NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

Oct 23 & 24 2026

Fredericton N.B.

Chair: President Roger Pitre

Attendance: Kevin Theriault, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Dwayne Stephenson, Charles MacNeil, Justin McGuigan, Harry Farrell, Ivan Corbett, Jody Price, Suzanne LeBlanc, Jeffrey Watters-Gray, Steve Armour, Leon Ross, Jeff Cross, Charlie Chiasson, Melissa Mersereau, Roger Pitre, Scott Poupart, Mathieu Lanteigne, Maurice Comeau, Tony Cole, Brad Calhoun, Karen Trecartin

Absent: Mike Lewis, Corey Nicholas, Tim Corbin

Introductions were made for the 2 new Associate Directors.

Maurice Comeau – Councilor for the Campbellton Regional Community, he has been serving as a Zone Director on the UMNB Board of Directors since 2023, also serving on the Finance and the Public Safety Committees. Since July 2026, he has chaired the Public Safety Committee.

Melissa Mersereau - I serve as the 9-1-1 Service Quality/Performance and Engagement Manager with the New Brunswick 9-1-1 Branch. I am honoured to be invited to this table to represent NB 9-1-1, and welcome the opportunity to strengthen our partnership with fire services across the province.

Our goal is to foster collaboration between NB 9-1-1 and the fire service community by sharing information, promoting awareness of NB 9-1-1 programs and services, and engaging in discussions on matters of mutual interest. Through open communication and collaboration, we hope to support greater understanding, alignment, and continued partnership in delivering effective emergency services to New Brunswickers.

NB 9-1-1 Branch Updates:
The NB 9-1-1 transition to NG9-1-1 technology is well underway. Four of our primary 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) have been onboarded to date (Bathurst, Fredericton, Edmundston, and Miramichi). These are also the first four PSAPs in Atlantic Canada to be onboarded. Saint John is next, with a current anticipated go-live in early February, and Codiac following in late winter/early Spring. Secondary PSAPs (MCMC, J-Div, and PMCC) will follow.

We are also in the very early stages of the provincial CAD (Computer-aided dispatch) project. First phase will migrate PSAPs not currently using Versaterm CAD (Saint John, Codiac). Saint John is first, and initial analysis and planning has started. Next phase after all PSAPs are on Versaterm CAD will be moving CAD to a networked, centrally managed platform, which will virtually connect all PSAPs on the common Versaterm CAD service, similar to our new NG9-1-1 call management technology.

While work is happening in parallel on both NG9-1-1 and CAD projects, the NG transition remains the branch's key priority to meet the CRTC deadline of migration to the new NG 9-1-1 network across Canada by March 31, 2027.

Review of Minutes – Motion to accept minutes from April 10 & 11, 2026 - motion made by Dwayne Stephenson, 2nd by Charles MacNeil. Voted upon and passed.

Review of Agenda – Items added to agenda -Cell phone coverage, AMV Radio Distribution, Presumptive Cancers and review of an Award application were added to the agenda. Motion made by Dwayne Stephenson to accept agenda with additions, 2nd by Charles MacNeil. Voted upon and passed.

President's Report – Roger Pitre

Provincial Activities and Media- Since the convention, I have remained busy representing the interests of our membership and the broader fire service across New Brunswick. I have participated in numerous print, telephone, and live media interviews concerning wildfires, the regulations governing wildfire activity, and the regulation of consumer fireworks, particularly as they relate to burn bans. These opportunities have allowed me to provide perspective on issues affecting our members and the communities they serve.

I have also attended several fallen firefighter funerals throughout the province to pay my respects and support the fire service community during difficult times. Unfortunately, work commitments and scheduling conflicts have prevented me from attending every service, but I remain mindful of the sacrifices made by our members and their families.

Fire Services Workshop - I was pleased to participate, in my capacity as President, in the successful Fire Services Workshop held in Miramichi. More than 140 firefighters from across the province were able to take advantage of our excellent training facilities and participate in valuable hands-on training.

The success of this year's workshop is particularly noteworthy given the considerable staffing changes within one of our partner agencies. These changes required certain roles and responsibilities to be reassessed, and the transition presented its share of challenges. The new staff have done an outstanding job stepping into their roles and helping deliver a successful workshop. Their efforts, flexibility, and commitment deserve recognition and appreciation.

