

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

Chair: President Scott Poupart

Delta Beauséjour, Moncton, NB

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

On Saturday, May 23, 2026, the Bridgetown Volunteer Fire Service in Nova Scotia experienced a line-of-duty death. A 40-year-old firefighter, Alex, suffered a medical emergency while responding to a wildland fire and sadly passed away on the fireground. A moment of silence in honour of Firefighter Alex was observed.

Meeting called to order at 10:16 a.m.

The election process was explained.

The agenda was read, and a motion to accept was made by Chris Foster and seconded by Dwayne Stephenson.

Roger Pitre, current First Vice President, was nominated for the position of President and accepted the nomination. Second and third calls for nominations were made, with no further nominations coming forward. Roger Pitre was acclaimed as President. Executive Director cast 1 vote for Roger Pitre as President of NBAFC.

Scott Poupart automatically moved into the position of Past President.

Nominations were then taken for the position of First Vice President. Kevin Theriault was nominated and accepted the nomination. Second and third calls for nominations were made, with no further nominations coming forward.

Kevin Theriault was acclaimed as First Vice President. The Executive Director cast one ballot to elect Kevin Theriault as First Vice President.

Nominations then took place for the position of Second Vice President. Jeffrey Watters-Gray from NB Power accepted the nomination. Brian Hunter was nominated but declined. Chris Foster from the Debec Fire Department was nominated, and Scott Worden from NB Power was also nominated and accepted the nomination. Each nominee was allowed to speak.

The first round of voting took place, and two names were eliminated. A second round of voting was then held between Chris Foster and Jeffrey Watters-Gray. Jeffrey Watters-Gray was elected as Second Vice President.

A motion to destroy the ballots was made by Dwayne Stephenson and seconded by Quentin McGrath.

President's Report – Scott Poupart

Since our last convention in May of 2025, the NBAFC Executive and Board have continued to work on several different objectives that are important to our fire service on regional, provincial, and national levels. Lobbying in support of any of these priorities would not be possible without the working relationship we have with our Provincial Fire Marshal and his office. Their support and understanding of our needs and the ability to provide some guidance when communicating with various ministers and other governmental agencies

On your behalf I have attended the following:

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

The AMANB World Café' held in Grand - Bouctouche

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

Through our leadership initiative several of our board members on the last three of these conferences, thus building key networking contacts as well as exposure to the order of business at these key events.

And with the assistance of fellow executive and board members we have represented the NBAFC at several firefighter funerals and association meetings.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS (NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE)

I have attended the monthly online meetings of the NAC as the New Brunswick Representative. First Vice Roger Pitre has also attended several of these as we strive to have at least one of us attend all of these important meetings. We are kept up to date on key issues that are being raised by fire services across the country, which highlights key 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 current summary of areas of critical concern in fire, emergency and life safety includes, but is not limited to the following federal departments;

The Explosives Branch of Natural Resources Canada: 98% of big cities and 70% of smaller and medium-sized cities, have had to put bylaws in place because federal legislation permits the sale of fireworks to consumers. NRCAN is considering removing fire safety plan reporting.

Wildfire Branch National Resources Canada: By May 2025, only 12% of fire departments were aware of federal wildfire training, only 20% received federal funding for equipment, and only 20% had trained trainers for FireSmart. Federal investments are not translating locally.

Housing and Infrastructure Canada: About 25% of fire departments observed an increase in case load due to increased housing received additional resources for fire and life safety.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: awarded an innovation prize for the proposed removal of an emergency exit while 91% of Canada's largest cities consider it a safety risk. Its 10 best practices for the Housing Acceleration Fund include removing zoning restrictions and increasing building heights and density, but are silent on fire and life safety risks.

Health Canada: While the formation of the national firefighter's cancer framework and registry is commendable, 25% of the country's fire departments are using gear older than the industry standard, and about 20% have nowhere to wash their gear in the station.

