out Bulletin 2025-02, a public awareness bulletin cautioning New Brunswickers on the purchase and use of fire blankets as an active fire protection product in the home. These are not UL certified and no known Canadian safety standards for the product. Fire blankets are considered by the NBOFM and NBAFPOE to be a non-essential product in the home.

Board Meeting -

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 10th @ 7 pm. We will be announcing the winner of our education bursary and the location of next year's seminar.

Facebook Page & Website -

If you need to reach us or one of your members is looking for more information, we do have an active Facebook page and website where they can easily message us or find our email addresses. Feel free to reach out anytime, we are here to support you and provide your firefighters with resources to make their educational initiatives easier.

NBAFPOE Executive - President – Karen Trecartin ktrecartin@kvfire.ca

1st Vice President – Jason Richardson Jr5644097@gamil.com

2nd Vice President – Arthur Willins awillins@kvfire.ca

Secretary / Treasurer – Carol Gilmore cgilmore1394@gmail.com

Past President – Derrick Fillmore fillmore315@hotmail.com

Permanent Chief Committee – Jody Price

Met this past Friday, May 23rd. Fire Chiefs from Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John meet with the Minister of Public Safety to discuss the Fire Inspection frequency. Departments cannot keep up. Discussion took place on support, funding and or resources needed.

PSA issues were discussed, and a 1 dispatch center was also discussed. We will be pushing for the recognition of dispatches as First responders. They are recognized in other provinces.

Government reform issues were discussed. How the structure has changed with the new Public Safety directors and Executive Directors officers. We need to look at this position and see how they fit into the NBAFC. Discussion took place on the Regional Service Commission and the Regional Public Safety Committees.

Motion to accept report by Jody Price and 2nd by Harry Farrell.

Volunteer Chief Committee - Tim Corbin

Last met on Friday, May 23rd, and also on March 15th by Zoom. Concerns were the backlog in FF certification and the speed of FIRS. It was also asked, what date is just for the 1 year waiting before used for the 1 year waiting period before starting FF 2. The date on the certificate is the start of the 1-year.

Maritime Fire Chief Association – Charles Kavanaugh

The convention will be in Summerside, PEI, July 3-6. It is an election year. We are looking to have the conference in New Brunswick next year.

Industrial Fire Chiefs – Jeffery Watters-Gray

We met twice in the last years. Last met May 23, 2025. We are having a good turnout at our meetings. Always looking for new members. We are working with the OFM and NBAFC to get recognition for cancers with WorkSafe.

We have our annual workshop coming up on June 21st.

Training Standards Review Committee – Remi St. Coeur

Our role is to recommend training standards to the OFM. We currently have 15 members on the committee. Volunteer, permanent, volunteer, Fire Chiefs and Firefighters.

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

Regional Fire Dispatch - Regional Fire Dispatch is essentially complete, with almost all fire departments who want to participate having been already onboarded. The next big wave of impacts for Regional Fire Dispatch will take place at some point in the future when the formal regionalization or consolidation of fire departments takes place. Some fire departments and municipalities will want to have all their fire departments/fire stations on the same talkgroup, and some will not.

Next-Generation 9-1-1 - NG9-1-1 is a new edition of the 9-1-1 system that has been imposed by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). The CRTC has ordered that the new system be equipped to receive calls for help from a variety of ways, including by text, and that the 9-1-1 system track the deployment of services up until the time they arrive on scene, instead of only up to the time they were dispatched. The NB fire service will see very little by way of change.

NG911 is scheduled to go live in Bathurst in the coming weeks. Following live testing, it will be rolled out into other PSAPs across New Brunswick. A variety of stakeholder conversations have taken place. Under the watchful eye of Chief Dwayne Killingbeck (Fredericton), few concerns were identified as issues for the New Brunswick fire service. The Province of New Brunswick has done a great job of anticipating and mitigating any concerns that were brought forward by the responder community.

