

NEW BRUNSICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

September 17 & 18, 2021

Chair: Charles Kavanaugh

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

Attendance: Lynne Gallant-Valley, Charles Kavanaugh, Mike Walton, Scott Poupart, Dave McKinley, Paul Bruens, Mike Lewis, Jeremy Stuart, Tony Cole, Kevin Theriault, Jody Price, Jim Brown, Harry Farrell, Quentin McGrath, Serge Gallant, Roger Pitre, Charlie Chiasson, Randy Gowlett (For Brian Hunter), Tim Corbin, Ivan Corbett

Missing: Roger Paulin (both days), Ivan Corbett (second day)

Review of Agenda - Motion to accept by Jim Brown, seconded by Mike Lewis

Review of Minutes - Motion to accept by Scott Poupart, seconded by Kevin Theriault

President's Report – Charles Kavanaugh

We have had a few meetings with ministers and have a couple booked in the next few weeks. At the AGM, it was voted and agreed upon to keep the current executive until 2022. If restrictions are still in place, a method of voting will be established for a new executive. Charles mentioned that being a board member is good experience and any names of suitable people can be sent to the board. Motion to accept the report by Charles and seconded by Mike Walton.

Reports from CAFC – Dave McKinley

We met on June 16. Items discussed during these meetings were Strategic Plan update, Sprinkler and firefighter census. On July 21 we met and the firefighter census, federal budget submission, national conference (Fire Rescue 2021) and intrinsically safe radios were discussed. Met a third time on August 18. Discussed mental health, federal budget submission, and election issues.

Reports from MFCA – Charles Kavanaugh

We have had no in-person meetings. Our next meeting is October 15, hopefully in person. We have July 7-9, 2022, booked for the conference in Halifax. We have offered several virtual training sessions and hope to have more in the future. Motion to accept report by Charles, seconded by Mike Walton.

Committee Reports

Finance and Fundraising Committee - Mike Walton

To date we have \$60,812.00 raised by Fenety Marketing. The current contract with Fenety is done in spring 2022. Mike will call Mark to see what other options Fenety may be able to offer for fundraising.

Bank account stands at \$246,590.37. The account is high because of an investment that had matured and was placed in this account for the MBU. In the end, the government covered the balance of the MBU. I, Mike Walton, make a motion that we invest \$175,000.00 with Valley Wealth, where our other investments are, seconded by Paul Bruens. Voted upon, motion passed. It is noted that these funds will not be locked in and can become available anytime if needed.

Current investments at Valley Wealth are \$311,013.40 and a small amount with London Life for \$32,702.40.

Firefighter Certification Board of NB – Serge Gallant

Working of FF 1 & FF 2. Will be setting exam dates. Have some task training coming up. We have had a few gold seal appeals. This process is new to us so this is not uncommon. HAZMAT Tech course coming up in a few weeks. We will be reaching out the fire departments in the Acadian Peninsula.

Awards Committee - Kevin Theriault - No Report. Two bursaries were awarded in late June.

Training & Education Committee - Jody Price

Workshops on September 11 went very well. It was leadership training. Participants will receive a survey from Serge to give some feedback. We are looking at possibly having a spring workshop. This will be also for Leadership and Command persons. Any topics you would like training on should be brought to the committee.

A motion was made by Mike Walton to have yearly recognition awards for the Area Training Representatives (ATR) and nominate an instructor of the year award. Seconded by Jody Price, voted upon and motion passed. Serge, Jim, and Scott agreed to sit on this committee.

HAZMAT Committee - Mike Lewis

Training in Miramichi coming up Oct 5 & 6.

Fire Prevention Committee - James Brown

On September 15, 2021, Laura King gave a Fire Prevention Week webinar – Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety. 27 registered for the webinar. The executive is still working with Serge Gallant (NBCC) and Laura King to offer the Fire and Life Educator 1 Course according to the NFPA Standard 1035 (Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educators). The seminar planning committee is beginning to plan a seminar for April 2022. A notice will be sent out soon to all fire chiefs and NBAFPO contacts to seek seminar topics and speaker suggestions. Our goal is to provide equal representation of English and French speakers.