Public Safety Canada: Over the past 5 years, the federal government has invested in firefighter mental health through research and self-directed online therapy. Only 13% of fire departments believe these investments have helped the front line, 45% felt that 1:1 therapy would have been a better investment.

Transport Canada: only 20% of fire departments feel confident in their response to the transportation of dangerous goods by air or water. 25% by rail and 55% by road. Only 30% are aware of the federally funded training for HAZMAT.

Codes Commission: The codes commission has introduced hundreds of changes to the building codes over the past code cycle. 30% of fire departments feel they have the training, equipment and ability to respond to new building modalities. Close to 40 task groups need fire operations expertise.

(WELL INTENTIONED POLICY – (FIRE+EMERGENCY+LIFE SAFETY EXPERTISE) =

(MISINVESTMENT)+ COMPOUNDING CATASTROPHIC RISKS

Fire Chiefs' recommendation: Canada must do better in fire, emergency, and life safety to avoid compounding catastrophic risks stemming from federal policy decisions. Choose a model to facilitate the insight needed, even if only as a pilot, before the next large-scale disaster or emergency in 2026 and guide Federal Budget measures from a fire, emergency and life safety perspective.

Many of these priorities and needs of the nation's fire service come from the feedback of the annual fire census. You may be listening to this report and thinking the majority of priorities are those of larger city and municipal fire services. This is not the case, but it does speak to the importance of getting feedback from all levels of the fire service. From the smallest volunteer departments on up. Please watch for and take the time to have the census filled out on behalf of your fire department.

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.

AMALGAMATION - The NBAFC Executive and Directors continue to monitor the amalgamation of fire services throughout the province. We hear of both success stories and areas where this process is not progressing well or smoothly. The end product in any given area may not be palatable to all of those involved, but it has been made clear that if status quo is not acceptable in any of the newly formed entities, the best path forward is to work towards open communication, which can lead to a model beneficial to all. With the recent municipal elections, many will be working with new government officials which may mean being open-minded and ready to bring new members up to speed on the needs of local fire services.

WORKSAFENB - Presumptive cancer legislation update. At this time last year and as I stated in my annual report the merging of our Firefighter Compensation Act and our Workers Compensation Act was still in the discussion stage. In March of this year, I had a telephone conversation with the President and CEO of WorkSafeNB, Tim Petersen, to get an update on the progress of this process and the possible timeline for adding more presumptive cancer to our current coverage. During this call, Mr. Petersen made me aware that the decision had been made to now review and merge all of the WorkSafeNB Acts and that this process would take more time than our previous understanding of merging the two Acts we were waiting on. I stated on this call that this was not going to be accepted well by our members, as we have been waiting patiently since our April 2024 meeting in St. Andrews for some positive movement on this process. Mr. Petersen stated he understood this, but we would just have to be patient a bit longer and that even when this process of merging was completed there was not guarantee of increased presumptive cancer coverage.

In August, I wrote a letter to Premier Holt outlining our concerns and frustration over the lagging timeline of getting our members presumptive cancer coverage that was equal to our neighboring provinces and a request for her to champion this legislative merger process that was taking place to ensure that it was done as quickly as possible and to raise our presumptive cancer coverage.

This letter was referred to PETL Minister Townsend, as well as the PS Minister Gauvin and the ELG Minister Kennedy. On May 4th, 1st Vice President Pitre and I held a virtual meeting with the above-mentioned Ministers and their supporting staff. During this meeting, we made it very clear that, over and above now having to wait longer on legislative change, we did not see that as a reason not to add presumptive cancers to our coverage. Our members pay WorkSafe premiums and have met our financial obligations under the initial establishment of the Firefighters Act. Our request was to bring our coverage in line with that of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Minister Townsend did acknowledge our frustration and did say she would go back and consider our ask.

JOINT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - This committee continues to work on the province's initiative to increase and streamline interoperability during multi-jurisdictional responses. We currently hold two seats at the table and will continue to support this effort.

