

NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
April 22-23, 2022

Chair: Charles Kavanaugh

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Charles Kavanaugh, Mike Walton, Scott Poupart, Dave McKinley, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Paul Bruens, Mike Lewis, Guy Paulin, Kevin Theriault, Jim Brown, Harry Farrell, Quentin McGrath, Serge Gallant, Roger Pitre, Charlie Chiasson, Tim Corbin (Friday), Ivan Corbett (Friday), Douglas Brown (Saturday)

Missing: Jody Price, Jeremy Stuart, Tony Cole, Brian Hunter

Review of Agenda - Motion to accept by Harry Farrell, seconded by Kevin Theriault

Review of Minutes - Motion to accept by Jim Brown, seconded by Quentin McGrath

President's Report – Charlie Kavanaugh

Had a few executive calls for meetings. We have updated our contract for school buses. There will be 1 for each association yearly and 2 for NBCC workshop. The association will need to cover the pick-up cost and disposal at a registered scrap yard. There were a few meetings with ministers, and another is booked for next week. Justin has been having TMR meetings. He is doing an excellent job, but maybe going beyond what the NBAFC needs. Let us know if you have concerns regarding the regionalization so we can bring them to the attention of the minister.

Reports From CAFC – Dave McKinley

After two years of virtual meetings, Fire Rescue Canada (CAFC Conference) will be in person this year, to be held in Ottawa September 11-14. The CAFC has several initiatives that have been initiated with Government Relations: an amendment to modernize the Income Tax Act (Tax Credit for volunteer firefighters) Bill 201, and ongoing work on Bill C-224 - National Framework for the Prevention and Treatment of Cancers linked to Firefighting. Also, the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forests and Building Codes for FF Safety, including code changes for sprinklers in new residential construction.

Over the past year, the following initiatives have also been worked on: National Firefighter Census, CAFC Strategic Plan, National Risk Assessment, Next Generation 911, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, Chancellery of Honours, 2022 Platinum Jubilee Medal, and eligibility for the Exemplary Service medal and the Order of Merit

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Fundraising Committee - Mike Walton

To date we have \$155,415.73 in the bank. Forty thousand dollars of that is for NBCC training grounds. Serge and Jody will complete the report to get an extra \$10,000 for the NBCC Training grounds. The year end for 2021 is completed. There are a few items Lynne and I will look into. Current investments at Valley Wealth are \$499,566.28

Firefighter Certification Board – Serge Gallant

Please pass along to your respecting depts. that Accreditation is a testing process and has nothing to do with Training. For more info visit the OFM website.

Awards Committee – Kevin Theriault

The following recipients were chosen: Hall of Flame Award - Chief Daryl Price. President's Award - Chief Lawrence Cayotte, Chief Clifton Furrow, and retired executive director Nadine LeBlanc. Bursaries: Jamie Mulin, Blackville School, and David Arndt. A motion to accept the name was made by Kevin Theriault and seconded by Harry Farrell. It was voted upon, and the motion passed. The Hall of Flame award for Raymond needs to be presented.

Training and Workshops Committee – Serge Gallant

We will be having electronic logbooks. We're revamping the FF1 & 2 program. We'll be meeting soon to start planning the fall workshops. We are going to host an Officer and an Instructor course in the near future. An email will be sent to all ATR's with the details on how students can register. We still need to establish the job description and qualifications for the employee that will be in charge of the trailer and hire someone. It may need to be two people. Discussion took place.

HAZMAT Committee – Mike Lewis 40:00-54:00

We will be doing a road show in Moncton on May 6 for the chief officers. We will be doing a course with the electronic inventory system in the fall. We need to redo the HAZMAT contract for Bathurst. A slight change has been made to the Fire Prevention Act to update the language. There will be a Fire Investigation section coming in FIRS.

Fire Prevention – James Brown

The NBAFPO met on November 21 of last year and January 13 of 2022. At our January meeting, 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 of February 4, 2022. The course is limited and will be held at the Fredericton Motor Inn March 25-27. 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 they have the Fire Smart logo on them in both languages.

The committee also has three 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 person and alternate representative. We hope that this will improve the meeting numbers as well.

Nominations and Resolution Committee – Kevin Theriault - Elections will be held at the May conference.

Convention & Games Committee – We will be having just the AGM this year with the MBU launch.

License Plate Committee – Lynne Gallant-Valley

No report

Maritime Fire Chief Association – Charles Kavanaugh

We have set a date of July 7-9 for the convention in Halifax. We will be offering a virtual training session. We will have Laura King speaking in Truro on November 22 on sprinkler systems. They are looking for support and would like to use our logo. Voted upon and passed. Halifax is working on getting a Heavy Urban Rescue Team.