Planning for the 2027 workshop has already begun.

A notable development was the visit by representatives of Kativik Civil Security Services, who toured the facility and expressed interest in returning next year to hold their annual conference while also participating in the workshop as students. This represents a promising opportunity to build on the workshop's success and further demonstrate the value of our training facilities.

I would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and contribution to the workshop's success.

Fire Rescue Canada and National Activities - I travelled to Vancouver to attend Fire Rescue Canada, accompanied by both Vice Presidents. We participated in educational sessions, networked with our national peers, and represented New Brunswick through my role as the province's representative on the National Advisory Council.

Highlights included the initial results of the Great Canadian Fire Census, reports from the various committees, and discussions to establish national priorities. Key areas of focus included wildfire strategies, increasing equipment costs, firefighter health, building codes, and other issues affecting fire departments across the country.

The national executive election was also held. Among an excellent group of candidates who put their names forward, Oakville Fire Chief Paul Boissonneault was elected President, succeeding outgoing President Ken McMullen. I congratulate Chief Boissonneault on his election and thank Chief McMullen for his service.

New Brunswick 9-1-1 Emergency Response Executive Committee - As part of the implementation of the updated New Brunswick Emergency 9-1-1 Act, the NBAFC has been involved in the reform of the New Brunswick 9-1-1 Emergency Response Executive Committee.

Chief Killingbeck served on the previous version of this committee and has agreed to continue in this role as the committee moves forward under its updated mandate. The committee provides senior-level strategic leadership, governance, and oversight for New Brunswick's 9-1-1 service, including reviewing provincial priorities, supporting system modernization initiatives, and providing recommendations to the Minister. We thank Chief Killingbeck for his continued commitment and for representing the interests of the fire service in this important provincial initiative.

Leadership Development and Emerging Issues - Both Vice Presidents were also able to attend the Atlantic Fire Leadership Conference, providing an opportunity to participate in professional development, share experiences, and strengthen relationships with fire service leaders from across the Atlantic region. In addition, one of our Vice Presidents is working on the development of emergency response training relating to lithium-ion battery incidents. As these batteries become increasingly common in vehicles, equipment, and everyday applications, ensuring that firefighters have the knowledge
and training to respond safely and effectively is an important area of focus. I commend the initiative being taken to advance this work.

Presumptive Cancer Legislation - More recently, I wrote to the Ministers responsible for Public Education, Labour, and Local Government, requesting an update on the progress of presumptive cancer legislation for firefighters in New Brunswick. Although I have not yet received a formal response, I can confirm that the correspondence was received.

Presumptive cancer legislation remains one of the most important priorities for our association and for the firefighters we represent. However, my professional responsibilities with WorkSafeNB require a clear and unequivocal separation from this file.

Given the potential for actual or perceived conflicts between my professional responsibilities and the association's advocacy on this issue, I will be withdrawing entirely from any further discussions, correspondence, decision-making, or advocacy relating to presumptive cancer legislation. I cannot participate in this file in any capacity while maintaining the professional independence and credibility required of my position with WorkSafeNB.

Responsibility for this file will therefore be transferred to our Past President, who can ensure that the association's work continues without my involvement. This is a firm professional boundary, not a reflection of the importance I place on the issue or my support for improved protections for firefighters. I remain committed to the NBAFC's broader objectives, but I must ensure that my professional obligations are not compromised, nor placed in a position where they could reasonably be called into question.

Closing Remarks - As we look ahead, there remains important work to be done on behalf of the fire service in New Brunswick. The issues facing our members are varied and often complex, but our association continues to provide an important voice for firefighters and fire departments throughout the province.

I want to thank my fellow executive members, our committees, partners, and everyone who continues to contribute their time and effort to advancing our shared objectives. The progress we make as an association depends on collaboration, sound leadership, and a willingness to work together toward common goals.

I look forward to continuing our work in the months ahead, building on the progress already made, strengthening our relationships with our partners, and ensuring that the needs and interests of New Brunswick's fire service remain at the forefront of our efforts.