AMBULANCE SERVICE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE - This committee was formed in 2025 and the NBAFC was invited to sit at the table. 2nd Vice Kevin Theriault was a logical choice to sit on our behalf due to his extensive understanding of both the fire service interactions with ANB, but his previous years as a paramedic allow him to understand the point of view from this side of the table as well. The Committee's purpose is to provide strategic advice and informed recommendations to ANB on policies, practices, and initiatives that support the stabilization and long-term sustainability of emergency medical services in New Brunswick.

FIRE DISPATCH - Fire dispatch continues to be a frequent topic at our association meetings and is brought to the NBAFC table through this process. In mid October of last year NB 9-1-1 held a two-day face-to-face meeting with the majority of stakeholders from throughout the province in attendance. The fire service was well represented with many interested parties in the room. The white paper introduced in February 2024, entitled "Toward a New Horizon Leading Public Safety Strategies in New Brunswick," was the preface of the meeting. As well, the NB11 Transition Program was initiated. Bathurst became the first PSAP in New Brunswick to implement the new call handling technology. There still remain many communication challenges within New Brunswick, although we have seen some improvements within 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 - The health and sustainability of our provincial firefighter associations is a concern in some areas. Membership and attendance are vital to ensure that important information and communication flows from our member departments up to the NBAFC and flows down and is communicated to all of our firefighting community. To this end it may be time to look at association boundaries and members to ensure there is value added for membership dues. With many of the new entities opting to hire Directors of Public or Emergency Safety, it is important that there is a return on investment in our associations. This includes the work we do at our Board level.

The only certainty in the constantly evolving all-hazards response model is the uncertainty that we are adequately prepared to face these challenges. Maintaining strong membership and open communication can only be to the betterment of all.

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. Seconded by Jeffery Watters - Gray

Roger Pitre acknowledged outgoing President Scott and thanked him for his strong leadership and steady guidance throughout his term.

He noted that Scott had done an outstanding job in his leadership role, recognizing that the work is not always easy and often takes place quietly behind the scenes. On behalf of the association, Roger thanked Scott for his dedication and service.

Roger Pitre stated that he does not take the position lightly. He thanked all members who put their names forward during the election process and acknowledged the importance of having individuals willing to step up and support the Fire Service.

Roger also spoke about key issues affecting New Brunswick Fire Service members, including presumptive cancer legislation, amalgamation challenges, and the continued collaborative work being done with partners such as NBCC, DNR, and the Office of the Fire Marshal.

No one should ever hesitate to approach me or any of the members of the board. We're here to serve the membership, and we're here to work for you.

Maritime Fire Chiefs Association Report – Charles Kavanaugh

Since the last conference, the Executive of the Maritime Fire Chiefs Association has continued to meet regularly.

The following activities and meetings were highlighted:

- A virtual session with Debbie Lawrence on conflict clarity was held in May, followed by three Sunday evening check-in sessions.
- The annual conference was held in Summerside.
- A fall meeting took place in Saint John, New Brunswick, where members also visited the venue for this year's conference.
- Additional Sunday evening check-in sessions were held throughout the year.
- A second session with Debbie Lawrence, titled *Climbing the Leadership Ladder*, was conducted and followed by three additional check-ins.
- An in-person spring meeting was held in Brookfield, followed by further Sunday evening check-ins.

It was noted that the next check-in session would take place that evening.

The upcoming conference will be held in Saint John, New Brunswick, at the Trade and Convention Centre. Speakers for the conference include Richard Gasaway, Jody and Blake Price, Karen McCurdy of Transitional Solutions, Tracy Shields, Kate Jameson, Kalpana Rajagopalan from Fire Service Women of Ontario, Laura King from NFPA, Catherine Lamb of Effective Command Canada, and Wayne Jasper, Assistant Chief with the Moncton Fire Department.

An update was also provided on a leadership training grant initiative currently being developed. Grants will be available to provincial or regional fire service associations to support leadership training opportunities. Applications will be available through the association's website.

