

NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

April 10 & 11, 2026

Fredericton N.B.

Chair: Kevin Theriault

Attendance: Kevin Theriault, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Dwayne Stephenson, Charles MacNeil, Charles Kavanaugh, Justin McGuigan, Tony Cole, Harry Farrell, Ivan Corbett, Karen Trecartin, Jody Price, Suzanne LeBlanc, Brian Scott Worden, Tim Corbin, Steve Armour, Mike Lewis, Corey Nicholas, Jeff Cross, Charlie Chiasson,

Absent: Scott Poupart, Roger Pitre, Serge Gallant Darren Hambrook, Dwayne Killingbeck, Brad Calhoun, Mathieu Lanteigne,

Review of Agenda - Review of Minutes –
Motion to accept by Dwayne Stephenson, 2nd by Charlie Kavanaugh

President's Report – Scott Poupart – Read by Kevin Theriault

Since the January 2026 meeting in Moncton, I have continued to represent the NBAFC on several occasions, including several of our committee meetings, TSAC and FCBNB, as well as some newer initiatives.

The most pressing issue and priority facing us is our push to improve our presumptive cancer coverage and streamline the adjudication process for all of our members. We have also asked for changes to the definition of a firefighter to include our provincial fire investigators and airport firefighters. I had committed to having a conversation with Tim Peterson of WorkSafe NB for an update on this process following our meeting with Ministers in November. It was an open, and honest discussion. Unfortunately, there is no plan to increase presumptive cancer coverage in New Brunswick at this time. The decision was made to embark on a full review of both the Worker's Compensation Act and the Firefighter Compensation Act. This will be a prolonged process and may result in some of the

legislative changes we are advocating for. This will not be a quick process and I was cautioned that we must remain patient and that there was no guarantee this would result in the addition of more cancers. As a follow-up I have requested a meeting with Jean-Claude D'Amours, the Minister responsible for WorkSafe NB.

In February, we had two requests for media interviews concerning fire departments not wishing to respond to medical calls. With our current engagement with AMBNB and their newly formed Ambulance Service Partnership Committee, we felt it in our best interest to not respond. We have done so in the past and prefer to allow our representative on the committee to give us an update.

We were also invited to sit in on a discussion on the continued modernization of the migratory bird regulations. Roger was appointed to represent us in this discussion.

We were contacted to engage with the Wildfire Resilience Consortium of Canada, which we have done along with the OFM and DNRED.

NBEMO has engaged in an exercise to better understand the needs of NBAGSAR and how they interact with various entities. I have sat in on a Tabletop exercise which included several different types of responses and how these interactions occur, what helps and what hinders them. Entities involved in this process also included several rural FD's which offer off-road response, NB911, OFM, AMBNB, JRCC/Public Safety Canada/CAF, Parks Canada.

A second planning session has been held, which involved interagency training. To this point, I brought forward that there were several opportunities where GSAR and the Fire Service had several similar training needs. With a revamping of our current off road rescue modules being undertaken by TSAC this is a perfect opportunity to see if any of this can be jointly implemented. This will be introduced at the next TSAC meeting in late April.

A request was received to reach out to our membership and invite those interested to participate in a study being performed by McMaster University. This is a call for firefighters across the nation to participate in the Canadian Guidelines and Resources for Cancer Detection in Firefighters (CAN-CAF).

We also received information on how to deal with persons with Alzheimer's disease. Lynne has reached out to the organization to see if they can provide us with some of their printed information to hand out during the convention.

A new initiative The Maritime Ignite Fire Academy, is being introduced in New Brunswick this summer. A volunteer firefighter from Elgin is leading this project. The project has been vetted by the OFM and I have added our support. The two-week program will introduce youth 14-18 to the basics of firefighting, not including live fire and is another way of promoting interest in a future in firefighting within our province and the Maritimes. I also did an interview with the Times-Transcript on this initiative.

