

# NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

**January 30 & 31, 2026**

**Moncton N.B.**

**Chair: Scott Poupart**

**Attendance:** Scott Poupart, Charlie Chiasson, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Dwayne Stephenson, Serge Gallant, Kevin Theriault, Charles MacNeil, Charles Kavanaugh, Justin McGuigan, Tony Cole, Harry Farrell, Ivan Corbett, Roger Pitre, Karen Trecartin, Jody Price, Mathieu Lanteigne, Suzanne LeBlanc, Brian Scott Worden, Tim Corbin, Steve Armour, Mike Lewis, Brad Calhoun, Corey Nicholas, Raymond LeBlanc

**Absent:** Darren Hambrook, Dwayne Killingbeck, Jeff Cross

**Review of Agenda** - Motion to accept by Charles Kavanaugh and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charles MacNeil

**Review of Minutes** - Motion to accept by Harry Farrell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dwayne Stephenson

**President's Report** – Scott Poupart

Since the November 2025 meeting in Moncton, I have continued to represent the NBAFC on several occasions, including the annual ELG conference held in Fredericton, November 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>. Before the beginning of the conference, we held a meeting with Minister of Justice and Public Safety Robert Gauvin and Minister of Environment and Local Government Aaron Kennedy to voice our ongoing concerns about the lack of presumptive cancer coverage for our firefighters in New Brunswick. A brief was presented to the Ministers and their teams outlining the history of our efforts to improve this coverage. It included the details of our meeting with WSNB in April of 2024 and their presentation on a proposal to merge the Firefighters Compensation Act and the Workers Compensation Act to facilitate easier claim adjudication and the sharing of costs for this coverage over all employers in New Brunswick, not only those of firefighters. It was also duly noted that our goal of creating a \$30M reserve to help cover the costs of claims had been surpassed and that these funds would ultimately be rolled into the funds of WSNB, thus further assisting in minimizing employer premiums for adding additional cancers. Both Ministers stated they understood our frustrations in our longstanding efforts to move our coverages to a level equal to our provincial partners and pledged to look into what the issues were and how they may be able to assist us, as we stated this was one of, if not the most pressing issue, outstanding for the NBAFC.

As a follow-up, I have spoken to two of the WorkSafe Board members that I know personally, and they have both stated that the presumptive cancer legislation is a long-standing item on their meeting agenda and voiced support for our needs. In addition, I have reached out to Tim Petersen the Board Chair and requested a meeting or call with him and am awaiting a reply at the time of this writing.

Nationally, I have attended the National Advisory Council meetings as the New Brunswick representative. As part of the Canadian Association, Fire Chiefs have been focused since October has been to prepare for Government Relations Week in Ottawa during the first week of December. I have asked 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Roger Pitre to speak to this and the ongoing NAC meetings, as he has been part of these as well.

I was accompanied to GRW by our entire Executive, and I thank the board for standing behind this. I think it is important we continue this trend.

I responded to several English media requests, including one concerning our fire departments' working conditions today, amongst others, both Roger and Kevin have been taking part in these as well.

Our newest initiative is participating in the Ambulance Service Partnership Committee, which I will get Kevin to report on as he is one of our representatives sitting in on this.

Lastly, I would like to inform the Board that during the ongoing amalgamation of the Saint Anne Regional Fire Department and the Bathurst Fire Service, there has been a realignment of staffing that has affected my personal status. On the volunteer side, we have been reorganized into four platoons, each being put in charge of a Captain. With this realignment, there is no longer a need for an Assistant Deputy Chiefs position within the SARFD, and I have been assigned one of the captain's positions. I have accepted this role as my sole focus within the fire service is to serve the public to the best of my ability until I feel I am no longer able to do this.

That being said, I understand that constitutionally this puts me in a position of conflict as I no longer hold a chief officer's position in good standing, a requirement within our constitution for holding a position of office. As soon as this occurred, I did have conversation with both Roger and Kevin and proposed to bring this forward to the board for discussion. I have asked Roger to lead this discussion, and I will accept any and all recommendations from the board. I will excuse myself from the room during this discussion.