Permanent Chief Committee – Jody Price

No report

Volunteer Chief Committee

No report – next meeting May 7. A short discussion took place on who qualifies for the volunteer tax credit.

Industrial Fire Chief – Jeremy Stuart (sent via email)

Our next meeting will be May 20 and a new executive will be voted in. The last meeting was in person/online at the NB Power head office on Nov 26. NB Power, Irving Oil, AVGroup Atholville, FMO, and JDI all attended. The recognition of service plaques will be presented at the next meeting upon the retirements of Paul Vandervalk, Jolly Farmer, and Tim O'Donnell for their years of dedication to the NBIFCA.

Training Standard Review Committee – Serge

Firefighter 1 & 2 are changing. The changes will help people get in and get the experience, and then work on completing their FF 1 or 2 if they wish. This will also satisfy requirements for other courses such as Pump Operator. The logbooks soon will be electronic.

RFD/TMR-NG911 –

No report

Charlie Kavanaugh - Justin McGuigan has formed a group and they have had a few meetings. They seem to be going into maybe too much detail. We will discuss with Justin.

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

OFM - Mike Lewis and Jeff Cross

1. FFPSN - A reminder that the line is active and available. Further posters, challenge coins, and a promotional campaign are in the works.
2. Fire Investigation Course - We are finalizing an open source, online Basic Fire Investigation for Company Officers course which will be available without registration on the OFM webpage. It will be available in May 2022.

3. Minimum service standards - We are planning on creating minimum service standards under the *Fire Prevention Act* which will oblige all fire departments and their municipalities/LSDs to maintain minimum levels of investment in their fire service through equipment, apparatuses, etc. These measures are intended to support fire departments and keep insurance premiums stable. We will be circulating a survey to ask all firefighters, chiefs, and administrators their opinions on various priorities. We will then seek to meet with each FF association and present proposed draft regulations.
4. Local governance reform - A reminder that departments will be going through periods of transition with new boundaries. As public safety personnel, we should remember to focus on what we do best: offering our services to our communities, whatever their new boundaries may be.
5. Logbooks - In response to feedback from chiefs and training officers, we are looking at digital logbooks or at least the possibility of digital submission by September.
6. FF1 composition - FF1 course blocks are being reorganized for September. Individuals wanting to do Off Road, Auto Extrication, Low Level, etc., will ONLY have to do certain blocks as a prerequisite (not the entire course). If they want to go back later and finish their remaining blocks, they can do so.
7. Fire Leadership Course – We are working with the TSAC to determine the composition and format of a Fire Officer Leadership course. We’re looking to create one for spring 2022.
8. Mental health component for FF1 - Working with TSAC to create.
9. Fire chiefs handbook - Still working on this.
10. Smoke alarm and CO alarm campaign – We’re completing a thorough review of every fire fatality in NB since 2006 for secondary/contributing factors. From this, we will identify target communities, create a condensed curriculum, and deliver it along with several CO detectors and alarms.
11. Fire investigation portal - Testing a new digital investigation portal with municipalities.
12. Flooding – The outlook for now is positive. No major rain events are forecasted.
13. Public educator position - Brian Brown will be assuming the new role and is looking to create a provincial prevention calendar and seasonal messages. Any FD will be able to download and share. Aiming for summer.
14. FS2025 – This is nearly complete. We are using this data to push for minimum service regulations. The executive summary will be available for NBAFC and FDs.

NBCC – Serge Gallant

The MBU will be tested within the next week or so. When it was started last week we noticed a few leaks that are going to be repaired. The launch is scheduled for May 28th in Fredericton. Serge will work with NBCC communications and Lynne to send out invites. We are working on a plan for staffing the MBU as well. We have a new Manager for Fire Services, Sonny Newman. Looking at an increase in Instructor and ATR Wages. We are working at creating professional development days for NBCC Instructors.

Local Government – Ivan Corbin

No report. Answered questions. Does not anticipate any boundary changes at this time.

DNRE – Tony Cole

No report

Aboriginal Council

No report

We have not had representation in a while. Lynne will reach out to them.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Southeast Firefighter Association - Paul Bruens

We meet 5 times per year. The next meeting is May 28. We're having issues with regional dispatch. We asked to have OFM send out HAZMAT call-out procedure.

Chaleur FF Association – Quentin McGrath

We have not had a chance to meet at as a group since our last meeting. We postponed the in-person meeting as COVID cases were on the rise in our area.

Chaleur currently has 3 FF1 courses ongoing, 2 in English and 1 in French, and they are working on block 4. We had 3 members from our region participate in the Fire and Life Safety Educator course in March.