Charlie advised that this would officially be his last meeting as a board member due to changes within the executive structure. He indicated that he would like an opportunity at the end of the meeting to say a few words.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Constitution and By-Laws – Kevin Theriault

A motion was made by Kevin Theriault to adopt the proposed changes to the Constitution as presented. It was noted that this version represents the first draft and that several additional revisions had already been identified for consideration next year. These proposed changes were emailed to all members at the beginning of May. Brian Hunter seconded the motion to accept the constitutional changes.

The membership voted in favour of the proposed changes, and the motion was carried. The constitutional changes will take effect accordingly.

Finance and Fundraising Committee – Jody Price

Bank \$212,038 - Of this money, \$180,000 plus another 16,278 is marked for projects. This is government funding for projects not yet completed.

FENETY	\$42,000
INVESTA	\$587,00.00

We have hired a bookkeeper. The membership dues are being reviewed. The money we have in investments comes from past Fenety fundraising. Over the past 10 years, the amount of fundraising has declined.

Lynne has a copy of the Association's year-end report from Alain and Associates if anyone would like to look at it.

Motion to accept Finance & fundraising report, seconded by Harry Farrell. Voted upon and passed.

Firefighter Certification Board – Jody Price

An overview of the Certification Board and Gold Seal certification process was provided. The board consists of seven members, including two representatives from NBCC, two representatives from the Office of the Fire Marshal, and three representatives from the New Brunswick Association of Fire Chiefs, including representatives for industrial, volunteer, and career fire services. It was noted that the speaker currently serves as the career representative and Chair of the Board.

An update was provided regarding staffing changes within the Office of the Fire Marshal due to retirements, and it was noted that board operations continue to run smoothly overall.

Discussion focused on concerns surrounding firefighter certification standards and the consistency of Gold Seal certifications across jurisdictions. It was explained that the original intent of Gold Seal certification was to establish a common standard across North America. However, concerns have emerged regarding certain training programs outside New Brunswick that appear to provide accelerated certification programs, which may not meet the same standards upheld within the province.

It was noted that these inconsistencies have created challenges for fire departments and for individuals seeking advanced training within New Brunswick when prerequisite certifications obtained elsewhere are reviewed by the board. Particular concern was expressed regarding certifications obtained through programs that may not adequately assess practical skills or meet the expected training standards.

Jody Price advised that they continue to work with fire departments and provincial partners to address these concerns and advocate for improved oversight and consistency through accrediting organizations.

Further discussion highlighted concerns regarding oversight of some external training providers and the importance of maintaining consistent provincial standards for firefighter training and certification. It was noted that these concerns have been communicated to the accrediting organizations responsible for certification oversight.

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.

Fire Prevention – Karen Trecartin, President – NB Fire Prevention Officers & Educators

We held our annual seminar at the Rodd Inn in Miramichi the last weekend of April. We had great attendance with 44 departments across the province represented and received a lot of very positive feedback. The feedback forms completed by our members in 2025 were used to plan our speaker series this year, which consisted of all local people, either from the fire service, or involved in fire safety within the province of New Brunswick. The caliber of the talent within NB was inspiring and the seminar really felt like a leadership development, peer learning and networking event.

Awards this year consisted of:

- 1) Fire Prevention Recognition Award: Ryan Lackie – Sussex Fire Department
- 2) Fire Prevention Recognition Award: Margaret Mawhinney – Musquash Fire
- 3) Fire Prevention Officer of the Year: Daniel Breau - Edmunston Fire Department
- 4) Fire Department of the Year: Sussex Fire Department

The board met via Teams in February, and we have another meeting planned for October 2026.

