

**NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS  
AGM 2022  
May 28, 2022**

**Chair: Charles Kavanaugh**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 A.M.

Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB

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

**Missing:** Paul Bruens, Ivan Corbet, Jeremy Stuart

General introductions

**Review of Agenda** - Motion to accept by Brian Hunter, seconded by James Brown

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

Scott Poupart is nominated for President. First, second, and third calls from the floor, there are no other nominations. Scott accepts nomination. Dave McKinley is nominated for First Vice President. First, second, and third calls from the floor, there are no other nominations. Dave accepts nomination. Second Vice President, Brian Hunter and Justin McGuigan are nominees. First, second, and third calls from the floor, there are no other nominations. Voting will take place this afternoon.

**Review of 2021 AGM minutes** - Motion to accept by Jim Brown, seconded by Quentin McGrath

Review of Agenda – Motion to accept, seconded.

**President's Report** – Charlie Kavanaugh

Attended some events from regional associations, and I was able to meet all but two (COVID restrictions did not help).

One question I was asking is do we need to change the format of our conference. The executive had several meetings with Public Safety, ELG, and PETL with priorities. The board met virtually except for two face-to-face meetings. Our 2022 priorities for government are as follows:

<b>Public Safety</b>	Regional Fire Dispatch PSAP 1 vs 6 OFM/MBU Staffing ANB issues with downloads and staff issues
<b>ELG</b>	Transition updates, chiefs need to be kept in the loop Continuance of the fall workshops
<b>PETL</b>	FCA: Add cancers and streamline claim process Grants for NBCC Miramichi Staffing MBU
<b>DNRE</b>	Rate increase and three-hour minimum Downed power line (babysitting)

- Meeting with DTI about future issues with replacing aging infrastructure
- Updated our contract to acquire buses for each regional association that needs one for training
- Formed a committee to investigate concerns with the TMR
- Tried to clarify a few issues with the regionalization in a few areas and we are willing to help any department with concerns
- Awards: Since 2019, we have not held any conferences and have not formally given any awards. We are going to present a few awards informally and have them presented formally at the conference next year.
- Executive gave a white paper to ELG for reform and had several meetings with the minister for clarification on concerns
- Answered a few concerns from retired members needing to pay for replacement plates once they are off our list
- Working in partnership with MFCA and NFPA's Laura King on a sprinkler summit in the fall to promote residential sprinklers
- Working on a provincial monument memorial for fallen firefighters
- Had a meeting/call with John Gignac from the Hawkins/Gignac foundation for a partnership on educating the dangers of carbon monoxide and installation of CO detectors in all homes

### **Reports From CAFC – Dave McKinley**

Meetings since the last meeting: June 16, July 21, August 18, October 20, November 17, December 22, January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 16.

Items discussed during these meetings were: wildfire season, Medic Alerts for vulnerable populations, firefighter census, NG911, National Risk Profile Assessment, residential sprinklers, Volunteer Tax Credit and Explosives Act (Fireworks).

Working on Bill C-244: Firefighter Cancer. Includes national framework for the prevention and treatment of cancers linked to firefighting. It promotes research and data-gathering along with the sharing of data. It establishes national standards to recognize cancers linked to firefighting as occupational diseases. Also, it asks for a month to be declared National Firefighter Cancer Awareness month.

Working on building codes. There is a section on the CAFC website with more information. We are looking for sprinkler legislation, tall wood buildings, radio operation in large buildings, etc.

Other federal initiatives: National Fire Advisor, funding for municipalities, expansion of fire services ability to draw from programs such as the gas tax fund and others, earmarking money for mental health, funding for USAR, Public Safety Broadband Network.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

To date we have \$166,612.96 in the bank. The year-end for 2021 is completed. Investments at Valley Wealth are secure, but not making money at the moment. Motion to accept report by Mike and seconded by Scott.

## **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 – Awards will be given at next years' convention. Ray LeBlanc for 2021 and Daryl Price for 2022.

