

# NBAFC AGM

## May 29, 2021

Virtual meeting – Zoom - 10 a.m.

**Attending:** Charles Kavanaugh, Mike Walton, Scott Poupart, David McKinley, Tim Corbin, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Kevin Theriault, Mike Lewis, Serge Gallant, Matt Ruff, Charlie Chiasson, Quentin McGrath, James Brown, JC Bourque (interpreter), Andrew Cogle, Craig Ramsay, Danny Desroches, Darren Hambrook, Dave Gallant, Dean Anderson, Dwayne Killingbeck, Elsipogtog – Jason Augustine , Harold McLeallan, Harry Farrell, Joerg Soetebeer, Justin McGuigan, Long Reach Fire, Luc Dugas, Matthew Ruff, Maurice Belliveau, Negauc FD, Nina McCarthy, Paili Gionet, Raymond LeBlanc, Real Duguay, Rémi St-Coeur, Stephen Bliss, Upper Gagetown, Yvan Caron

Serge Gallant did a brief introduction on Zoom.

Motion to accept minutes from 2019 AGM by Mike Walton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Poupart - Motion passed

Motion to accept agenda by Scott Poupart, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie Chiasson - Motion passed

### **President's Report - Charles Kavanaugh**

He let everyone know that Nadine LeBlanc has retired and is being replaced by Lynne Gallant-Valley. I hope that Nadine will be able to help with the 2022 convention.

The MBU has been received. It is currently being prepped and hopefully, if all is good, it will be on the road this summer.

The Executive had a meeting with Minister Allain. I met with Douglas Jones from Work Safe. We discussed the types of cancers, rates, and claims, and the FF Compensation Act. Another meeting is expected with the Executive in the near future.

Met with Minister Holland – Natural Resources. We discussed uniformity and treatment among regions, and fire season. We spoke about downed power lines. We are looking at possible getting compensation for departments, like with Fire Scene Security.

Fenety Marketing is still ongoing. Last year's revenue was good. The 2021 campaign started in March.

There is the possibility of a training center being built in St. Stephen. This would be with a new industry possibly setting up in that area.

Met with DTI – the topic was to be about detours. It turned into a larger scope. They mentioned that there would be infrastructure that will not be replaced.

Extramural was notifying local fire departments when oxygen was installed in a home. They will now notify PSAP who can advise the department while on route.

There was a session on the Green paper that took place. There will be more offered, and I urge you all to get involved. Changes are coming.

When reviewing the FF plates list, I noticed that there are names of past members still on the list. Chiefs are reminded to keep their list up-to-date. Composite fire departments need letters for their members indicating if they are volunteer or career members. Volunteers get their plates for free, and the career members have to pay.

At the last board meeting, it was agreed that the current Executive would continue for one more year and elections would take place in May 2022.

Motion to accept the report by Scott Poupart and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harry Farrell, motion passed.

### **MFCA Report – Charles Kavanaugh**

The convention is cancelled again this year. The next convention will be in Halifax, July 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We have been meeting virtually on a regular basis.

We have had several presentations and are working on getting more. Some of the training sessions were Situational Awareness and Firefighter Safety: Mistakes and Best Practices. We are looking at a residential sprinkler summit. I hope it will be in the fall. This would be for municipalities, fire departments, builders, and government.

Motion to accept report – Charlie Chiasson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harry Farrell.

### **CAFC Report – David McKinley**

The Fire Underwriters Survey has asked the **NAC (National Advisory Council)** to contribute or participate in the development of this project in the future. We have discussed vaccine access, mental health support, and NB911. We have worked on the federal budget request, gas tax, Airport Capital Assistance program, mental health, public safety broadband network, reinstating of Joint Emergency Preparedness Program, **HUSAR (Heavy Urban Search And Rescue)** Funding, Fire Advisor, etc.

And just a reminder to fill out your census by Monday May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Motion to accept report – Mike Walton and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie Chiasson.

### **Finance & Fundraising – Mike Walton**

Fenety fundraising for 2021 is now ongoing. They are at \$39,454.14. They guarantee us \$60,000. Last year we made more than \$67,000. We get 27% of that, and they keep 73% for administrative cost.

Our Bank account stands at \$64,054.01.

Motion to accept report by Mike Walton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Poupart.

## **Firefighter Certification Board of NB - Serge Gallant/Mike Lewis**

We are in the process of updating our website. There have been many applications to test. If you have any questions on how to access the application, you can contact Fiona Sinclair at the OFM.