Motion to accept report by Roger Pitre, 2nd by Harry Farrell. Voted upon and passed

Report for the Maritime Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA) – Kevin Theriault

Training event coming up on Nov 17, 2026 – Navigating Intergenerational Communication with Five Generations of Volunteers. $20 per person or $200 for the station.
The Maritime Fire Chiefs convention will take place July 15-18, 2027. It will take place at Casino NB in Moncton.
Motion to accept the report by Kevin Theriault, 2nd by Dwayne Stephenson. Voted upon and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Fundraising Committee – Jody Price

Bank account	$48,661.71
Visa	$16,772.17 (Workshop Hotel was just over $16, 404.44)
Investments	$584,693.20
Fenety	$58,561.36 (which is deposited to the account every 2-3 weeks)

We will begin tracking and claiming the GST rebate for 2026. Once we receive our first rebate, we will assess whether it is worthwhile to file adjustments to claim eligible GST from 2023–2025.

Motion to accept the report by Jody Price, 2nd by Harry Farrell. Voted upon and passed.

Firefighter Certification Board – Scott Poupart
The October 1 meeting addressed outstanding business and provided updates on several ongoing projects.
1. Firefighter Level 1 Skills Packages - A working group was established through the TSAC Committee to review the Firefighter Level 1 skills packages. The goal was to improve clarity for both evaluators and students through revised wording and the addition of time limits for certain skills. The committee did an excellent job with the review; however, changes were not properly tracked, resulting in several omissions in the final draft. The draft was returned to Chief Ouda from Bathurst, who identified several discrepancies.
The document has been sent back to the working group for another review.

Once completed, the revised skills packages will be released.
Work and discussions on Firefighter Level 2 are expected to begin in the near future.
2. Evaluator Training - Evaluator training continues to be a priority and remains on the committee's agenda. Madeline Gagnon is working on completing the GoPro documentation tool, which will be implemented during evaluations.

Awards Committee – Kevin Theriault
Constitution changes were voted upon and passed at the AGM. These will be reviewed to see if a past award application may be reviewed.

Ambulance NB – Kevin Theriault
Paramedic Shortages and Offload Delays were discussed. The ongoing shortage of paramedics and delays is effecting offloading patients at hospitals. Moncton City Hospital has experienced significant offload delays over the past year. The delays have resulted in approximately 13,000 hours of lost time, equivalent to 12 full-time paramedic positions.

Opt in to provide medical first response when requested was discussed. Discussion also focused on what support could be provided by Ambulance New Brunswick (ANB), including: Assistance with training, Provision of necessary equipment, Other resources and support.

A Medical Call Survey was distributed to determine whether fire departments have experienced an increase in medical calls over the past year. Results indicated that urban departments have seen an increase in medical calls, while LSD areas have not reported a similar increase.

Discussion took place regarding the administration of Narcan. Non-violent intervention training was also discussed. We will look into this.

Training and Education – Jody Price
The workshop went well. Registration was slow to start, but the numbers rolled in with 144 FF attending the workshop. There has been a lot of work done at the Fire Training Center this year.

Fire Prevention –Karen Trecartin

The winner of the 2026 Fire Prevention Bursary ($500.00) was Tess Sullivan from Beausoleil Fire Department (formerly Cocagne). Tess is a current member of our association and is attending OLS Academy to become a Primary Care Paramedic. We wish her well in her future studies.

We have purchased (25) fire extinguishers again this fall to be placed in backpacks for the Fire Chief for a Day contest draw, as well as Fire Prevention Week posters for all elementary schools.

Last year we held our annual seminar at the Rodd Inn in Miramichi the last weekend of April. We will be staying at the Rodd Inn again for 2027 and have booked April 23rd-25th. Booking information will be distributed in early 2027. The caliber of the talent within NB at this year's seminar was inspiring and had a peer learning and networking event type feel to it. We want to build on that theme again this year. The planning committee began meeting monthly in September to develop topics and discuss potential speakers for next year.

The next board meeting is planned for November 21st, 2026.

Firefighters across the province have been busy with Fire Prevention Week and public events throughout the month of October. The extra time and effort they put into these initiatives is something we can all be proud of. I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Nominations and Resolution Committee – Kevin Theriault

Constitution changes were voted upon at the AGM. They were all accepted. The NBAFC Constitution is available under the resources tab on the NBAFC website.