Acadian Peninsula – Guy Paulin

We meet in March. FF1 just finished. Saint Isidore and Grande Anse are getting new trucks. The Acadian Peninsula's Regional Service Commission (CSRPA) is doing a study to look at reducing the number of firefighters, trucks, and stations. Elections were held at our last meeting. Guy Paulin was reelected as president and Harold Power reelected as vice president.

Northwest FF Association - Charlie Chiasson

Level 1 in progress, Block 3. Will finish in June. Next meeting is April 30. We will be having elections.

Royal District - Brian Hunter

No Report

Fundy FF Association – Kevin Theriault

The Fundy Association met on April 20 at the Lawrence Station fire hall, with 13 departments in attendance, as well as 2 members from OFM, 2 from DNRE, and 1 from EMO. We currently have 2 level one courses in progress, one through the association with 18 members, and one in-house with 6-8 members. Both are going well.

Items discussed to be brought forward to the NBAFC include WorkSafe Cancer Legislation questions from Musquash. What does the cancer legislation provide for firefighters that are retired from their regular work, but still active in the fire service? One of their members received a letter from WorkSafe denying their claim and WorkSafe used a CBC report as the basis of this, stating an overall claim that you must be a non-smoker for 10 years for all cancers. I have read the act and the only one I see that this restriction is on is lung cancer. We are asking for clarification on both.

Also WorkSafe: our area inspector has begun inspecting fire departments. I think I was her first one, as she kept asking what things mean. Some of the items had TBD on them. If you are going to inspect some place, shouldn't you have the answers before beginning the process? Perhaps some cross-training with the OFM would be good for the WorkSafe reps who are not firefighters or have the OFM review their inspection forms to ensure clarity.

There are some lingering questions on which direction to go between Working Minds and R2MR. Further direction would be an asset.

I had a visit from our regional reps from muscular dystrophy and they were asking if it would be possible to add a bit of information into block 1 on the history of the fire service and muscular dystrophy, but seeing as the course is getting even longer, I'm not sure. We have scheduled our MD Truck Pull for August 6 in St. Stephen.

On August 7 the RCMP musical ride will be at the Ganong Nature Park just outside of St. Stephen, and we are trying to get as many of the departments together as possible to showcase different aspects of the fire service, first as a public awareness and second as a recruiting drive.

Miramichi FF Association – Roger Pitre

Since last meeting it has been very quiet, we held our first in-person meeting in April, but we didn't have a quorum, so we were not able to vote in a new executive. Nominations are open for a month, and none of the executives are re-offering. The level 1 course is wrapped up. We meet the first Monday of the month. We had a few questions on ambulance assistance calls.

Capital District

Finishing up Level 1 course, we just have Block 5 to finish, which is being done on Zoom. We are putting on two Air Brake courses and Class 3 for firefighters. We're putting on two EFF Courses in May - these are evenings and one full-day event.

We had the Fire Marshal attend our monthly meeting to answer 22 questions about fire service changes happening to all LSDs and municipalities. This was a good meeting.

On our May 9 meeting, we are having fire underwriters come to explain the process for a Superior Water Shuttle Grading. The Association is going to do at least two of these this year.

We are also looking at having Natural Resources come to a meeting and explain recent changes and what departments should be doing when responding to these types of calls: grass, brush, and forest fires.

Central Valley – Mike Walton

Level 1 just finished and will be starting a new one. Meet in person the last 2 months. We're having good turnout. Laurie Vail spoke. We meet each third Thursday of the month.

OLD BUSINESS

Monuments

Association reps. will discuss with the association. There may be a monument at NBCC for the northern part of the province. Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton have monuments. Discussion took place. Harry and Dave will sit on a committee with Dave Gallant.

NEW BUSINESS

Mileage + Meals rates – Discussion took place and a vote took place. Paul made a motion to accept provincial rates going forward, seconded by Harry. Voted upon and passed.

Fax Line – Lynne will be cancelling the fax line.

Eric Caron – Maple Syrup - He is looking to see if he can use our logo on his products for fire department fundraisers. Discussion took place, voted upon and vote did not pass. Charles will advise him.

Doug Brown CO alarms - He will speak at the AGM in May - Hawkins-Gignac Foundation for CO Education

The effect of regionalization on membership was discussed. It was also noted that the association constitution should be reviewed.

Priorities were discussed and the following selected:

Public Safety – Regional Fire Dispatch – PSAP – centralization, costing, and standardization. CN map overlay, EMO/OFM – Amalgamation of services, Mobile Burn Unit – staffing, ANB – staffing & downed power lines.

Dept. of Natural Resources – Update on rates for downed power lines.

PETL - Cancer legislation, additional cancers, WorkSafe – streamline claims. Staffing for MBU

Local Government – Transition update – Local government reform, continuation of fall works of support and November conference.

The next meeting is the AGM, which will be May 28, 2022, in Fredericton.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.