We received a letter of approval for the remaining \$5k (20%) for our 2025/26 grant for improvements to the Fire Training Site. Our 2026/27 request has also been submitted.

As well we have submitted our 2025/26 request for funding through Justice and Public Safety to FM Lewis.

This included;

\$7k for the Miramichi Workshop, the convention and posters

\$75k for phase2 of the modernization of the NBCC Miramichi FTC.

\$30k Continued support of our leadership development program.

Supporting documents were included for all of these asks

A request for support was received from Adam Donnelly who currently sits on the WorkSafe NB board of Directors. He is seeking a second 3- year term. Adam has been a strong supporter for our push to improve coverage for our firefighters when it comes to presumptive cancer. After review with the Executive, I sent this letter. Finally, after several discussions over the past year with the Executive and at our meetings it became apparent that a review of our Constitution was due. This was last signed and dated May 28th, 2026. I firmly believe that a document that guides an organization such as ours requires a review at the end of each President's term. I have submitted some changes for review and approval by the Board so that we may approve them at this year's AGM, if agreed upon by vote.

If so, I would also request the addition of a motion to write into the Constitution the requirement for the above-mentioned review.

I move my report be approved as presented.

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

MFCA / NBAFC report Apr 10, 2026

-Last board meeting Mar 21, 2026 in Truro

-Reviewed minutes from Fall meeting Oct 18, 2025 & Check ins

Nov 9, 2025

Jan 4 & 18, 2026

Feb 1 & 15, 2026

Mar 1, 2026

Getting some new challenge coins made

Training with Debbie Lawrence (climbing the leadership ladder) was successful and she offered various other leadership topics

We are looking at giving grants to provincial associations for leadership training events.

Conference date July 16 – 19, 2026 St-John convention center Motels, Hilton and Delta.

Conference Theme (Ignite the future: Investing in Leaders Who Inspire, Protect and Transform)

Speakers: Dr. Richard Gasaway Gasaway Consulting Group
Kara McCurdy Director Wildfire Resilience Transitional Solutions Inc.
Rodney Schmidt Wildland Urban Specialist/Consultant Transitional Solutions Inc.
Laura King Regional Director NFPA
Katherine Lamb Company Director Effective Command Canada
Capt. Tracey Sgiels Ottawa Fire Service President of fire service woman Ontario
Wayne Jasper Assistant Chief Anarchist Mountain FD Osoyoos BC
Jody Price Street Proven Residential Fireground Tactics

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, but I was at the last meeting in Fredericton. 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 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.

Next meeting will be April 17, I will keep the group informed as we continue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Fundraising Committee – Jody Price

Bank - \$211,058.093

Money tagged from grant monies for the following:

Modular classroom \$115,000

Hydrant system \$65,000

Total \$180,000

Investment balance is **\$581,507.40**

Visa \$362.42

Fenety to date - **\$27,681.43** (Started in mid-February They top to \$55,000)

Signed a 3-year contract. Option for digital or books any year.

Firefighter Certification Board – Serge Gallant – absent

No formal report. A discussion did take place about a firefighter school that are not recognized by the Pro Board or IFSAC

Awards Committee – Kevin Theriault

Bursaries - We had six applications, only two were complete, both applicants are going into emergency services, one into Firefighting at Holland College, and the other with Medavie Health Ed as a Primary Care Paramedic.

We need to update the application form to include the associated Fire Department.

Certificate of Courage - 5 awards being given this year all from the same Fire Dept. members for their combined efforts to rescue a victim from a fire and provide CPR once outside, resulting in the victim regaining consciousness and being transported to the hospital, where he made a full recovery.

President's Award - One nomination, but the committee declined.

Hall of Flame - Three nominations this year. Two were returned from last year, when they both received the President's Award, but there was not enough new information provided to clearly show they met the criteria.

Amendments to the awards have been submitted through the Resolutions and Nominations Committee.