Convention – Lynne Gallant-Valley
The convention date for 2027 is May 28-30, 2027. It will be held at the Fredericton Inn. It will also be ion Fredericton in 2028.

License Plate Committee – Lynne Gallant-Valley

Reminder - please keep your Fire Department list up to date. You can submit a list any time. Please ensure that any changes are submitted in a timely manner.

Requirements for the FF plate:

They must have Firefighter 1 completed or 1 year of service with the fire department. They must also be active on the fire ground and on your workers' comp list. Honorary members who are retired and are no longer active at a fire scene do not qualify for plates.

Permanent Chief Committee – Jody Price No Report – No Report

Volunteer Chief Committee – Tim Corbin No Report

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

Regional Fire Dispatch and Next Generation 9-1-1 – Justin McGuigan

Regional fire dispatch transitions - Regional Fire
Dispatch continues to expand within the CODIAC region. A small number of remaining fire departments have recently decided to transition their dispatch services from Nova Scotia to the CODIAC Regional Fire Dispatch system. These transitions have not yet been completed, but are underway and at various stages of implementation.

Northern New Brunswick dispatch systems - It is still a mixed usage of radio communications pathways in northern New Brunswick. Previous committee reporting identified concerns regarding the condition and long-term reliability of the northern simulcast infrastructure. The information currently available indicates that there are no active discussions or initiatives focused on upgrading the system or otherwise increasing its resiliency.

Some fire departments in the area are making heavier use of TMR than others.

Online radio communications training - RADCOM is developing online radio communications training to support fire departments using the provincial system. The training currently includes two components:

•an introductory course providing general orientation to trunked mobile radio communications; and a course focused specifically on the Regional Fire Dispatch fleetmaps.

The intended outcome is to provide fire departments with a standardized resource they can use to familiarize existing personnel with the system and to incorporate radio communications training into the onboarding of new firefighters.

Considerable work has been completed on the program, and pilot deployments are underway. Feedback from the pilots will inform final course refinements before the training is released more broadly. RADCOM's public information identifies training on the use and maintenance of radios as one of the services provided by the branch. It also describes NBTMR as supporting other mission-critical users across New Brunswick.

NBTMR contract and equipment considerations - Contract considerations involving Bell and Motorola remain underway. Motorola has acquired infrastructure and bandwidth usage associated with the Bell network and is becoming more closely integrated into the operation of NBTMR.

This development is not expected to eliminate the possibility of introducing compatible equipment from other manufacturers, including Kenwood. RADCOM understands that maintaining options for additional equipment manufacturers is important and continues to work toward that objective. RADCOM remains optimistic about future opportunities to onboard equipment from other manufacturers.

Local governance reform and fire service regionalization - RADCOM continues to hear discussions across the province concerning the regionalization or consolidation of fire services following local governance reform. They regularly receive requests for name changes and/or dispatching configuration changes. No changes have been made to the provincial fire service fleet maps to reflect these organizational changes. Existing radio configurations remain as they were before local governance reform. Department mergers, renaming and other configuration changes may be considered when the fleet maps are comprehensively rewritten, but individual changes will not be undertaken.

Mutual-aid dispatching - Requests for mutual assistance continue to be handled individually and must originate with the requesting fire department. Automatic aid or automatic dispatching of mutual-aid departments are not currently available through the Regional Fire Dispatch program. These opportunities need to be part of the conversation about how each municipality/fire department wants to represent themselves on NBTMR in the future.

Future Regional Fire Dispatch fleet map - A future version of the Regional Fire Dispatch fleet map may encompass the entire province rather than being structured around an individual PSAP or regional concentration of radios. A province-wide RFD fleet map could reduce the number of different fleet maps programmed into provincial radios and improve interoperability among fire departments. Comprehensive redevelopment of the fleet map could also provide an opportunity to incorporate fire department mergers, renaming and other organizational changes arising from local governance reform. No implementation decision or schedule has been established. The concept should therefore be understood as a potential future direction rather than an approved project.

Fire department radio purchasing and NBTMR transitions - RADCOM continues to receive orders for portable and mobile radios from fire departments throughout New Brunswick. Some departments purchase only one or two units in a given year, allowing them to expand their NBTMR inventory incrementally to help avoid a large impact on their budget.