I would once again like to thank my Executive, Lynne, and the board for your continued good work on behalf of our provincial fire service.

I move my report be accepted as written, seconded by Dwayne Stephenson.

Discussion took place on options.

Motion: Jody Price moved that President Scott Poupart remain in the role and retain his voting abilities until the May AGM, at which time elections will be held. Seconded by Harry Farrell, voted upon and passed.

#### **NCA – Roger Pitre**

Met virtually on January 21, 2026, on behalf of the NBAFC president. The two-hour session included fire chiefs and representatives from across Canada, as well as federal and volunteer fire service partners. The agenda focused on emergency management planning, wildfire and flood preparedness, federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) coordination, and the firefighter cancer registry consultation.

Discussions highlighted the importance of including local authorities and fire departments in federal planning and ensuring that resources, training, and funding meet operational needs on the ground. Key takeaways included: local authorities remain the primary decision-makers during emergencies; the federal Emergency Management Framework has gaps that need attention; provinces and territories continue to advance FireSmart programs and provide training; and Statistics Canada is moving forward with a firefighter cancer registry. NAC members plan to provide comments on drafts by January 23, 2026, and will continue working to support national fire administration and community safety initiatives.

**Report for the Maritime Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA) - Charles Kavanaugh**

The MFCA conference is scheduled for July 16–19 in Saint John, with accommodations filling quickly. The Waterfront Hotel has changed names but remains in the same location. The Delta and Hilton are within walking distance of the convention center. Planning meetings are being held bi-weekly, and organizers are currently securing guest speakers. A recent speaker was well received, and members are encouraged to suggest additional speakers.

**Ambulance NB Committee - Kevin Theriault**

Mike Boyle and I were sitting on the committee representing NBAFC. Unfortunately, I have not been able to make either meeting due to other commitments, and Mike has since moved from his position in KV, I believe John Codling has taken his place.

The committee has met twice with good discussions at both meetings. One thing to come out of the meetings was an 8-question questionnaire that was sent out to the fire services to see who is responding to medicals and what services they are providing. I have not seen the results yet, but I hope they will be at the next meeting. Mike was at both, and the focus has been on terms of reference for the committee and strategic objectives of the committee moving forward. No date has been set for the next meeting, but I will keep the group informed as we continue.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance and Fundraising Committee – Jody Price**

INVESTA \$581,951.71 FENETY started in Feb \$55,115.74

Bank \$\$180,233.

\$180,000 in grant funding for the modular classroom and \$65,000 for the hydrant system are earmarked in these funds. Membership invoices have not yet been issued, but are expected to generate over \$30,000 annually.

Motion: Jody Price made a motion – To engage Champlain Tax & Accounting Services for 1 year. Cost was reviewed. Seconded by Harry Farrell. Voted upon and motion carried.

**Firefighter Certification Board – Serge Gallant**

The committee was unable to meet as scheduled last week due to scheduling changes and a heavy workload, with several projects currently underway. Despite these challenges, progress is continuing. Recent exams have been completed, and Melanie attended the ProBoard conference, which was productive. Kurt is overseeing examinations at multiple locations, including for fire marshal certifications, with sessions running weekly.

### **Awards Committee** – Kevin Theriault

The Awards Committee has met a couple of times since our last director's meeting and has done a review of the awards. We would like to make a few changes to some of the awards, but some will involve a change to the constitution.

1. Make any awards with the same deadline, March 15. This will allow time for the committee to review before the convention.
  2. Applications for the Hall of Flame can be downgraded to a President's Award if all the criteria are not met.
  3. If applications do not receive either award, the applications will be held for a period of 4 years, and if more information is received about an application, then the award may be given.
- Add 2 new awards    1. Certificate of Acknowledgement                      2. Auxiliary Award.

Motion: Kevin Theriault – to move forward with the approved acknowledgment and move forward at the AGM. The motion was seconded by Charles MacNeil, voted upon, and passed.