Training and Education – Serge Gallant/ Jody Price

Everything is going well with the workshop. Friday's sessions will all take place at the NBCC campus. These will be classroom-type sessions. Saturday's training will take place at the fire training center. The date of the workshop is September 11th and 12th.

Hazmat Committee – Mike Lewis

We used to run roadshows over two days—starting with a Friday evening presentation, followed by a demonstration on Saturday. The challenge was the cost, especially since attendance was often quite low.

What I'm proposing, based on some success we've had in the past, is a more streamlined approach. If you have a three-hour block available during a training night or event, instead of sending a full team of 12 to 14 people, we can send a smaller group of two or three along with the heavy trailer directly to your site.

Fire Prevention –Karen Trecartin

-2026 Education Bursary applications are now open. Information is available on our website as well as our Facebook account. Deadline to apply is May 25th.

-Award Nominations (New)

The New Brunswick Association of Fire Prevention Officers and Educators is currently seeking nominations for two annual awards: **Fire Prevention Officer of the Year & Fire Department of the Year**

These awards recognize individuals and departments that are going above and beyond to improve fire prevention, public education, and life safety within their communities. Information is available on our website and Facebook page. Email nominations with an explanation of who and why to nbafpoe1@gmail.com Deadline to apply is April 18th.

-Executive Nominations

We are actively seeking nominations for 1st Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer to be voted on at our annual general meeting on April 26th. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone you can message any executive member directly or email nbafpoe1@gmail.com.

-The 2026 seminar will be held at the Rodd Inn, Miramichi on April 24-26. Links for registering for the seminar and hotel bookings are on both our website and Facebook page. Travelodge Miramichi has extra rooms available.

-By-laws have been updated on our website.

-Treasures report: Balance as of Mar 31st, 2026 is \$18,031.25

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 Hall of Flame, if not awarded, application will be kept on file for a period of 4 years, in the event 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

A review of the suggested changes to the constitution was conducted. A motion was made by Dwayne Stephenson to accept the proposed changes to the New Brunswick Association of Fire Chiefs' constitution. 2nd by Tim Corbin. Motion voted upon, motion passed.

These proposed changes will be sent out to the membership in the next few weeks for them to review before our AGM on May 24, 2026.

Also, just a reminder that this is an election year.

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Convention – Lynne Gallant-Valley

The convention date for 2026 is May 22-24, 2026, at the Delta Moncton. The Delta has very few rooms left in the Block. Members who qualify for the government rate can still get rooms at the Delta outside the block at the same rate. The Crowne Plaza and Residence by Marriott are also offering special rates.

Numbers so far:

Numbers so far for the convention -	Registered Attendees	101		
39 Different Vendors	44 - Total booths inside	4 - outside	5- Free	

The 2028 convention date was discussed, and agreed that we would go with the first week of June 2028.

License Plate Committee – Lynne Gallant-Valley

As you are likely aware, Service New Brunswick no longer issues stickers for license plates. As a result of this change, Service New Brunswick will no longer be using or updating the master firefighter list that we have been working from.

To prepare for this transition, Service New Brunswick has updated each firefighter's driver's license record to include a notation confirming their eligibility for firefighter plates. This will be removed when they are notified a member is to be removed.

Moving forward, instead of me updating the master list, I will simply forward the Excel spreadsheet provided by the fire departments, the Chief or the designated representative with any requested changes.

Therefore, it is very important to remind all Fire Chiefs that they are now responsible for maintaining their own department's list. I will no longer be able to generate or provide a list of their members for them to work with.

You need to ensure that any changes submitted are highlighted correctly as per the instructions provided. Instruction will be posted on the Website. You may still email Lynne to get the requirements for the FF plates and any other FF plate questions.

Yellow will be to remove a member, **Blue** will be to add a new member, and **Green** will be for name or address changes.

An email will follow with instructions and the form that is to be used when submitting your members list for firefighter plates.