The board has purchased 30 fire extinguishers for the Fire Prevention Week Gazette backpacks. We also purchased the posters for Fire Prevention Week that are sent out through the Office of the Fire Marshal.

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 have yet to receive any update on the progress made regarding this request. A discussion took place on possibly making it a priority to get help at the OFM.

Nomination & Resolutions Committee - Kevin Theriault, Quentin McGrath -- No Report

Convention & Games Committee - Serge Gallant, Harry Farrell, Quentin McGrath

It was noted that our contract with the Fredericton Inn is done in the spring. Charles Kavanaugh made a motion for the NBAFC to sign another contract for 3 years with the Fredericton Inn. Seconded by Jody Price, voted upon and motion passed. Mike will contact them.

License Plate Committee - Lynne Gallant-Valley – No report

Permanent Chiefs Committee - Jody Price -- No Report

Volunteer Chiefs Committee - Timothy Corbin

We are looking at having a meeting on November 28 after the conference with Liz Hallet.

Industrial Fire Chiefs Committee - Jeremy Stuart

Our last meeting was May 21. Our executive is currently very lean. We do have good attendance at meetings virtually. Training is an issue. We did have a brainstorming session with the OFM. Our next meeting is scheduled for early December.

Training Standards Review Committee - Jody Price, Serge Gallant -- No Report

RFD/TMR/NG911 committee - Charles Kavanaugh

Justin McGuigan has been sitting in on the meetings for me. Saint John area is taking on a fire department. Moncton still has some work to do in the background. Discussion on radios took place.

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

Local Government – Ivan Corbett

We held several sessions on the Green Paper both online and in person. Books were handed out with summary of findings. (<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/local-governance-reform.html#4.6>) The White Paper will be out in late November. It is not about regionalization; it is about encouraging collaboration and asset management.

The agenda for the fall conference is being finalized and should be available soon.

END OF DAY 1

Office of the Fire Marshal – Mike Lewis

Digital Courses being offered, Fire Investigation for Company Officer (Professional development will be live in January) and Fire Extinguisher NFPA 10.

Fire Underwriters Survey will be shared with the NBAFC. FS2025 - 75% Complete - Executive summary completed and will be shared with NBAFC.

Flagging, working with PSAPs to have Oxygen Tanks and Pesticide info to be shared directly with them, instead of faxed to the fire department. Some departments are already doing this.

Vaccination, awaiting LSD policy, OFM will send memo and Q&A surrounding firefighter vaccination policies. Sprinkler regulations are being worked on. FIRS investigation portal, creating investigation portal in FIRS for municipal and provincial investigations, linked to FIRS and insurance report. Right to an appeal - reminder that fire bylaws are still accountable to Fire Prevention Act, including the right to an appeal.

Fire injury/fatality report - Compiling firefighter injury/fatality ten-year history for qualitative and quantitative analysis. Will be shared with NBAFC. This will be searchable for FPO in a whitewash format. We are finalizing the fire chief's handbook. It will be shared with NBAFC and chiefs when complete.

Working with ELG to develop WAWA (Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit) policy for fire departments. Working on sprinkler regulations. The NB Firefighter Peer Support Network is up and going, a soft launch October 2021.

Charles mentioned the 5 regional investigators should be at our meetings and workshops. Mike Lewis will pass this message along.

NBCC - Serge Gallant

We had our first group of firefighters complete the course on August 27. Their ceremony will be September 27. Next group is starting in February 2022. Charles mentioned that Serge should ask the MFCA for a bursary/scholarship for the school. Possibly the NBAFC could have a small one also.

We have our vaccination policy in place. If not fully vaccinated, they will be tested when attending in-person classes. We are starting to schedule training. Most people are asking for in-person, but we will keep the online and recorded sessions will be available. Workshops went well, we have a survey sent out to get feedback that we will share at the next meeting.

Discussion took place on how Mental Health could be brought into FF 1. It was agreed that a 2–4-time frame would be appropriate. Items from FF I that refer to the United States could be removed, or some HAZMAT. Jody, Serge, and Mike Lewis will look into this.