Motion: Kevin Theriault - to move forward with the Fire Service Women of Ontario initiative to recruit more members from New Brunswick through the NBAFC. The motion was seconded by Karen Trecartin, voted on, and carried.

### **Training and Education** – Serge Gallant/ Jody Price

Workshop will be Sept 11 & 12, 2026. A lot of the planning is done because last year was cancelled. Will have travel issues because of the bridge closure. Discussion took place on options and possible issues.

### **Hazmat Committee** – Mike Lewis

Preliminary information from a recent meeting highlighted the need for improved training and messaging on Class 7 radioactive materials. While current hazmat training covers other placards well, this area should receive more emphasis in the future. Further action is expected in the longer term, likely within eight to ten years.

### **Fire Prevention** –Karen Trecartin

The last board meeting was on Nov 22, 2025, in person at the Fire Center in Fredericton. We welcomed Bentley Rice, Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention, Riverview Fire, and Melanie MacDonald, Assistant Deputy Chief, Fredericton Fire, to the board. Melanie is replacing Dave McKinley, who retired in June of 2025. We thank Dave for all his years of service on the board.

The 2026 seminar will be held at the Rodd Inn, Miramichi, on April 24-26. We are working on finalizing the agenda. Links for registering for the seminar and hotel bookings are on both our website and Facebook page.

#### The following are some of our topics and speakers:

The Psychology Behind Human Behaviour During Emergencies and Professor of Effective Prevention Messaging	Dr. Mary Ann Campbell, Psychology, UNB Saint John
Fire Prevention, Risk & Fire Smart: Reducing Loss and Strengthening Community Resilience NB	Becci Taylor, Executive Director Insurance Brokers Association,
Developing a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Specialist	Danny Goddard, Wildfire

A grant request for \$5,000 has been sent to the Honorable Robert Gauvin to assist with the costs of the translation services using the Wordly application and technician services for the 2026 Seminar.

#### Fire Safety Initiative

The NBAFPOE has reached out to Becci Taylor, the Executive Director of the Insurance Brokers of NB., to see if we can come up with some incentives for homeowners who have working smoke alarms in their homes and make their homes FireSmart. We have a meeting scheduled in February to discuss this further.

The Membership Training Committee is still working on how we can provide the Fire and Life Safety Educator Courses to the fire service in NB.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balance January 21, 2025 \$13,240.20

#### **Nominations and Resolution Committee** – Kevin Theriault

Elections in May at the Convention. Resolutions we need to review the Constitution to see if updates are required. The Awards Committee has suggested changes to make:

1. Change deadlines of awards to March 15 of each year, if the award has a deadline.
2. Applications for the Hall of Flame, if not awarded, will be kept on file for a period of 4 years, in the event that there
3. Hall of Flame can be downgraded to a President's award if the nominee does not meet all the criteria.
4. Add 2 new awards:
  - a. Certificate of Acknowledgement
  - b. Auxiliary Award

#### **Convention** – Lynne Gallant-Valley

The convention date for 2026 is May 22-24, 2026, at the Delta Moncton. Meet last week. Vendor registration will open soon. Discussion took place on translation, a French speaker, and the partners program. The hotel link was sent out last week to members. Vendor registration will open this week.

#### **License Plate Committee** – Lynne Gallant-Valley

As a reminder to your fire chiefs, they can reach out to me anytime to get a copy of their fire department list that is currently on file at Service New Brunswick (SNB). This will give them a starting point for updating their department lists. The list should be updated throughout the year when a member leaves, joins, or has a change of name or address. License plates will be refused at SNB if the driver's license and the list information do not match.

#### **Permanent Chief Committee** – Jody Price No report

#### **Volunteer Chief Committee** – Tim Corbin

Volunteer chiefs meeting was held via Zoom on Jan 24. Concerns Raised - Alternate signing person for Fire Department Log books in the absence of the chief. ICS 200 online course. Is it going to be accepted? Items were discussed.