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 – Meeting at Convention

Volunteer Chief Committee – Tim Corbin No Report – Meeting at Convention

New Brunswick Association of Industrial Fire Chiefs (NBAIFC) – Scott Worden No Report

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

Regional Fire Dispatch

Following discussions at the October NBAFC meeting, Justin met with Radcom and Carol Scott (Miramichi PSAP) to better understand fire dispatch and radio communications in northern New Brunswick.

Fire departments in the region continue to be dispatched via an aging and increasingly fragile VHF simulcast system. Approximately 35 departments rely heavily on FireQ for dispatch notifications, often as their primary method, due to pager cost and availability, although inconsistent cellular coverage limits reliability. Departments acknowledge calls and conduct mutual aid operations using NBTMR portable radios but are still initially dispatched by VHF, including departments that otherwise operate fully on NBTMR.

There remains an apparent disconnect between Radcom and northern fire departments regarding long-term dispatch resilience. No black box solutions are in use, and Radcom has no

active plans to implement them due to cost. The primary concern remains that failure of the VHF simulcast system would leave FireQ as the sole dispatching mechanism.

NB 9-1-1

No new information is available regarding progress related to the reprogramming of RFD portable radios to reflect new fire department configurations.

Next-Generation 9-1-1

NG9-1-1 is a CRTC-mandated evolution of the current 9-1-1 system, expanding the types of calls PSAPs can receive (including text) and enhancing incident tracking beyond dispatch. For the fire service, operational impacts are expected to be minimal.

New Brunswick PSAPs have been training, testing, and preparing for the transition. One PSAP is exploring direct integration of fire pre-alerting into its CAD system. Bathurst PSAP is now live on NG9-1-1, with Fredericton PSAP scheduled to transition in May.

Aboriginal Committee – Corey Nicholas- Fire Chief Corey Nicholas

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

Tobique Fire: - Fire Smart. 2/3 passed exams for Fire Instructor 1, Firefighter Level 1 to follow.

Elsipogtog Fire - Firefighter Level 1 in progress

Wabanaki Wildland Crew: nothing to report

Atlantic Aboriginal Fire Chiefs Association - Looking to have an AGM for May 16th, 2026

OFM –Mike Lewis

The MBU schedule is out for the season. Make sure that you are letting us know how many people are going through the unit. Try to get as many members as possible to train with the MBU.

We have a document prepared that will be released next week. On a junior firefighter program. This program will be for 16 & 17 years of age. This will allow them to start working towards their firefighter 1 certificate. The FIRS will be modified to allow these members to be listed.

We will be offering a leadership course on a trial basis. It will be 8 days spread over a few months.

The ICE program that was offered at the Miramichi High School was a success. Students in this program would spend their afternoons working towards their firefighter 1 certificate.

We will be offering wildfire training in NorthWest, Chaleur, and the northwest areas. There will be 25-30 seats, and hoping to start that in May.

We will be offering a second session in October. This one will be at Parle Beach. Those wanting to take the course must have FF1 and EFF.

If any fire departments come across fires involving the NB Power Smart meters. Please contact OFM.

Also, remind your associations that we have the interactive trailers, hazard houses, and training extinguishers available throughout the province. You can reach out to your local Office of the Fire Marshal representative to book these items.

Fire Department Transfer:

- Saint Jean Baptiste firehall property transferred to the Rural Community of Kedgwick

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

Fire season 2026 – Fire season has commenced early this season, officially starting on April 2nd. As of today, we have had 35 fires for 56.9 ha this season, 14 fires yesterday and 9 so far today.

Student Fire Crews- Fire crews have been hired and training will begin the last week of April due to exams.

Aircraft Contract- The aircraft contract will also start early with 1 team commencing April 20th and the second on May 4th. One team has been converted to the fire boss skimming capable version of the 802.

Fire Smart- Please check out gnb.ca/FireSmart. If anyone is looking for presentations, please contact firesmart@gnb.ca Fire Smart Kits will be distributed to all fire departments during the Spring.