Looking at doing possibly a spring workshop, any ideas would be appreciated. There is a tab on the OFM site for accreditation. This goes to Fiona Sinclair. We will be getting some clarification on the First Aid certificates. It is not standard across the country.

DENR - Tony Cole - A presentation was done on fire season for the 2021, they are as follows:

▶	1. Resident	68 fires	40%
▶	2. Incendiary	27 fires	16%
▶	3. Unknown	21 fires	12%
▶	4. Recreation	13 fires	8%
▶	5. Miscellaneous	12 fires	7%
▶	6. Lightning	7 fires	5%
▶	7. Railroads	6 fires	4%
▶	7. Forest Industry	6 fires	4%
▶	9. Other Industry	5 fires	3%

This is a total of 169 fires which burnt 380.1 hectares. Last year's numbers were 394 fires and 1302.3 hectares burnt. The ten-year average is 242 fires and 372 hectares burnt. Natural Resources and Energy Development sent 123 staff out of province this season, 22 to Quebec, 27 to Ontario, 53 to British Columbia, and 21 to Manitoba.

Questions were asked about the response parameters. They cover anything that is not a city, town, base, or federal building, unless there is an agreement. They will help if forest is being threatened, i.e., a car or house near a wooded forest area. Structure protection and sprinkler kits for camps.

Aboriginal Council – No report

Regional Reports

Southeast Firefighter Association - Paul Bruens

We have had virtual meetings. Training scheduled in November for SOP, theory for education. Members want the online training to continue. Train the Trainer will be offered in Riverview. Questions on immunization legislations came up for COVID-19 as well as hepatitis A & B.

Chaleur Firefighter Association - Quentin McGrath

We had a meeting June 24 to make our members aware of the Green Paper. We have FF 2 on the go, online and in person.

Acadian Peninsula – Guy Paulin -- No Report

Northwest Firefighter Association – Charlie Chiasson

Meetings have been held online for the last 18 months. Next in-person meeting is tentatively Sept 29. Training is ongoing. Regional workshop in 2022. Will include topics varying from logbook sign off to incident command. Will cover association training needs. Regionalization - departments are all in but worried about the council decisions.

Royal District – Randy Gowlett (for Brian Hunter)

Long Reach potentially working on another and KV Fire is planning one in the fall. Underwriters are looking into department certifications for superior water shuttles. The Maze trailer is currently in Hampton. Going to Welsford. Ladder and hose testing currently in St. Martins, next up is Simonds, KV, Nauwigewauk, and Hampton. Honor guard equipment is currently in Hampton

Welsford is putting on their own Level 1 and invited Long Reach to fill the class. Hampton looking at hosting their own also. We need to get back in the swing of training and using our credits to put out feelers for Level 1 and Level 2. May have enough numbers for two Level 1 classes in each zone. Train the Trainer course was brought up again.

With Radcom we are looking for another hot key. Radio maps need to be localized and not alphabetical. Busy signals were discussed, and options were given. It's been brought up that we have been lucky we haven't had a huge storm where we are all running at the same time and using, for example, the Saint John channel all at once. Still have dead zones, Hampton and Nauwigewauk seem to have a lot of dead zones that were originally promised to be fixed. Most departments recognize the benefit of having a third hot key for the departments they partner with frequently.

Comm Center - Secondary notification needs to be addressed, some departments are having issues getting communications on board. Should be monitoring our channel longer, or all the time. The same standard exists province-wide, and Fredericton seems to provide a better service. Suggested Radcom, Comm Center, and Terry Keating attend the next meeting so we can address the problems all at once and get them resolved. Welsford's annual golf tournament is Oct 3 - \$50 per individual or \$200 per team. Royal association's fire truck pull for Muscular Dystrophy Canada will be Sept 18 @ 1 p.m. at Hampton Elementary School

Fundy Firefighter Association – Kevin Theriault

Received word from an LSD Chief who stated his bills are not getting paid on time, and when he asked his LSM's office, he was told it was because of a new system the province is using, and it is taking a long time for the bills to be processed. He was told it is not a local issue, but province wide. He is afraid if it takes too long for some bills, they may start to lose suppliers.