## **New Brunswick Association of Industrial Fire Chiefs (NBAIFC)** – Scott Worden

Treasurer Vacancy: The Treasurer position is vacant; elections will be held at the May AGM.  
Elections Structure: Discussion on keeping the current election format versus staggering positions.  
A motion to amend the constitution to stagger board elections (to prevent full board turnover) was carried.  
Moved by Patrick Lanteigne, seconded by Mark Michaud.

Website: Website needs were discussed, initiated by Scott Worden. NBAFC Stipend: Discussion on whether to keep the stipend or increase fees to manage internally. A motion to keep the stipend for now and strike a committee to review reasons to retain or discontinue it was carried. Moved by Patrick Lanteigne, seconded by Dylan Warr.

Training Updates: PLNGS 2026 Fire Service Workshop: June 20 — includes meals, training, and a free t-shirt. Miramichi Workshop: September 4–5. MBU Usage: Members are encouraged to use MBU in their areas to demonstrate value and usage to the government.

Patrick to contact Charlo Airport about joining the association. Dylan Warr to explore website options  
Jeff to set up stipend committee (Dylan Warr, Guy Arseneault, Marcel Michaud) to review reasons to keep or discontinue  
Jeff/Scott to contact NBAFC about storage of meeting minutes and constitution.  
Jeff/Scott to ask NBAFC about hosting a provincial fire service training calendar and identifying site training coordinators.  
Jeff to email Remi regarding the 2026 Lepreau Workshop and MBU request  
NBAIFC to suggest a Confined Space Rescue course for the Miramichi Workshop  
Reminder from Chief Worden to prioritize mental health (self, members, and family)  
Next meeting: AGM — May 22, Moncton (Delta Hotel, time TBD)

## **Next Generation 9-1-1 Committee** –Justin McGuigan [Next-Generation 9-1-1](#)

**Regional Fire Dispatch** -Fire departments in northeastern New Brunswick continue to rely on an aging and fragile VHF simulcast system for dispatching, with many also using the FireQ mobile app as a primary alerting tool due to the high cost of pagers. However, unreliable cellular coverage makes FireQ inconsistent. There remains a disconnect between Radcom and local fire departments, and although system issues are acknowledged, there are currently no plans to transition to more reliable black box links due to cost.

Most departments use TMR portable radios for acknowledging calls and coordinating mutual aid through the NBTMR network, but they are still dispatched by VHF. If the VHF system fails, departments would be forced to rely mainly on FireQ, which poses operational risks.

No updates are available on reprogramming RFD radios to match new department structures. Meanwhile, New Brunswick is preparing for the transition to Next-Generation 9-1-1, which will allow expanded communication methods such as text messaging and improved incident tracking. PSAPs are currently training and testing for this upgrade, with tentative implementation expected to begin in March, and some are exploring direct CAD-based pre-alerting.

Discussion took place on long-running issues. It was mentioned that Ambulance NB has TMR radios they no longer need, which may benefit several fire departments in need. Scott will discuss with Mike Lewis. Will be asking PASP Manager - Melissa Merseau to come to our next meeting.

**Aboriginal Committee** – Corey Nicholas

**Fire Chief Corey Nicholas**

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

**Tobique Fire:**

- FireSmart: acquired funding, split between 3 communities, working with Mawiw Council Inc.
- 2025 Atlantic Aboriginal Firefighting Competition – winners
- 2025 National Indigenous Fire Safety Council of Canada (Calgary) – placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Elsipogtog Fire:**

- No updates.

**Wabanaki Wildland Crew:**

**2025**

- 5 mobilizations; 2 in Alberta, 3 in New Brunswick.
- June: Grande Prairie, AB – GWF 040
- August: Cold Lake, AB (returned home for 24 hours)
- August: Miramichi – Oldfield Road Fire
- September: Renous Fires
- September/October: Chipman Fires

**2026**

- 26 returning members
- 32 recruits, our goal was to reach all communities in NB
- New recruits: basic first aid, ICS 100, S130
- S230 Crew Leader training in Whitehorse, YK

Post Season: Identified a lot of concerns, such as fatigue and burnout, heat exhaustion, and lack of food from Logistics. Opening Route 8 highway while we were still working along the highway was hazardous.