Committee work over the last year has consisted of:

- Merging our bylaws into one bilingual document and incorporating the bylaw changes from last year. This document is now accessible on our website.
- We met with members of Insurance Brokers of New Brunswick and the Insurance Bureau of Canada to discuss the possibility of them asking more questions when clients are purchasing and renewing their insurance as part of their data collection (For example, the number of working smoke/co alarms in the home, are they using FireSmart guidelines to protect their homes, is there a fire extinguisher, etc.). These were really good conversations and we are looking forward to an ongoing partnership with them.
- Our new website is an Event Calendar. Departments can send us dates and a brief description of the event so other departments can see what public education events are going on and network with them to share ideas and materials.
- Our Facebook page continues to grow to 209 members! We continue to encourage your members to share fire prevention resources or make requests for information there.
- The winner of the 2025 Fire Prevention Bursary (\$500.00) was Bridgette Hoyt from Sussex. Her father, Scott Hoyt, is the Assistant Chief of the Sussex Fire Department. Pictures were posted on our Facebook page.
- The 2026 Education Bursary form is posted on the website and Facebook page. Applications are open until May 25th, 2026.
- We purchased (25) fire extinguishers (\$1,466.25) to be placed in backpacks for the OFM Fire Prevention Week draw as well as Fire Prevention Week posters for all elementary schools (\$3,331.52).

I can tell you that the growth and enthusiasm toward fire prevention initiatives is being seen throughout our province. I am proud of the work your firefighters are doing and the life safety education that is being provided to members of our communities. Thank you for your continued support.

Permanent Chief Committee – Jody Price

A subcommittee is being established to review NB911 changes in coordination with MB911 and other stakeholders. This work will focus on the transition to NG911 and related CAD system changes, including efforts to standardize computer-aided dispatch systems across the province. It was noted that some fire departments have lost certain functionality as a result of these changes, including the pre-alert feature. This feature previously provided advance notification (approximately 30–45 seconds) of incoming calls via station alerts or text, which improved response times. The committee is working with Scott and Robin Crew and will arrange a meeting with the Province to address these concerns.

The Committee also raised concerns regarding fire inspection responsibilities under the Fire Prevention Act and the inspection frequency schedule established by the Office of the Fire Marshal. Departments are currently experiencing difficulty meeting the required inspection timelines. The Committee continues to work with the Fire Marshal's Office and government representatives to explore potential funding and staffing solutions to support inspection requirements.

In addition, concerns were raised regarding wildfire operations from the previous season, where some municipal fire departments were deployed under subcontracted arrangements outside their own municipal boundaries. Members identified a lack of coordination in some operational aspects between local fire services and the Department of Natural Resources during these incidents. The Committee has initiated discussions with DNR and will continue working collaboratively with committee members to improve coordination and clarify operational roles during large-scale wildfire events. Further updates will be provided as discussions progress.

Volunteer Chief Committee - Tim Corbin

The committee has met several times over the past year via Zoom, with an additional in-person meeting held last Friday. One of the key topics discussed was the designation of individuals authorized to complete logbook sign-offs. Previously, only the Chief of the NB Association of Fire Chiefs was permitted to complete these sign-offs. Following discussions during IC Week, an update was issued by Suzanne on May 21st outlining a process whereby another designated individual may sign in place of the Chief, provided the required form is completed and submitted to the Association.

Questions were also raised regarding the Volunteer Tax Credit. It was clarified that there are two applicable credits available—one provincial and one federal—despite some confusion among members.

It was also noted that some members have reported not receiving meeting notifications. Members were encouraged to ensure they are on their Association representative's email distribution list, as communications are shared through board representatives for distribution to membership.

Industrial Fire Chiefs – Jeffery Watters-Gray

The committee has met several times since the last convention and held its Annual General Meeting on Friday.

One key agenda item was a review of the Constitution. The Constitution had not been updated for some time and was revised to better align with the NBAFC Constitution. Further minor adjustments may be needed, but the alignment was successfully achieved. Elections were held. As noted, Scott has stepped into the Past President role, and the speaker has assumed the President role for the committee.

A priority remains to include industrial fire chiefs in cancer legislation. It was disappointing to learn that progress by the NBAFC on this issue has stalled. Chief Ward has been a strong advocate for this change, and the committee will continue to pursue the inclusion of industrial firefighters in the legislation.