Approximately five fire departments per year request pricing for a complete transition to NBTMR. On average, approximately two departments per year proceed with a full transition.
Cost remains a significant barrier. Depending on the size of the department and the number and type of units required, a complete transition from VHF to NBTMR can reach or exceed six figures. As a result, many departments continue to add NBTMR equipment gradually rather than undertaking a complete transition at one time.

NB 9-1-1 - Nothing to report

Next-Generation 9-1-1 - Nothing to report

Aboriginal Committee – Corey Nicholas No Report

OFM –Mike Lewis - given by Jeff Cross

Staffing - Paul Clifford retired (SJ/Industrial). Trevor Tompkins (SJ/Charlotte County) onboarded as FPO. Paul Boudreau retired in September; Serge Gallant joined OFM as PFI for Miramichi region. Richard Cummings is working 2-3 days per week with OFM in Central NB as FPO.

Training - MBU Schedule-Putting MBU to bed. Good season-will revisit numbers and publish a new schedule in the new year. Reminder to take care of it and to track numbers. Schedule is influenced by numbers-if you didn't accurately reflect participants, we can't prioritize for next year.

Youth FF-Guidance on junior FF programs published.
Mental Health-Live, tweaking as necessary. Feedback positive.
Ice Program-Successful so far; evaluation underway.
ICS 200 – Mandatory for FF2. Available online now as well.
NBCC (giving their own update), but bear with them as they onboard new staff.

Wildfires - Spring SPU training occurred in Campbellton; fall in Moncton area. Not a prerequisite for SPU deployment, but looking to offer in every association on a 3-year rotation. Next year, planning on Fundy Association in spring, Acadian Peninsula in spring.

Fire Service Support - Minimum chiefs guidance-Guidance finished (soft and hard competencies) to be sent to FD's in February 2026.
Capability matrix – Over the coming months, PFI's will be launching the next version of our annual survey. Fire Service 2025 (completed in 2016) allowed us to make a huge number of strategic investments in staff, equipment and funding. As we move forward, having accurate data on the 'health' of fire departments will be essential for support. A shortened version of the FS2025 survey will be done annually by PFI's for each fire department (voluntary). This information will be shared with FD and used to view trends over time.

Cancer screening- Working with Health to develop a cancer screening interval document to provide to firefighters. The idea is that FF could use this information to present to their medical practitioner to obtain voluntary cancer screening at earlier intervals than the general (non-FF) population.

Exit survey now available for FF's. Will stay active and be used in an expanded annual report, to give chiefs a better understanding of the concerns for FF's departing the service.

Discussions with NBAFC/NBCC/OFM over who plays the 'leading' role in Workshop and convention. OFM is willing to support, but want to ensure NBAFC is in the lead role.

OFM is looking to expand its annual report into a larger document with more information for chiefs-this publication will be first delivered in September 2027 for the following year, and will provide information on trends, prevention, operations, survey matrix, etc.

Communications - OFM memo sent reminding all to reach out to PFI for first point of contact for assistance. OFM website has been updated-Memo's being updated slowly-if you notice missing forms of documents, please advise us and we will update.

Fire Prevention - 2025 Codes-Moving towards adoption of 2025 model codes on January 1st, 2027.
FP Trailers and Props-FP Trailers transferred to OFM. Outstanding season-over 7800 participants in trailer. Mandatory *retroactive* carbon monoxide alarms-survey sent to building owners on prevalence of carbon monoxide alarms. Preparing a business case to government to make carbon monoxide alarms mandatory retroactively for all residential units.

NBCC – Suzanne LeBlanc
Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding over the last four months and OFM for the help. We have had some changes in NBCC management – new Business Manager Trish Trenter has joined us. Still no replacement for Curriculum Assistant.

NBCC changes are coming and will be communicated shortly. WHMIS / OHS codes are expiring as students are not completing. Re-explain the process and cost associated with these

NBCC Fire Services Web Page. Mental Health link has been updated, and ICS-100 is pending (due to GNB website updates)

IFSTA 7th edition manuals – Keep track of your books. They will be stopping print on this edition in the near future.