**OFM** –Mike Lewis

Training -

MBU Schedule-Remi St Coeur to open the schedule for commentary.

Junior FF-Guidance on junior FF programs to be provided in February 2026.

Fire Department Leadership-Trial program starting April 2026. Idea to 'add' 20-24 seats annually to provincially-funded courses.

Mental Health-Finished, go-live in the next 60 days.

Ice Program-Successful so far-evaluation underway.

ICS 200 – Call for provincial instructors sent. Looking to make mandatory for FF2

Wildfires -

Spring SPU training planned for Moncton and Miramichi (April/May 2026)-Reach out to PFI if you have a suitable location. Additional courses planned for

Edmundston/Chaleur/Central Valley/Royal/Charlotte in fall 2026 or spring 2027. Sat/Sun, FF1/EFF prerequisite

## Fire Service Support -

Minimum chiefs' guidance-Guidance finished (soft and hard competencies) to be sent to FD's in February 2026.

'Report' card-Looking to finalize 'FD Report Card' by April 1, to be revisited annually by PFI.

Boundaries-Working on several 'boundary' issues between new entities. Some questions regarding costs and capability.

## Communications-

Electrical Meter fire-Reminding departments to call OFM about ALL fires involving or impacting meters. Have seen incendiary fires.

Nursing Home found to be using meal pates that were combustible. The warming tray resulted in a small fire.

Acquired structures-FD's asked to no longer use the old OFM form. OFM does not condone the use of acquired structures.

## Fire Prevention-

2025 Codes-Moving towards the adoption of 2025 model codes on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027.

FP Trailers and Props-FP Trailers possibly transferring ownership to OFM. A reminder calendar will be sent, looking to maximize use.

**NBCC** – Suzanne Leblanc/Serge Gallant

**Accomplishments** - ICE program just wrote Blk C last week.

## **Future:**

- Continue upgrades to the FTC training site. The Training Site is available to Associations and departments that wish to use it for training at a cost associated with the materials used.
- Planning is still ongoing to replace and refurbish the live burn prop at FTC.
- The 2026 Fire Service Workshop date has been confirmed for September 11 & 12. Will keep members posted.

## **Updates.**

Please inform your association members that Logbooks need to be completed properly with all supporting documentation prior to sending. We see numerous logbooks missing signatures and supporting documents daily. – Request for a delegate signature

Amalgamation is still causing some issues as we have dept not updating FIRS/OFM on the new org charts. OFM sent a memo, and we are working on a form for Municipalities to complete and send in.

The Safety Officer program committee is still working on the curriculum.

Updating Remote Rescue 1 & 2 is in full swing.

ICS 200: I am getting instructors reaching out with interest in delivering via NBCC.

Driver operator / Defensive Driving / Arial: 3 separate committees are still working on this.

Sege is still working with the NS Fire Marshal and Fire Service as they are in a transition period.

## **Possible NEW Programs**

Fire Inspector

Search and Rescue Partnership NB GSAR

Executive Leadership in the Fire Service

## **Discussion Topics** –

- Southeast Association
- Mandatory Student Registration Forms/Waiver Forms Memo
- Structural Firefighter waiting period Memo
- Survey to Fire Chiefs regarding Block E

## **Opportunity:**

Still ongoing - Partnership between NBCC / OFM / Skills Canada / NBAFPO / NBAFC on building and operating a Fire Burn Demo trailer. Sprinkler VS un-sprinklered / Sleep with door closed VS opened.

## **Local Government**- Ivan Corbett

Truck update:

5 fire trucks ordered in December 2025,                      15 trucks currently in production

Fire Conference- Good feedback from participants. Sincerely appreciate NBAFC supporting the ELG conference by sponsoring keynote Martin LaTullippe. Hope to partner with NBAFC again for the 2026 conference for the keynote if possible. Conference date Nov 20 and 21, 2026 at Fredericton Inn. Registration notices and the agenda will be sent out as soon as possible before the conference.