The key takeaway here is that the CRTC is clamping down on the requirement that all dispatching information remain within Canada's borders. Data will not be permitted to be routed through servers outside of Canada. This will impact some fire departments whose third-party dispatch apps route data outside of Canada. An example of this is eDispatches. Fire departments that use eDispatches will need to find a new solution that respects the CRTC requirement. A variety of solutions are already available.

Feel free to reach out with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Aboriginal Council - Fire Chief Corey Nicholas

Aboriginal Fire Chiefs Committee, Indigenous Fire Services, Wabanaki Wildland Crew

Corye thanked the NBAFC for the land acknowledgement at this year's convention.

Tobique Fire:

- FireSmart – applied. Community engagement. Held a meeting with Chief and Council, NBEMO, DNRED, FireSmart, Mawiw Council Inc, NRCAN, Indigenous Services Canada, EMAP.
- Community engagement helped to have C&C aware of the issues that Tobique Fire faces, issues that I face as the Fire Chief when it comes to emergency measures, housing and building codes, fire inspections, issues regarding retention for my unpaid members.
- Instructor Level 1 – near completion.
- retention issues.

Elsipogtog Fire:

- New Fire Chief; Clinton Copage.
- New fire apparatus,

Wabanaki Wildland Crew:

- 2024 – 20 members
- 2025 - 17 returning 2024 members.
- 2025 - 13 new members.
- Chelsea Cullins – Indigenous Liaison Officer. Chelsea.Cullins@gnb.ca
- Working on funding for crew pick-up trucks, equipment and PPE.
- Working on attaining WorkSafe per province.

OFM – Mike Lewis

We are winding up the Smoke & CO2 alarm campaign. The request line will remain open. Cards were sent in the mail to target groups. An email will go out shortly about booking the Hazard Houses and trailers.

We have had a lot of staff changes. We are changing our process. Melanie Christie will be taking care of exams and certifications. Remember, any question, always call your PFI first. Trevor Thompson and Matt Cassidy have been hired as inspectors. Paul Clifford is the Industrial inspector based in Saint John.

Fire trailers will be ready midsummer. We will be putting out a call for interest to be trained for this unit. When a trailer is requested, a team of 4 or 5 people will bring the unit.

We have invested in the Live Fire program at NBCC and the Professional Leadership program with the NBAFC.

Funding opportunity from the Regional Development Corporation grant. This is a grant to help create their fire master plan. 20,000\$-30,000\$ grant to have a consultant come in and create a 10-year fire master plan.

All fire Hazmat teams are now on TMR.

We have invested in leadership opportunities with the NBAFC. This will allow some interested members of the board to go to the CAFC convention and MFC convention.

NBCC- Serge Gallant

We are finally getting caught up on the certificates. Serge will be changing positions. His job of Fire Service coordinator will be posted soon.

We are looking to offer Aerial, Defense driving. Remember to look on our website for any information you need.

Local Government – Ivan Corbett

We currently have 9 fire trucks in fabrication and will be getting more, including a heavy Rescue Truck. We have construction going on in several places – Long Reach, Misco, Baie St-Anne to name a few. We ask the Fire Chiefs to stay in touch with your rural district managers.

The ELG conference will be Nov 28 & 29 at the Fredericton Inn.

DNRED – Tony Cole

Please share the fire watch link and not the map. This will allow them to get the current information. Updates at 2pm.

<https://www.gnb.ca/en/topic/laws-safety/emergency-preparedness-alerts/fire-watch.html>

20 Pump kits will roll out to the highest-risk communities, the other will follow next year. Apply for Fire Smart funding to implement a resilience plan – <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/firesmart.html>

NBFPU trailers are 90% finished. Will be training a pilot test group later this summer.

New Business: Constitutional and Awards - short discussion and will be reviewed.

Motion to adjourn by Scott Poupart, 2nd by Jeffery Watters-Gray.

Motion accepted, meeting adjourned at 10:45 am