Training- 14 pump kits have been gifted to date. Additional kits will be rolled out in phases over the season.

Pay Rates- The pay rates have not been approved yet, I will update as soon as they are.

NB Power invoices – Please continue to send these invoices to provincial.firecentre@gnb.ca for downed powerlines.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Southeast FF – Brad Calhoun

The Last SEFFA meeting was held on January 25th, 2026, with 12 departments represented. Suzanne Leblanc was with us to introduce herself and address concerns and communicate expectations regarding logbook signoffs.

Training

- 2 firefighter 1's are ongoing. One for the Tantramar Region has just finished all the theory. While another in St. Paul is nearing completion.
- An instructor one was completed in February. We would like to get another off the ground before summer.
- Blue card command introductory sessions have been completed for a couple of interested Departments. One in Albert County and one in Kent County
- Moncton will be the host location for an Engine Ops course in May being presented by Fire Training Associates.
- A live fire sign-off day is being organized for May/June for those FF 1's that are finishing up.

Random Thoughts

Suzanne LeBlanc, the new Fire Service coordinator, was with us in January to introduce herself and discuss concerns with logbooks as well as some proposed Hazmat delivery changes.

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.

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. Ongoing

Our secretary, Jessica O’Dell, a member from Hillsborough, has done some great work in organizing the first ever “camp Ignite” for kids from 13-18 that will be running two camps this summer. Congratulations and well done, Jessica, this is a great initiative!

Chaleur Association – Dwayne Stephenson

We have recently completed two very successful Firefighter 1/Pompier 1 courses. This past weekend, we put on HazMat signoff JPR for both classes. Our French course in Val D’amour had an extremely strong attendance. We would like to thank Belledune Fire Department, Campbellton Fire Department, Charlo Fire Department and Val D’Amour Fire Department for hosting our students to help them towards their Firefighter 1 certification.

We were going to start a French FF1 in Belle Baie, unfortunately, our student numbers went from 13 to 3 or 4. This course has been postponed until the fall and we will try again.

We are also looking at a pumper operator course (English) in the north, and a Firefighter 2 in the south, and possibly in the north as well.

We are getting the MBU from Aug 4 to Aug 18. Was looking to host it at the Charlo Fire Department, as this is a central location. One issue is water supply, but at our last meeting, Charlo Airport offered their grounds to host the MBU (in public parking lot at end), this will be finalized at our next meeting in May.

We are encouraging all chiefs, training officers, and firefighters to sign up for courses listed on our webpage, in the calendar section. This helps us to populate class lists for upcoming classes, and to plan for any wanted courses within the association

Acadian Peninsula – Mathieu Lanteigne No Report

Northwest Firefighter Association – Charlie Chiasson

A training committee has now been established to gather feedback from departments and identify training needs across the association. It does not replace ATR. Current training offerings include a pump operations course and an off-road rescue course.

Communication remains a concern, as not all chiefs are consistently sharing information. We are now posting updates and training on Facebook, which has significantly improved reach, tripling attendance at the most recent session. There are also some leadership challenges, with indications that a few chiefs may be hesitant to have members pursue training beyond their own level.

Key upcoming events include the AGM on April 25, 2026, and the Muster in Grand Falls from June 5–7. All members are encouraged to attend.

Royal District – Charles McNeil

Royal hasn't had a meeting since the last NBAFC meeting. The next one is this Monday, April 13th. The Royal's training has continued to do well. Firefighter 2 is being held this weekend. MBU is scheduled for May 5-19. 15 firefighters successfully completed the instructor course in January.

A logbook sign-off day was held in January and had 31 students attend. FF1 will be scheduled at least 2 times a year. Lepreau workshop is on June 20. Elections will be held on April 13th, for all executive positions. Some positions are for 2-year terms and some for 1-year terms to get Royal back on the schedule

Fundy Firefighter Association – Kevin Theriault

Last met in Musquash on March 18 with 10 Departments, DNRE and EMO representatives.