Fire Department Transfer - Rural Community of Butternut Valley passed a bylaw taking over the service of fire protection effective January 1 2026. Millstream, Coles Island and Havelock fire departments now fall under the jurisdiction of the Rural Community. ELG will continue to advise and support as needed.

## **Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNRED)** – Tony Cole

**Fire season 2026** – DNR is currently working on 105 action items arising from multiple AAR's completed following the 2025 fire season. These include short-term quick hits up to long-term multiyear projects. Activities are being prioritized, and I will share additional details at the next meeting.

**Student Fire Crews**- Fit testing was held last weekend to screen applicants for our summer fire crew program. The goal is to hire 24 students to work out of each of the 4 regions in the province.

**Fire Smart**- Please check out [gnb.ca/firesmart](http://gnb.ca/firesmart). If anyone is looking for presentations, please contact [firesmart@gnb.ca](mailto:firesmart@gnb.ca). Fire Smart Kits will be distributed to all fire departments during the Spring.

**Wabanaki Fire Crew**- Year 3 of the program. Additional interest in the program has over 70 applicants to take the fitness test on Feb 20-21. We are hoping that we can have 2 crews for this coming season. 2025 provided additional experience to their training, and they have become a great resource for NB and for Canada.

**Training**- Mark III Pump kit rollout has been delayed.

**SPU-** Training tentatively scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> in the Moncton Southeast area. May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> around Miramichi- Bathurst area, still looking to find a location. Will be looking at the Charlotte County, Royal Edmundston regions in the Fall.

**NB Power invoices** – Please continue to send these invoices to [provincial.firecentre@gnb.ca](mailto:provincial.firecentre@gnb.ca) for downed powerlines. **ATTACHEMENT #1**

FYI – All our seasonal personnel have been hired as full-time.

Motion was made by Harry Farrell to write a letter to DTI in support of the government keeping its commitment to give the fire department the Mark III pumps. Seconded by Charles Kavanaugh, voted upon, and passed. Motion to accept the report by Tony Cole, seconded by Harry Farrell.

## **ASSOCIATION REPORT**

**Southeast FF** – Brad Calhoun

The Last SEFFA meeting was held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026, with 12 departments represented. Suzanne Leblanc was with us to introduce herself and address concerns and communicate expectations regarding logbook sign-offs.

### **Training**

- 2 firefighter 1's are ongoing. One is nearing completion, with another just getting off the ground.
- One instructor 1 was completed before the holidays, with another planned for the Tantramar region in February.
- Some departments have been asking for a Blue Card Command introductory session. One has been completed in Albert County, with another scheduled in Kent County in March.
- Two ICS-200 courses have been completed in this quarter.

### **Random Thoughts**

- As an association, we are still beta-testing ways to improve attendance at meetings. Having a guest speaker or supplier in, providing supper, and having access to the meeting remotely are a few things we have tried to date. This is improving.
- Planning is underway, which would deploy “tanker task forces” as part of an automatic add plan for water supply. By breaking the association into zones, requesting a tanker should be easier than listing off each department being requested individually. More to come on this. Meetings held with Fire Control on how best to dispatch these. Ongoing.
- We are on the back end of a busy forestry season. Our department members were required to back each other up frequently. As always, they worked seamlessly together, and their efforts are to be commended.
- Concerns have been raised regarding the implementation of Versaterm. Will there be advanced notice of the switch? Will it work seamlessly with existing alerting systems used by departments. I.E- First Due, IamResponding.

**Chaleur Association** – Dwayne Stephenson

We held our AGM in November and held elections for President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, Treasurer, Secretary, and ATR. At this time, we were able to fill all roles except 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice and Treasurer. These positions were carried over to the January Meeting, where we were able to fill the

Treasurer's spot. We have left the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice position blank until the 2026 AGM in November. At the January meeting, the new executive was sworn in.

OFM, Jamie Innes, discussed the 4 fatal fires in the province and asked that the departments promote furnace safety and chimney fire prevention as much as possible. The fire props available to us were also discussed, and this led to the question of training all who use the props to the same consistency level, so that what one department delivers, all departments will deliver the same. Jamie said OFM would help if needed (PFI). Jamie mentioned that the OFM and the NPAFPOE encourage all departments to have a fire prevention officer in them.