Another challenge is reaching out to industrial sectors in New Brunswick to expand membership. The committee emphasized the importance of sharing operational experiences. Additionally, the committee is advocating for industrial fire departments to be added to the FIRS program. This would improve the sharing of lessons learned from industrial fires, complementing efforts to secure cancer legislation inclusion.

The committee also promoted the upcoming fire service workshop at Point Lepreau on June 20th. Registration details have been circulated; if anyone has not received them, they were encouraged to contact the association. Fire Marshal Mike Lewis addressed changes in response areas, especially in urban settings with taller structures.

The committee is fortunate that Chief Brooks, now with Fredericton Fire Service in their training division, will lead a session on fire response. Chief Brooks, recognized globally, will share expertise from the Toronto Fire Service and his international instructing experience. Chief officers are encouraged to attend, as there will be a practical fire response demonstration.

Finally, the committee highlighted the ongoing challenge of recruiting members. Members were asked to help identify industrial partners in their response areas who could benefit from joining the association. Expanding membership will strengthen the committee and support NBAFC efforts. The meeting was adjourned with gratitude for everyone's participation.

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

Regional Fire Dispatch in New Brunswick is functionally established, with most participating fire departments operating within the system.

While the RFD program is operational, northern New Brunswick fire departments continue to be served by an aging simulcast network that is increasingly fragile and approaching the end of life. If this system fails, dispatching capability in affected areas could be reduced to cellular-based applications such as FireQ, which are widely used but not consistently reliable because of coverage limitations. This creates a clear single point of failure within the current system. In discussions with representatives from both sides, fire departments reported concerns about the fragility of the system, while RADCOM advised that black box radio interconnects had been offered and declined.

A more systemic issue is inconsistency in service delivery across PSAPs. Although Regional Fire Dispatch provides a common framework, the level and type of service provided vary between PSAPs and, in some cases, within the same PSAP. Differences in practices such as automatic aid and dispatch protocols create uneven service levels across the province and reduce overall system effectiveness. This is driven in part by the basic nature of the RFD service contract. While some PSAPs provide assistance above and beyond the contract, others do not.

With the Regional Fire Dispatch contract approaching renewal, there is a timely opportunity to address these challenges and consider options to expand access to automatic aid protocols, which will be important in the next phase of fire department reorganizations resulting from local governance reform. Strengthening infrastructure resilience in the north and establishing more consistent service standards across PSAPs should be key priorities moving forward.

Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1)

Next Generation 9-1-1 is now actively deployed in New Brunswick, with PSAPs transitioning from the legacy system to the new platform. Bathurst and Fredericton are now live, with additional PSAPs progressing through implementation.

NG9-1-1 represents a CRTC-mandated evolution of the 9-1-1 system, expanding how emergency calls can be received and improving the tracking of response activities. For the fire service, operational impacts remain limited, and most fire departments will likely not notice any significant change. The required records and statistics tracking occur largely in the background. The process has been developed and implemented with NBAFC consultation through Fire Chief Dwayne Killingbeck of Fredericton as the identified representative, and Justin McGuigan for Data Governance.

At the same time, secondary alerting practices are evolving. Fire departments have been informed of the requirement to transition to Canadian-based Response Verification System (RVS) providers to report to New Brunswick Association of Fire Chiefs, AGM, 24 May 2026 comply with CRTC data residency requirements. Some departments have already begun migrating to compliant solutions.

Looking ahead, the priority is the continued transition of the remaining PSAPs and the monitoring of system performance as NG9-1-1 becomes fully established. Ensuring compliance with national regulatory requirements, including Canadian data residency, remains a key consideration for both dispatch systems and associated technologies.

Summary and Recommendation

Regional Fire Dispatch is operational but inconsistent in some areas, with identifiable risks tied to infrastructure limitations and uneven service delivery, particularly in northern New Brunswick.

NG9-1-1 implementation is progressing well and is not expected to significantly alter fire service operations.