Points and/or reminders – Course Development under way – Remote Rescue – Pump Operator Structural Firefighters – courses Remote Rescue Block A – Pump Operator Blocks A & D – Auto X Block A

Basic Rescue - Firefighters who have completed Parts A, B and E can also take Pump Operator and obtain their certification before completing their full Level 1. If you have firefighters in your association who have completed Part A and wish to take Auto-X or Basic Rescue, contact me. I will verify their grades and confirm their eligibility. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding these changes.

Delegated Signing Authority - Fire chiefs across the province can now delegate one person within their department to sign off on evaluations and related documentation. This is intended to help chiefs who may be too busy to manage all the administrative responsibilities themselves.

Auto-X - written examination accounts for 75% of the final grade. The remaining 25% comes from the instructor's practical evaluation. Both marks are required to calculate the final grade and issue certification. For example: A firefighter who receives 58% on the written examination but achieves 100% on the practical evaluation can receive a passing final grade of 68.5%. Without the practical mark, the firefighter's recorded grade remains incomplete at 75% of the total evaluation. Instructors must submit the practical evaluation form to NBCC for the final grade to be calculated. Without this information, firefighters may not receive their certificates, even if they have completed the practical portion. In most cases, instructors complete the practical evaluation at the same time as the written examination.

Instructors are reminded of the importance of submitting practical marks promptly, so firefighters receive their certifications without unnecessary delays.

Thank you to Northwest and Fundy Associations for the warm welcome this summer

Local Government- Ivan Corbett

Truck update:

- Several Rural District fire trucks still in production
- Recent deliveries to Rollingdam, Moores Mills, Peninsula and Welsford

Ongoing Fire Department Construction/Improvement projects:

- Deer Island – initial groundwork is nearing completion
- Miscou – construction completed and department moving in soon
- Baie St. Anne – nearing completion

2026 Fire Conference:

- Planning is ongoing – agenda is set and invitation memo sent out - topics - wildfire season overview, equipment inspections/safety, tech topics, PTSD, NB 911update.
- Partnered with NBAFC for keynote
- Conference date Nov 20 and 21 2026 at Fredericton Inn – please register

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

Fire season 2026 – Fire season officially ends October 31. To date there have been 367 fires burning 497.6 ha. Compared to 431 fires burning 3408.2 ha at the same date last season. The vast majority of fires this season burned in April and May. Compared to August and September last year. Upgrades are in progress to the Longterm tanks and storage facility at Miramichi, Charlo and Fredericton.

Mobilizations- DNR mobilized 56 personnel to other provinces, as well as pumps and hose. Aircraft were also shared to Saskatchewan and Labrador.

Information Sharing- This season the Dashboard was updated with additional functionality as well as the launch of our Wildfire Facebook page.

Drones- Fire Department drones continue to be used on wildfires without appropriate certification or authorization. There have been 4 documented near misses with aircraft this season. Please remind departments that the airspace within 5 nautical miles and to a height of 3000' (or greater) is restricted by Transport Canada. Advanced pilots, a special flight operators' certificate and approval by the agency having jurisdiction is all required to fly a drone over a wildfire.

Fire Smart- Please check out **gnb.ca/FireSmart**. If anyone is looking for presentations, please contact firesmart@gnb.ca Fire Smart Kits have been distributed to all districts for roll out to the fire departments over the next few weeks. 20 Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRP) have been completed covering 93 communities.

Pump kits- 33 pump kits have been gifted to date. Additional kits are being rolled out in phases.

Training- Our training coordinator has announced his retirement. A replacement has not yet been identified, this will temporarily pause additional structure protection and the S-215 (Wildland Urban Interface) training courses.

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

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Southeast FF – Brad Calhoun

Two meetings were held within this quarter. One on July 5th and the last on Oct. 4th, 2026. Dan McCoy was present at our October meeting, representing WFR and the equipment he has available to the membership.

Training - Hoping to kick off a couple of FF1's before Christmas. One for Kent County and one for Westmorland. Training was conducted on the new structural protection unit in Sept. With several members from taking part. An instructor one was completed before summer break. Probably be the new year before hosting another. Hazmat, Block E training day scheduled for Oct. 31st for members looking to get these signed off. Moncton will host with their Hazmat Trailer.