Training, we currently have 2 FF1 courses running, one in English and one in French. Both are starting their last block, Hazmat this weekend for English and next weekend for French. We are also looking to have another double set of FF1 in the spring, again in both languages, as well as a pump ops and FF2 course. We chose our preference for when we would like the MBU in the association. That was sent off to Remi, and looking for a central location to set up for all departments. Once we get when we are getting the MBU, a schedule request will be sent out to the departments in the association to set up MBU usage and obtaining required materials.

We brought up about TMR radios and what some of the holdbacks are to switching over. Those departments in attendance stated the cost of radios, cell tower coverage (bouncing between Quebec and New Brunswick towers, and the lack of). We had mentioned that ANB was returning their unencrypted radios. We are reaching out to Radcom to see if the towers can be boosted to help with coverage.

#### **Acadian Peninsula** – Mathieu Lanteigne

We have two Firefighter I courses starting this weekend and next weekend in the Peninsula. The year 2025 has been busier than usual for everyone in the Peninsula. We are still waiting for the ISC-200 course required for Firefighter II. The Acadian Peninsula is working with our Regional Service Commission and the company ACFOR on a **community wildfire resilience plan**.

#### **Northwest Firefighter Association** – Charlie Chiasson

would like to advise members that Association elections will be held in April 2026. As a result, there may be a new representative sitting at the table following the election process.

The Association is currently finishing up a Level 1 Firefighter program with Block E scheduled for completion in February.

At this time, there are 15 firefighters still awaiting their S215 certificates, with applications dating back to early last year. This remains an ongoing concern, and the Association will continue to follow up on the status of these certifications.

Looking ahead, Grand Falls will host the Northwest Firefighters Muster from June 5-7, 2026. This event is an excellent opportunity for networking and camaraderie among departments. All members and departments are encouraged and welcome to come and visit.

#### **Royal District** – Charles McNeil

Royal has held one meeting in January 2026 since the last NBAFC meeting.

The Royals' training has continued to do well.

Some of the scheduled training is as follows:

FF 1 Feb 7, 2026                      FF 2 April/May                      Auto Ex., April 2026

Instructor course with 12 students is ongoing. (finishing this weekend)

ICS-200 is scheduled for March 14-15

### **Fundy Firefighter Association – Kevin Theriault**

The Level 1 course started on Jan. 6 with 18 students.

Regional Service Commission is having a Firesmart Review completed for the whole area, some departments have met with TSI, who is doing the review.

We have a new Mutual Aid Agreement, mostly in place, just waiting on a couple more signatures. We have a new website up and running, [www.fundyfire.ca](http://www.fundyfire.ca).

We responded to a fire on a 45-foot hybrid fishing vessel powered by six 200-pound lithium-ion batteries. Despite using large amounts of water, the fire was extremely intense, reaching very high temperatures and causing major damage. Both vessels involved eventually sank and battery components. The incident also raised concerns about environmental impacts from runoff.

Overall, the case highlights the serious challenges of fighting lithium-ion battery fires in marine settings. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> lithium-ion battery boat fire in North America.

It was mentioned that the byproducts are dangerous, whether from a small power tool battery or an electric vehicle. It is important that everyone recognizes this risk, because relaxing safety measures after suppression can lead to serious consequences.

### **Miramichi River Valley - Darren Hambrook no report**

### **Central Valley – Tim Corbin/Steve Armour**

Elections were held in Central Valley Association in November. Results are as follows.

President: Steve Armour

Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Grove

NBAFC Rep: Tim Corbin

Vice President: Andrew Cogle

Training Rep: Joe Weston

NBAFPOE Rep: Adam O'Donnell

Central Valley has started a new Level 1 course with 47 new students. Upcoming training. An ICS 200 is scheduled for the end of Feb with a large waiting list. Various other courses are in the works throughout the year.

### **Capital District – Harry Farrell**

Have two level ones on the go in Association with both courses, have 53 Students.