With the Regional Fire Dispatch contract nearing renewal, it is recommended that the Executive of the New Brunswick Association of Fire Chiefs engage with NB 9-1-1 and PSAP leadership to establish more

consistent service standards across all PSAPs. Aligning expectations around dispatch practices, including automatic aid and related services, will improve reliability and help ensure that fire departments receive consistent support regardless of location. It is also recommended that the Executive of the NBAFC work with RADCOM and northern New Brunswick fire departments to establish a path forward for increased resiliency in that region.

Aboriginal Council - Fire Chief Corey Nicholas

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

Tobique First Nation Fire Department:

- Fire Instructor 1
- Firefighter Level 1 underway
- Obtained a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.
- FireSmart program is now running.

Elsipogtog Fire Department:

- Firefighter Level 1 in progress.

Wabanaki Wildland Crew:

- 2026 Recruitment added 11 new crew members.
- 13 – 2024 returning members, 10 – 2025 returning members
- Total 34 members.
- PVP Media (Quebec), Wolastoq Media
- Recap of the last year:
- 2 Fires in Alberta, Grande Prairie, Cold Lake
- 3 fires in New Brunswick, Miramichi, Beaver Lake Complex, Chipman (Oct 7th)
- Wabanaki Wildland Crew: 2 positions of Crew Leader, went for Crew Leader Certification in Whitehorse, Yukon.
- Spring Refresher in April
- 5 Sawyers will CIFFC certified.

Atlantic Aboriginal Firefighters Association:

- Regional competition TBD
- National Indigenous Fire Safety Council Conference 2026 – Saskatchewan

OFM – Mike Lewis - See PowerPoint attachment

NBCC- Suzanne LeBlanc

WHMIS / OHS codes are expiring as students are not completing. The process was reexplained and the costs associated.

Mobile Burn Unit – Was in Sussex last few weeks, now in Edmundson. Reminder - Required Instructor I certificate and training by Remi to operate the MBU.

Departments were advised that IFSTA 7th Edition manuals have been distributed. Any department that has not yet received its manuals was asked to contact NBCC.

Planning for the 2026 Workshop is currently underway, with confirmed dates of September 11 and 12. Registration information is expected to be released within the next few weeks.

Course development continues in several areas, including Remote Rescue, Pump Operator, and Structural Firefighter programs. There are new Mental Health modules and certification. We have new logbooks.

An update was also provided on continued upgrades to the FTC training site. The training site remains available for use by associations and departments for training purposes, with costs associated with materials used. Planning is ongoing for additional upgrades to the live burn prop at FTC, which was used for the first time the previous week. Appreciation was extended to Jody Price for his support with the project.

A reminder was issued to all associations and departments regarding the proper completion of logbooks before submission. It was noted that numerous logbooks continue to be received with missing signatures and supporting documentation, including delegate signatures.

Members were also reminded that amalgamation continues to create challenges with departments not updating FIRS and the Office of the Fire Marshal with revised organizational structures or department names. The Office of the Fire Marshal has issued a memo on the matter, and work is underway on a standardized form for municipalities to complete and submit.

Departments requiring an instructor for ICS 200 training were encouraged to reach out for assistance.

Local Government – Ivan Corbett reported that ongoing projects are progressing, with some nearing completion. The Miscou fire station is advancing well and is close to finishing, while the Deer Island project is about 90% complete in terms of site preparation, with full construction expected to begin in late summer.

Elections have been completed, including local government and rural district advisory committee elections. Some new members have joined, and swearing-in will take place soon. Rural district members will attend an orientation session on June 11th and 12th.

Planning is underway for the fall conference, scheduled for November 20th and 21st. Members were encouraged to mark these dates in their calendars. Feedback from last year's conference is being reviewed to help improve future events. Ideas for enhancements and suggestions for presenters are welcome; in particular, there was interest in a session on electric vehicles (EVs), which could be timely.