## **Awards Committee – Kevin Theriault**

Mylaine Theriault of Dundee and Aaron Corbin of Plaster Rock were selected as the 2021 NBAFC Bursary recipients. Local chiefs will be contacted to see if they would like to do a presentation.

## **Training & Education – Serge Gallant**

MBU will be in Miramichi on Monday to get some remote testing done. This will ensure everything is still online. The graphics will be put on the unit. We are working on getting a trainer here from the U.S. by July. When the training is complete, the unit will move throughout the province.

Workshops will be geared towards instructors and trainers. We are doing well with the virtual training and will keep this option in the future.

## **HAZMAT – Mike Lewis**

We are working on establishing a provincial HAZMAT team based out of Moncton. We are in the process of working with DTI to establish a standard telecommunication procedure. The eManifest stages 2 and 3 are coming along. This will allow dispatch to give valuable information while the department is at a scene.

All HAZMAT incidents will soon be on the TMR no matter the scale of the incident.

## **Fire Prevention – James Brown**

The April 2020 and 2021 seminars were cancelled due to COVID. At the next NBAFPO Annual General Meeting, the board will make a motion to change our name to the New Brunswick Association of Fire Prevention Officers and Educators.

The board is working with Laura King to try to provide the Fire and Life Educator 1 Course according to the NFPA Standard 1035 (Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educators). Laura King has agreed to provide a basic day to a day and a half workshop at a time to be determined that would help departments that do not have a Fire Prevention program develop one to use in their communities. On September 16, 2020, Laura King presented a Fire Prevention Week webinar: Fire Safety in the Kitchen. On November 18, 2020, Laura King presented the webinar The Pub-ed Shed. Laura King has offered to give another Fire Prevention Week webinar in September.

In February, Michael Lewis presented two webinars, one in English and one in French, on Tire Fires: Prevention, Pre-Suppression, Suppression, COVID, and the Fire Service.

We submitted an application to FireSmart Canada and received \$500 to assist us in providing a Fire Smart education webinar in October that will equip Fire Prevention Officers/Educators in New Brunswick to effectively use the Fire Smart program in their communities.

In January, the NBAFPO asked the NBAFC to advocate to government on our behalf that a position be created for a Fire Prevention Officer/Educator in the OFM. We provided them with a summary of what we have sent to the previous two Ministers of Public Safety qualifying why such a position is needed in NB.

**Nominations & Resolutions – Kevin Theriault**      No Report

**Convention & Games – Serge Gallant**      No Report

**License Plates – Lynne Gallant-Valley**

Just a reminder to keep your list up-to-date. If a member is not on your Workers Comp. list, they probably should not be on your FF plate list.

**Permanent Chiefs - Jody Price**      No Report

**Volunteer Fire Chiefs – Tim Corbin**

We meet virtually earlier this year and minutes were sent out to members. We are trying to have a meeting in the northern and central part of the province later this year.

**Industrial Fire Chiefs - Jeremy Stuart**      No Report

**Training Standards Review – Jody Price / Serge Gallant**      No Report

**NG911 – Dan McCoy**

Since we returned to yellow, the technicians from Rad Comms and the PSAP's have been steadily working on getting departments switched to TMR and dispatch services.

For the Saint John PSAP region, everything is on track to have all departments that have decided to opt into RFD done by late summer.

For the Codiac region, the plans that were underway to get the fire CAD finalized for Codiac were halted last week when it was discovered that the planned approach would

not support Codiac's business requirements. Codiac is now exploring another viable option but realistically, it will be at least six weeks before that will be in place.

Miramichi PSAP TMR launch was scheduled for May 26, however, a technical issue was identified. The new launch date is June 17.

Justin McGuigan said that Moncton is in the process now. Fredericton is complete and Saint John is starting now. There are a few departments that have opted out for now. Also the radio communication team is looking to get feed back from fire departments. They have recently sent out a questionnaire. If the NBAFC were to establish a committee this would allow them to bring issues forward that need addressing by working with other groups across the province.

### **Office of the Fire Marshal – Mike Lewis**

We are looking at the possibility of a training site in St Stephen. This would be with one or two of the industries that would be getting funds for the site. This training facility would benefit that local industry.

There will be a questionnaire going out for firefighters to get feedback and ideas.

Earlier we sent out an application for a fire service award - this is for a person in a non-operational role.