Did a Level 2 course in December of 2025

Started Instructor Course for Capital District.

Put on Air Brake and Class 3 drivers' course for firefighters in Capital District.

### **Courses working on over the next few months are :**

Auto Ex course for departments in Capital District

Setting up the Officers course for Capital District.

Putting on other Instructors Course for Capital District.

Working on doing a full 2-day course for ICS 200.

### **New Business**

**Rémi St-Coeur** -Information was provided regarding the **MBU processed** this year.

It was noted that calendar bookings will open on February 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Members were reminded to use the MBU efficiently within their association and, where possible, to adjust the placement of the unit to ensure accessibility for all.

A reminder was also given to ensure the MBU is clean and empty when it is scheduled to be picked up for relocation.

A discussion took place on the **training donations** provided annually to associations.

Motion: by Jody Price - to implement a grant application process. This would allow associations in need of training funds to apply for up to \$1,500.00. Noted: Applications must be submitted by an association; applications from individual fire departments will not be accepted.

Seconded by Kevin Theriault. Voted upon and passed.

**FF Monument Memorial** – Harry will speak with Dave McKinley, who is working on it.

A discussion on **translation services** for the convention took place. It was agreed that efforts would be made to secure a French-speaking person for the convention. The translation service was also discussed.

Motion: by Harry Farrell - to use the Wordly program again for the 2026 convention. The motion was seconded by Roger Pitre. Voted upon and passed.

A brief discussion was held on the hazards of **lithium-ion batteries**. Scott Poupart noted that the CAFC is actively working on this issue and is lobbying for the development of a formal process to address it. It was also noted that many residents are unaware of potential hazards in their homes, such as charging laptops and cell phones on unsafe surfaces or using damaged cords. Additionally, concerns were raised about electric scooters and bikes being charged indoors, which has led to fire incidents.

Jody Price reviewed the proposed contract with **Fenety Marketing**, noting that the current agreement expires at the end of February. It was decided that Jody will seek revisions to allow an annual choice between digital and print formats and to explore the possibility of a slight increase in the guaranteed amount.

Serge reminded associations to take care of their **training books**, as they are intended to last five years.

The association received a \$25,000 donation from the estate of Michael David Howells.

A quick discussion on looking at the options of offering an Associate membership took place.

Board and executive members are asked to take time to consider the **association's priorities** for the coming year. Please review the **constitution** and let us know if there are any revisions you feel need to be addressed at the May AGM.

**The sickness policy** will be brought to the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Charles MacNeil and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dwayne Stephenson

Adjourned at 1:09

**Next meeting March 2026, Fredericton**

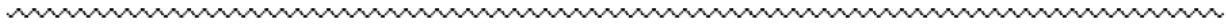
## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **Downed Powerlines**

In the event of your Fire Department responding to a downed powerline, please follow the steps below to receive payment:

- 1) Fill out a copy of your existing Fire Department Handout (the ones used for Forest Fires) with all the relevant information. Please see the example below.
- 2) Send a copy of your completed handout to [Provincial.FireCentre@gnb.ca](mailto:Provincial.FireCentre@gnb.ca) with the subject line "NB Power".

Payment will be processed and paid the same way as the ones for fires are, except it will be processed out of the Fire Centre rather than through the local district office.



## **To me copied to French**

### **Lignes électriques tombées**

Dans l'évènement que votre service d'incendie intervient sur une ligne électrique tombée, veuillez suivre les étapes ci-dessous pour recevoir le paiement :

- 1) Remplissez une copie de la fiche d'information de votre service d'incendie existant (celle utilisée pour les feux de forêt) avec toutes les informations pertinentes. Veuillez consulter l'exemple ci-dessous.
- 2) Envoyez une copie de votre document complété à [Provincial.FireCentre@gnb.ca](mailto:Provincial.FireCentre@gnb.ca) avec le sujet « Énergie NB ».

Le paiement sera traité et payé de la même manière que ceux pour les feux, sauf qu'il sera traité à partir du Centre des incendies plutôt que par le bureau de district local.