Issues with RFD, too many channels, departments spread too far apart on the radios, different sections, dispatch pages a department, then goes back to the Charlotte County Talk group. If you need them, you have to find them - can the way they dispatch be changed? Assigning each individual truck in a station takes too long. Is it possible to have only the station assigned? Some phone systems only record for a short period of time and info is being lost.

We had the Fire Comms Working Group give their presentation and have four names submitted for our next meeting to pick who will represent the association. Some departments in our area have completed the Fire Underwriters Review, I was a little disappointed in the process and results. They seemed more interested in the water supply than what the department has or needs.

Miramichi Valley - Roger Pitre

Quiet summer with lots of soggy weather keeping forest fires at bay. We met virtually for the first time this year on September 13, with most departments participating. We plan on tentatively holding next month's meeting in person (chiefs only), depending on health department advice. Level 1 starting October 1 in Renous Quarryville. A few departments attended the workshop at NBCC Miramichi with good feedback received. In an abundance of caution and consideration for vulnerable populations, we are exploring alternatives to the annual Hector Fournier Day to avoid large in-person gatherings. Fire prevention books are being distributed to member departments ahead of Fire Prevention Week. Looking into hybrid/EV vehicle awareness training, timings to be determined.

Capital District – Harry Farrell

We finished Level 1 in August. Going to start a new Level 1 and Level 2 by end of October. Had an association meeting on Monday, September 13 in Oromocto. Topics that came up were the Green Paper, firefighters not getting vaccinated, and Level 1 training by way of Zoom and the exam process. We received a grant from Fire Smart.

Central Valley – Mike Walton

We have training starting in October. We had discussion on the Green Paper, vaccinations, and regionalization. Meeting was well attended.

New Business

Green Light - Check with your associations to see if there is interest in the green light. We would also need something in writing from insurance companies, municipalities, or LSD on this.

Firefighter Lotto - There is a lotto being set up in New Brunswick that any fire department can take advantage of. There is very little work on the department's part. The way it works is people buy the tickets and say what fire departments they would like their proceeds to support. All the fire department must do is a bit of advertising on Facebook, Twitter, maybe a sign in front of the station, etc.

Liz Hallet – She will be allowing us to have the MBU launch during her November conference. She will be sending out a survey after the conference looking for feedback and will come to our January meeting and share the findings.

Firefighter Memorial – Looking to see if we can establish a committee to look into having a firefighter memorial. This could be in just Fredericton, one in each region, or both. A discussion took place and Mike Lewis, Charles Kavanaugh, Dave McKinley, and Dave Gallant will sit on that committee. CAFF, Tourism, and Development should be approached for cost sharing. Criteria needs to be specific on who qualifies to have their name on the monument.

Insurance Policy – It was asked earlier this year if we could review the insurance policy for the association. It needs a few locations removed from past conventions, but the price and coverages are good. The Fredericton Inn and NBCC Miramichi will be the two locations kept for liability coverage during conventions and workshops.

Smoke Alarms – This was discussed at the last executive meeting. Discussion took place and Jody Price made a motion that “the NBAFC share costs with the OFM up to \$5,000 for the purchase of smoke alarms”. This motion was seconded by Harry Farrell. Motion was voted upon and passed. Mike Lewis will look into this and get back to the association.

Dispatch - Discussion took place on the possible changes for dispatch. It was decided to invite Doug Hammer to the January meeting.

MBU – Invitations should be sent out for the launch of the MBU taking place at the end of November. Lynne and Serge will work on this. On October 5 & 6, we will be doing training with the MBU in Miramichi. It can then go out to associations for department training.

PRIORTIES

Public Safety - Radios,
Staffing at OFM
CN Wild locations
Decon PROJECT

DNRED - Downed Power lines (3 hr. min. cost recovery)
Extended fire season
Review rates for equipment

Post-Secondary Education – Mental Health Education
Chief Workshops
WSNB process, denials, cancer types

Local Government - LSM with experience

Discussion took place on whether we should have something in writing stating the training grounds in Miramichi will be offered to NBCC at a nominal fee if DTI chooses to sell. May be able to get a MOU from Minister (Jill Green)

Next Meeting: January 28, 2022

Adjournment: 3:40 p.m., September 18, 2021