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 advance notice of the switch? Will it work seamlessly with existing alerting systems used by departments. I.E- First Due, IamResponding. Ongoing

Update- Newest launch date for Versaterm is July 2027

Our secretary, Jessica O'Dell, a member from Hillsbourgh, 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. Update- This was held over the summer with two successful camps. Both girls' and boys' 1-week sessions. It was well received and well attended. Congrats to Jessica and team! Next meeting scheduled for Nov. 29th. FM Lewis will be in attendance to address the membership.

Chaleur Association – Dwayne Stephenson

We had the MBU in our Association from Aug. 4 to Aug. 18. Dalhousie was our host department due to water issues in Charlo. We only had 2 departments utilize it and put through approximately 6 students. We have 12 trained operators, as per Remi from OFM.

We held a Pump Ops course in Belledune in June (central location). All participants did an excellent job in the course and the practical.

We are currently running a Firefighter I(English) course in Belledune. Block A has been completed, and we are in the middle of Block E. There will be a Block E, HAZMAT Practical on Oct 31. We wrote the Block A exam on Oct 3, and have had no results as of yet.
We will be starting a Firefighter 2 course Nov 21 in Campbellton. To sign up for this course, as per NBCC prerequisites, students must have their full Firefighter 1 (NFPA 1001-1) certificate for a minimum of 1 year.

Looking towards the spring, we are hoping for a FF1 (English), FF1 (French, setup in progress), Auto ex, Pumper Ops.

We had a very “heated” discussion on cell phone coverage, and lack thereof. Executive will be sending letters to area MLAs regarding this, and will also be bringing it to NBAFC to see if they are able to help with getting the issue recognized and hopefully corrected. This was brought up as it is starting to be a life safety concern.

Several departments held successful MD Boot drives. Reviewed with all members regarding the issue of flashing green lights on personal vehicles. It was stressed that only EMO uses the green light and they are not allowed, for any reason, on personal vehicles as per discussions at NBAFC and the Highway Traffic Act. Hopefully this has put the issue to rest in our association. Chiefs are asking how to get their Work Safe NB Active FF lists updated at Work Safe NB. They are submitting the current lists to their municipalities, who in turn are submitting them. But the Lists at Work Safe NB are, for some reason, not being updated.

Acadian Peninsula – Mathieu Lanteigne

We are working toward offering a Level 1 course before Christmas, with the possibility of also offering a Level 2 course.

We are exploring a pilot project with our Regional Service Commission for a location system that would help emergency responders accurately pinpoint callers' locations during emergency incidents in wooded and remote areas.

Northwest Firefighter Association – Charlie Chiasson

The Northwest Firefighters Association is currently in full training mode, with a strong focus on professional development and enhancing the skills of firefighters throughout the region.

Training initiatives currently underway include Firefighter Level 1 and Fire Instructor Level 1 programs. Additional training opportunities, including Incident Command System (ICS) 100 and 200, are also being considered as part of our upcoming training schedule.

Planning is also underway for our 2nd Regional Firefighters Workshop, which will focus on firefighter safety. This full-day event will feature various guest speakers and educational sessions addressing important safety topics, best practices, and challenges faced by today's fire service.

The Association is also actively participating in meetings with Public Health representatives to bring forward concerns and challenges that our fire departments face in their daily operations. These discussions provide an important opportunity to share frontline experiences, strengthen

communication, and advocate for practical solutions that better support our firefighters and the communities they serve

Royal District – Charles McNeil

The Royal Association has held a meeting since the last NBAFC meeting.
The Royal's training has continued to be busy. The following training is ongoing or scheduled: Level 1 and in the spring, an Auto Ex in April/May

2- Firefighter 1 courses are ongoing (1 in each zone)
2 - Firefighter 2 courses are upcoming
In an attempt to help firefighters, complete the course in a timely fashion, the courses are of set enough that if a firefighter can't attend all blocks in one course, they can pick it up in the other course. In July, I presented Katie Carter with the Royal Bursary (Katie's father is Chief of Penobscot Fire Dept.) The Royal Truck Pull for Muscular Dystrophy was cancelled due to a lack of participation from teams. An attempt to hold it every second year is in the works.