One staffing change was noted: Williams is the new rural district manager for Northwest Restigouche. He has been actively engaging with the community and is making a positive impact.

The speaker offered their office as a resource and encouraged members to reach out if assistance is needed. Rural district managers are also available to help with any challenges. Thanks were extended to the board, Scott, and all participants for their time and valuable discussions during the weekend.

DNRED – Tony Cole

Tony Cole expressed gratitude to all members for their support over the past year, especially in addressing the challenges faced by the province. Their efforts and assistance were recognized and appreciated. He noted that some gaps and challenges were identified, and ongoing work is being done to address these issues. Improved communication with members is underway, and updates are planned for the website, including new dashboards and additional information. Members were encouraged to

stay tuned for these updates. Most importantly, thanks were extended to everyone for their ongoing support and dedication.

Fire season 2026 – Fire season has commenced early this season, officially starting on April 2nd. As of May 23, we have had 258 fires for 399.5 ha this season.

Social Media- New Wildfire Facebook page has been launched. Please follow and share.

Firewatch website- In the next few weeks, the dashboard will have additional details and a new look. It contains shareable features and links to related information on wildfires and the effects of wildfires.

Student Fire Crews- Fire crews have been hired and are ready for action.

Aircraft Contract- Continues to be 8 air tankers divided into 2 groups. One team of land based 802's and a second team of Fire Boss skimmer air aircraft. A capital project to replace the long-term retardant storage tanks as well as the tanks at several reload bases, is underway. This will increase inventory capacity and update the mixing systems to today's standards.

Hose Processing Facility/ Provincial Warehouse- An additional Capital project is also underway to build an all-season hose processing facility in Fredericton. This brings additional capacity alongside a new warehouse to store the additional equipment that has been purchased through the federal funding shared cost agreement. This is the last year of the agreement.

Pump Kit Rollout- Pump kits will continue to roll out over the next 2 years to those municipalities that sign the gifting agreement. Some have chosen not to sign.

FireSmart- 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 throughout the Spring.

NB Power invoices – Please continue to send these invoices to provincial.firecentre@gnb.ca for downed powerlines. All fire invoices are to continue to be sent to the local district DNR office.

The President took a moment to thank the outgoing past president, Charlie Kavanaugh, for nearly 20 years of dedicated service. Charlie committed countless hours of leadership and effort to the association and the fire service in New Brunswick. His dedication, often away from his family, was driven by a genuine belief in serving others.

Charlie was a familiar face at local events, never missing an opportunity to support departments and engage with members. His steady, respected leadership during challenges and change strengthened the association. The speaker, on behalf of the membership, extended heartfelt thanks for Charlie's leadership, service, and lasting impact on the fire service community in the province.

Charles Kavanaugh - Closing Remarks and Address by Outgoing Past President

The outgoing Past President reflected on his 17 years of involvement with the NBAFC Board.

He noted that the work of the association has included both positive and challenging experiences, including difficult decisions. Throughout these situations, members have generally worked collaboratively, often agreeing to disagree while continuing to move initiatives forward.

Several items of concern were raised. The speaker expressed reservations regarding the Hall of Fame process. He also noted concerns regarding the complexity of WorkSafe processes for firefighters and families dealing with occupational cancers, stating that the system can be difficult to navigate and that additional support and advocacy should be pursued. He referenced the importance of continued engagement with WorkSafe to improve processes and reduce administrative burdens on affected

families. Additionally, concern was expressed regarding the limited number of French-language presentations at conferences. While translation services are available, it was suggested that more bilingual or French-presenting speakers be included to better reflect the province's bilingual nature.

The speaker concluded by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to serve and work with members of the association. Although stepping back from his role, he noted his continued involvement through the Maritimes Association and availability to assist members as needed.

The incoming executive was then sworn in. The oath of office was administered, during which members pledged to uphold the duties of their positions under the bylaws of the NBAFC, properly transfer association property and records to their successors, and fulfill their responsibilities to the membership with integrity.

meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm