

# NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

February 10, 2022

**Chair: Charles Kavanaugh (on Teams)**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Attendance:** Lynne Gallant-Valley, Charles Kavanaugh, Mike Walton, Scott Poupart, Dave McKinley, Paul Bruens, Mike Lewis, Tony Cole, Kevin Theriault, Jody Price, Jim Brown, Harry Farrell, Quentin McGrath, Serge Gallant, Roger Pitre, Charlie Chiasson, Brian Hunter, Ivan Corbett

**Missing:** Jeremy Stuart, Guy Paulin, Tim Corbin,

**Review of Agenda** - Motion to accept by Dave McKinley, seconded by Paul Bruens

**Review of Minutes** - Motion to accept by Jim Brown, seconded by Scott Poupart

## **President's Report** – Charlie Kavanaugh

We met with Minister Flemming, Minister Holland and DNRE. The downed power line issue was discussed, and NB Power will try to respond to the scene within one hour. Mike Lewis had mentioned that they should be getting back to the association within the next few weeks regarding the downed powered lines and compensation. White paper was also discussed and we're not making any predictions and no changes will be made until after the elections in the fall.

We also had a few executive calls for meetings. There have been a few complaints put in with the minister regarding firefighter plates being recalled after somebody leaves the department or retires.

## **Reports from CAFC** – Dave McKinley

National Advisory Council Meetings were held November 17, December 22, January 19. At the Nov 17 meeting discussed the following items: the Latest FF census report, an update on the sprinkler report, next generation 911, and the CAFC operating plan. An overview of the national risk profile was discussed with the intent of a presentation at an upcoming NAC meeting. Government relations week 2022, CAFC line of duty death policy, and the British Columbia floods were also discussed.

The December meeting discussed the following items: national adaptation strategy, the CAFC has a seat on the disaster and emergency table, and critical infrastructure renewal. There was also a CAFC 'key initiatives' update, mental health awareness training, the Great Canadian Volunteer Firefighter census data, and the government relations week. Equity, diversity, and inclusion with call for instructors for the next phase of rapid response programs.

**January 19, 2022:** I missed the January meeting but there were presentations from Natural Resources Canada and on the National Adaptation Strategy.

## **Reports from MFCA** – Charles Kavanaugh

We've been having meetings every two weeks. We have set a date of July 7th to the 9th for the convention in Halifax. We will be offering a virtual training session on February 23rd with Rick Gasaway. Will be having Laura King speaking in Truro on November 22nd on sprinkler systems.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance and Fundraising Committee - Mike Walton**

To date we have \$96,177.01 in the bank. \$40,000 of that is for NBCC training grounds. The current contract with Fenety is done in the spring of 2022. Mike will call Mark to see what other options Fenety may be able to offer for fundraising.

Current investments at Valley Wealth are \$515,761.83. Fire scene security will increase from \$22.85 to \$24.52 per hour.

It was discussed whether it would be a good idea to establish a list within vocal associations of people qualified and interested to do fire scene security.

### **Firefighter Certification Board – Jody Price**

We had a few meetings. Pro Board, IFSAC are updating to new level. FF 1 & 2 are on the go and working on the instructor course. Finished our first pre-employment course. 202 certifications done with a waiting list.

### **Awards Committee – Kevin Theriault - No report**

### **Training And Education Committee – Jody Price**

We'll be meeting soon to start planning the fall workshops. The plan is to have the MBU up and going in April. We do still need to establish the job description and qualifications for the employee that will be in charge of the trailer and hire someone. Discussion took place.

### **HAZMAT COMMITTEE – Mike Lewis**

Moncton will have a HAZMAT heavy team. There will be a course for HAZMAT going on in Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John. We're working on a project with the dangerous goods. Will be doing an exercise for that in the fall, warehouse inventory info., feeding for PSAP.

### **FIRE PREVENTION – James Brown**

The NBAFPO met on November 21st last year and January 13th of 2022. At our January meeting, it was discussed, and we decided to cancel the 2022 seminar.

Laura King will be giving the Fire Life Safety and Educator Level 1 course in New Brunswick. Currently we're only able to offer it in English and it will have an exam on the final day of the course. Pre-registration notices were sent out at the end of January with the deadline being on the 4th of February 2022. The course is limited and will be held at the Fredericton Motor Inn March 25th to the 27th. The NBAFPO will also be offering a course on lithium batteries in English and French as a webinar.

The committee also had leftover grant money from Fire Smart that it will be using to purchase education materials for Fire Smart. DNRE has purchased 200 jump drives and have the Fire Smart logo on them in both languages.

The committee also has 3 new association representatives: Leon Ross for Acadian Peninsula, Quinton McGrath for Chaleur, and Jason Augustine for Aboriginal. We are also asking each association to select a point and alternate representative. We hope that this will improve the meeting numbers also.

#### **Nominations and Resolution Committee – Kevin Theriault & Quentin McGrath**

Short discussion took place about elections that will be held this year. If it's not possible to do them in person, an alternate method will be selected.

#### **Convention & Games Committee – Serge, Quentin, and Harry**

Discussion took place and it was agreed that the convention would be in May on Saturdays only from 10:00 to 4:00. There will be no vendors. MBU will be on site.

We will need to find out the occupancy available. Lynne will call the hotel to get information.

Paul Bruens made a motion “to have a modified conference and AGM with speakers and MBU on site. Health guidelines at that time will determine the number of people allowed.”

Voted upon and motion passed. It was suggested that on the registration form there be a slot for the member attending, also with a possible second attendee if health guidelines allow. Also setting a cap of two per department.

**Licence Plate Committee - No report**

**Maritime Fire Chief Association – Charles Kavanaugh**

Will be having our convention July 7-9<sup>th</sup> in Halifax. It's too late for us to cancel. We will be hosting some online training. There is a session on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> with Rick Gasaway with a few spots left.

**Permanent Chief Committee - No report**

**Volunteer Chief Committee - No report**

**Industrial Fire Chief - No report**

**Training Standard Review Committee – Serge**

Firefighter 1 & 2 are changing. It will help people get in and get the experience then work on their FF 1 or 2. This will also satisfy requirements for other courses such as pump operator. Looking to add a section with approximately 3 to 4 hours of mental health education. The logbooks soon will be scanned and uploaded first.

Dan McCoy will be stepping down and Chief Killingbeck would be interested in replacing him. Justin McGuigan has formed a group and there was a lot of information discussed at their meeting. He would like a representative from each association on this group. Charlie Chaisson did mention that attendance was lacking and said they discussed cost coverage and issues with the radios.

### **ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS**

#### **OFM** - Mike Lewis and Jeff Cross

The biggest thing we are working on is governance reform. Just a reminder that as local governments reform, we are your advocate; we work for you. This process that we're going into has never been done before. It will give the minimum training and service standards that will be enforceable. They are looking to protect the LSD fire policy. They're looking to make it law all through the province. Dwelling protection grade, this will affect the tax base for homeowners. Fire Service 2025 results will be shared.

We will develop a FAQ about the transition for fire departments. We will be offering a Digital Fire Investigator course from the OFM site. Sprinkler regulations will be in place by January 2023. We'll also be able to pull licences on faulty contractors. There will be a Fire Investigation course offered in the fall online. Brian Brown will be put in the role of public education for a year-long campaign. Looking to get \$25,000 - \$30,000 for our smoke alarm program from companies. The OFM will add to that also.

We were finally able to get the Chief for a Day done last week in Plaster Rock. If any associations still have prize bags, could they please get them out? The new fire chief manual is about half-done and we're hoping to have that out in September. A new Fire Investigation form will be put on FIRS. We will also have a workshop for fire chiefs. We're hoping to be able to offer that session in May 2023.

#### **NBCC** – Serge Gallant

Firefighter 1 courses seem to be going well with all associations. We are getting good feedback on the virtual option. We're looking into offering a Fire Scene Safety Officer course. Our fall workshop is a go if we modify it a bit like we did last year.

#### **Local Government** - No report

#### **DNRE** – Tony Cole

We're looking at trailers for sprinkler protection with price two and we're looking into funding. Just a reminder that municipalities are excluded from the provincial fire burn. They set their own guidelines, or they can state in their bylaw that they follow the provincial guidelines for burning.

We are looking into finding some heated space to store our engines to extend the fire season. Reminder for fire chiefs heading out to a call that DNR might be needed. Let them know once you're on the road so they can start to prep in case they are needed. We would have a dedicated TMR line once we are notified that we are definitely needed.

In a meeting we had with the executive, we had discussed compensation and a 3-hour minimum for fires. This has been sent on for approval. I remember we'll be getting \$2 an hour rate increase.

#### **Aboriginal Council** - No report

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### **Southeast Firefighter Association - Paul Bruens**

We met the other night. We're having issues with regional dispatch. We have created a committee to address these concerns. We have training in person and online going on.

### **Chaleur FF Association – Quentin McGrath**

We had a zoom meeting on the 25th of November. DCI Electrical Vehicle Awareness training was on the 7th of December. Well-attended, with 60 people from over five departments within our region. Had another zoom meeting on the 13th of January.

Had an association meeting on January 20th on Zoom with guest speakers from DELG, OFM, NBCC, and a respiratory therapist who did a presentation. Held a Zoom meeting on January 25th with NB Fire Communications. We currently have four Firefighter 1 courses going on in our association.

### **Acadian Peninsula - No report**

### **Northwest Firefighter Association – Charlie Chiasson – No report**

### **Royal District- Brian Hunter**

Starting a FF1 and another one is half-done. We'll be meeting soon.

### **Fundy FF Association**

We have 25 members that have begun their Level 1 and two members that have agreed to join the radio group. Most departments have changed over to RFD, the last couple will be changing in the next couple of months. We are getting a lot of questions on the White paper.

### **Miramichi FF Association – Roger Pitre**

We have a Firefighter 1 course going in-person with all the protocols in place.

We have a meeting in January virtually with some concerns regarding municipal reform and how this will affect municipality departments that fall under the same municipal organizations. Also brought up was the issue of decreasing association memberships when multiple departments are combined. We hope to resume in-person training as soon as the health conditions improve.

### **Capital District**

We've had four meetings since the fall. One was to discuss the White paper that has been put out. We have a Firefighter Level 2 that has 28 students in it. Our Firefighter Level 1 is ongoing right now, they are just finishing up block two and there are 46 students in that. Both courses are being done on Zoom.

### **Central Valley – Mike Walton**

Everything is virtual and well attended. We're working on finishing up a Level 1.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Just a reminder that there is an opportunity out there for your association or departments to raise some money. It's called **Raffle Box**. Several departments in the province have already signed on. This has been established in Nova Scotia for a while now.

### **Monuments**

We would like you to discuss this at your regional association meetings. See what their thoughts are and get back to the association so we could see if we should establish a committee for this.

### **President's Award - Lawrence Cayouette**

His application was discussed, and copies are being forwarded to the committee members.

It was agreed that we would arrange to present him with this award. Lynne will look into retrieving the document for presentation.

As mentioned in discussions, we will look at establishing a list of members in each association for Fire Scene Security. The qualifications need to be set first. The information can be sent by Mario. Names can be submitted to Lynne and then sent to OFM and/or the association.

The next meeting will be at the end of April, the date to be confirmed in the next few weeks.

Either the weekend of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, or April 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.