Fundy Firefighter Association – Kevin Theriault
FF 1 training course was held over the winter, with the usual pause in training during the spring. Completed Block 5 training. Working on finishing FF 1. Level 2 training was also delivered this fall.
An Off-Road Rescue Basic course was held over the summer. Numerous fire prevention activities took place, particularly during Fire Prevention Week. The Spring Workshop at Point LePreau was a success, with approximately 134 students in attendance.

Miramichi River Valley- Leon Ross

We currently have a 2 – FF 1 and 1- FF 2 courses going. We have been having meetings to address the issues within the Miramichi Associations. Meet on Oct 5th. Going forward, we will meet monthly with Chiefs. That next meeting will be on Nov 2nd.

Central Valley – Steve Armour

Canterbury hosted talks on complacency in the fire service and leading in today's fire service with guest speakers from Moncton and Riverview Fire.
Level One Firefighter Completed May 2026 47 students
ICS 200 Completed February 2026 12 students
Auto Extrication Completed March 2026 9 students
Class 3 Upgrade Completed in 2026 38 students across two classes
Remote Rescue Completed August 2026 12 students
Bus Extrication Postponed until spring 2027 Low registration and NBCC bus availability
JPR Day with the MBU October 2026 10 students
MBU Department Training Completed during regional visits More than 30 participants
Firefighter Level One (FF-1) Starting October 2026 22 students
NBCC Electric Vehicle (EV) Course December 2026 Upcoming
RCMP Drug Lab Safety March 2027 Planned

Firefighter Level Two (FF-2) April 2027 Planned

Reading Smoke May 2027 Planned

Capital District – Harry Farrell

Finish up two level 1 courses.
Courses going to do over 2026 and 2027 year
Looking to set up 2 Level 1 courses
Setting up Level 2 course
ICS 200 Course – possible 2 courses
Firefighters Instructor course before end of 2026
Will be doing Auto EX course at Cumberland Bay Fire Hall, which will include 6 other departments. This will be done in November or December.

New Business

A short in-person discussion took place. Jody Price made a motion to modify the executive positions of President and Past President, as outlined during the discussion. The motion was put to a vote and carried. Scott Poupart will be handling the Presumptive Cancer going forward.

Presumptive Cancer- Scott Poupart

We have been fighting for improved presumptive cancer coverage for firefighters since 2010, when New Brunswick was one of the first provinces to introduce this protection. At that time, only a limited number of cancers were covered, and despite years of advocacy, we have been unable to expand that list. New Brunswick currently covers only 11 cancers, while Prince Edward Island covers 21. This is simply unacceptable.
We were asked to build a fund to help cover the costs, and we have contributed to growing it to $35 million while continuing to pay our annual WorkSafe premiums. Despite these efforts, we were repeatedly told that adding cancers required unanimous board approval, making progress difficult.
In April 2024, WorkSafe presented plans to review and streamline the legislation to make cancer claims easier to adjudicate. Following public consultation, however, progress stalled. When I followed up in late summer, I was told that a full legislative review would take place and that no commitments could be made regarding additional cancer coverage.
At its AGM this year, WorkSafe announced that $153 million would be returned to employers and municipalities that pay premiums, yet there was still no announcement of expanded presumptive cancer coverage.
As a result, we wrote to the Minister requesting a clear response on the proposed changes before our October 23, 2026, meeting. We have received confirmation of receipt of our letter but no comment. A discussion took place.

Media relations training – discussion took place on whether this would be beneficial for chiefs/chief officers. It was agreed it would be good to have.

CAFC census booth at the convention – Roger Pitre - it was asked if we can accommodate the CAFC with a booth at our convention. A booth will be saved for them at no charge.

Lithium-Ion training – Jeff Watters-Gray

Discussed the increasing number of incidents involving lithium-ion batteries and the growing need for firefighters to be properly trained to respond to these events. These incidents are considered hazardous materials (HazMat) events and can present significant risks to first responders. Recent examples in our region include the fire at a solar farm in Prince Edward Island and the ship fire in St. Andrews last year.
Further discussion and consideration of this topic will take place under the training agenda with Jody Price.

Motion to adjourn by and 2nd by
Adjourned at 11:57

Next meeting – Moncton January 22 & 23, 2026