Just a reminder that the Fire Underwriters Survey that is done every 5 years helps to keep the insurance rates in your community low. So please remember to fill that out.

A reminder for the Fire Service 2025 initiative: if your department has not taken part yet, please reach out to us. We will be sharing the results and giving a presentation on this when it is complete.

We have been getting many questions on vaccines. If you have the AstraZeneca vaccine and it has been 8 weeks, you can book your second dose now. You will be able to get the same or you can choose Pfizer or Moderna. Others that have the Pfizer and Moderna can book at 12 weeks.

We have done peer support training for about 17 or 18 people. Hoping to get that up by early July. I will be doing some advertising with our phone number that is going to be 1-833-FUE-FIRE.

We are still doing our monthly Zoom calls. They are lasting about 20 to 30 minutes and are on the second Thursday of each month. We're offering a time of 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

## **NBCC – Serge Gallant**

We're having a lot of success with the online training, and we are hoping to be able to keep the virtual component in the future. We have a few little projects that we're working on, but nothing that I can talk about right now. The 7th edition is coming out in French soon. I hope that it will be out by fall. MBU will be operational in the next few months and as soon as we have that set, we will give updates that it is available. Try to get some of your practical training started if you have not already, and make sure to keep all COVID protocols in place. Exams are going well.

## **Local Government - Ivan Corbett No Report**

## **Dept. Environment & Natural Resources - Matt Ruff**

We have been busy the last couple of days with fires. It was asked if Matt's name could be added to government meetings, and he agreed.

A discussion took place on when to call out for DENR. The provincial fire center would like to be notified as soon as a call is dispatched if there may be a need for them. They can have PSAP call the provincial fire center for them. The call can be reassessed and canceled when it is on-site, but this allows them to prep in case they are needed.

## **Aboriginal No Report – no appointed person**

Jason Augustine is the new chief of Elsipogtog and will check to see who is going to be the NBAFC representative for the Atlantic Aboriginal Firefighters.

# **REGIONAL REPORTS**

## **Southeast – Dave Gallant**

We have started training again. We are looking at establishing a communications committee. This would allow all fire departments to send issues to that committee. The association representative could then bring them to the NBAFC meeting. Fire regional dispatch is slow-going, with growing pains, but it works well.

## **Chaleur – Quentin McGrath**

We have 3 groups of FF 1 in progress. Started some exams last week.

**Acadian Peninsula - Guy Paulin**    No Report

### **Northwest – Charlie Chiasson**

We have 3 FF 1 courses going on. Will be having a forestry course soon.

### **Royal - Brian Hunter**

During the year we have worked through different obstacles and met them head on through online training, virtual meetings, split training sessions, and extra personal protection protocols to ensure our fire service was not dramatically impacted.

This year, the Royal Firefighters Association welcomes two new representatives, our President Jamie Vantassel (Welsford Fire Department) and our First Vice President Doug McLean (Grand Bay-Westfield Fire Department).

### **Fundy - Kevin Theriault**

Level One Course is online, 25 + students, going well, the marks are holding up, couple of speed bumps getting going, but working well now.

No word from Rad. Comms on implantation timelines. They were around and installed the boxes and antennas.

An issue of not having direct contact with DNRE came up after a couple of forest fires. **SJPSAP (Saint John PSAP)** and **RAD Comm (Radio Communications)** on last meeting suggested we contact PMCC when we need a common channel. This works for departments with TMR, but for those who do not have it yet, they suggested we contact PMCC to get the event radios. This takes time. We had two major incidents at the same time on Thursday. One was a forest fire in the western part of the county, and the other was a couple of chip piles at a pulp and paper mill on the eastern side. No departments on the chip pile fire had TMR to contact DNRE, and there were 12 water bombers, 2 helicopters, and 2 bird dog planes on scene. Once a member from DNRE was on scene, the **IC (Incident Commander)** tied himself to him so there would be communications. The question has been asked why can we not at least have our seeded radios to help relieve this shortfall in communications?

### **Miramichi Valley - Roger Pitre**

Serge – we will be starting training in the fall. We will be switching to TMR.

**Capital District - Harry Farrell**

Just finishing up Level 1 and Level 2 courses, have made a couple of EFF courses, have done Live Burn for the Level 1 students, and held an association meeting on the Green paper.

**Central Valley - Mike Walton**

We have been having virtual meetings. There is currently one FF 1 course in progress with another to come.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 by Mike Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Walton