DNRE gave the spring lookout, advised members will be around to each department for training, Eastern Charlotte will receive the first pump kit in the region.

One radio communications issue was brought up regarding crews not being able to get on a talk group during two multiple vehicle collisions at the same time, ANB and RCMP were being bumped off the tower at the same time. ECRFS Chief had to go to the truck and hit the RSS button to switch to a different tower. Not sure if it was because everyone was on the same two scenes or if it was due to the increased radio traffic from DTI plow trucks that were also out during that time frame.

Currently running a Level one course with 19 students, from McAdam to Musquash.

Due to the ongoing delays with getting the ICS 200 course Eastern Charlotte is bringing in Sandy McKinnon to teach ICS 200 and 300 to the region. We hope we will get a few NBCC instructors to take 300 so they will be in a position to teach once they have co-taught a course with someone. ICS 200 April 10 – 12, ICS 300 April 28 -30.

Rollingdam Fire is awaiting its new truck, but it has been delayed a few months.

Elmsville Fire is working on plans for a new station.

Miramichi River Valley- Darren Hambrook no report

Central Valley – Steve Armour

Summer Calendar is out. Block E and the NBAFC take us to the end of May. Joes got two weekends of Medical first responder training booked in during same time period and we have some in-house training days planned for our teams at the department level. In June the Training group will meet to do a post mortem on the course offerings in the first half of the year, the results and the progress of the new instructors but our initial impression is that it's been an aggressive but successful year in training so far.

To the best of our knowledge, we have presented all of the courses this year that have been requested so far. Hartland has requested our group assist them at some point this spring or summer with a relay pump drill, but other than that I don't believe we have had any other request for assistance. There is an appetite for a third auto X course, but we have been advised to hold

off on this until the changes to the course have been made. We are also anticipating an early and active wildfire season that will likely stretch the resources of all central valley. With all of this in mind, our team will pause for June, July, and August and resume planning/training in September with the MBU being the first major rotation

We have two more courses in the works: The ICS 200 on June the 6Th and a second Class three upgrade also on June 6th. As Chris mentioned, the first intalks in May as well. I will reach out to NBCC for future ICS 200. The MBU will be in the Association from September 29th to October 13th. There are a couple of other things in the works, but not ready for announcement as of yet. We will be working on the new calendar over the next couple of months. We will be asking all departments to send us their training needs, and from there, develop a plan to help complete that list.

FF1 block D happening this weekend , April 10

Class 3 license course happening this weekend , April 10

Hazmat booked for May 2-3

Second class 3 course (details will be released to everyone in the coming days)

Keynote speaker event happening May 30th

Capital District – Harry Farrell

Finishing 2 - Level 1s have Block E to do.

Putting on Auto Ex on April 24,25,26, 27

Putting on 2 EFF courses in May.

Just did the ICS 200 course.

April 11,12 doing live burn at Oromocto Training Site for Level 1 help with their log books.

New Business

Guest - Briana Cowie - Union of municipalities of New Brunswick

Municipal fire departments—both volunteer and professional—are responding to increasingly complex medical calls, and there's a growing need to help councils better understand that reality. Through strong advocacy efforts, the association has worked to bring fire and paramedic voices forward. As a unified body, it also creates opportunities for mayors and councillors to collaborate on shared priorities, such as improving cell and internet access in communities. There's clear potential to strengthen this joint advocacy even further.

The association's Annual General Meeting will take place on October 1st, and a new associate membership option is now available. Anyone is encouraged to reach out to connect, collaborate, or discuss shared challenges.

There is a definite possibility of the associations working together to support communities more effectively.

Motion to adjourn by Charlie MacNeil and 2nd by Dwayne Stephenson

Adjourned at 11:33

Next meeting Convention
May 22-24, 2026 Moncton Delta