**Training and Workshops Committee – Serge Gallant** - Will take place this fall as they did pre-COVID.

## **HAZMAT Committee – Mike Lewis**

HAZMAT Regional Training – New format will have training occur in a 2–4-hour timeframe during a regular association training evening. A heavy team from Moncton, Fredericton or Saint John will arrive and provide a hands-on session to 20-50 attendees. Please reach out to your PFI to schedule a session for your association. CBRN - OFM working with RCMP to re-establish a CBRNE capability in New Brunswick based on our HAZMAT tech program in January 2023. Moncton has formally joined our HAZMAT program and will be growing over the next 12-24 months.

## **Fire Prevention – James Brown**

The April 2020, 2021, and 2022 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 Fire Prevention Officers and Educators.

In February 2021, Michael Lewis presented two webinars; one in English and one in French on Tire Fires: Prevention, Pre-Suppression and Suppression and COVID and the Fire Service. On September 15, 2021, Laura King gave a Fire Prevention Week webinar – Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety. In the spring of 2021, the NBAFPO received a FireSmart grant to do two FireSmart Education webinar presentations; one in French and one in English. Roger Collet, a board member, did them in late October. Roger has completed putting his FireSmart presentations along with some other FireSmart information on jump drives that Natural Resource and Energy Development donated. The presentations will help equip fire prevention officers/educators in New Brunswick to effectively use the FireSmart program in their communities. We will begin distributing them to the fire department chiefs at the NBAFC conference on May 28, 2022.

The board has purchased 30 fire extinguishers for the 2021 Fire Prevention Week Gazette backpacks. In January 2021 the NBAFPO once again 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 are delighted that Brian Brown was appointed to this position and look forward to working with him.

The NBAFPO and the Office of the Fire Marshal worked towards bringing the Fire Life Safety and Educator Level 1 course to NB for a couple of years. The OFM made arrangements with NFPA Public Education Representative Laura King to deliver the course on March 25-28, 2022. Forty-nine firefighters across the province took the course. It was a very intense and informative weekend.

Laura King has offered to give another NFPA Fire Prevention Week Webinar in September. The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week will be announced at the upcoming NFPA Conference in Boston in June. We will begin planning for the 2023 seminar and annual general meeting in the fall. Please send in any speaker/topic

suggestions to [cgilmore1394@gmail.com](mailto:cgilmore1394@gmail.com). Invoices for the NBAFPO 2022 membership and the Fire and Life Safety course are in the process of being sent out.

#### **Convention & Games Committee – No report**

#### **License Plate Committee – Lynne Gallant-Valley**

Just a reminder to update your members list each time an FF leaves or comes aboard. This will allow for fewer headaches when they go get their license plates at SNB. If they are not on the list they will be refused. If they are on the list, they will get the plates. So as members leave your department or become non-active volunteers on the fire ground, remove their name from the FF license plate list please. You can request your list from me anytime at [nbaafc.ca@gmail.com](mailto:nbaafc.ca@gmail.com).

#### **Maritime Fire Chief Association – Charles Kavanaugh**

Board meetings were mostly virtual; we did have one in April in Halifax and we have another coming up in Amherst in June. MFCA is working to create an officer training program to cover areas that some provinces are lacking and get some virtual and road trip training for firefighters and officers. We are looking to change our name to be more inclusive. Our conference is July 7-9 in Halifax. There will be a sprinkler summit in Halifax in Truro.

#### **Permanent Chief Committee – Jody Price - No report**

#### **Volunteer Chief Committee - Tim Corbin -**

Online meeting held on May 7. Recruitment and retention of firefighters. Jeff Cross from OFM updated the group on efforts in progress from the OFM to support firefighters in recruitment and retention. Fire Marshal Mike Lewis spoke and challenged members to identify the cause in each community for why volunteers were either not joining or leaving the service. If those issues can be identified then change can be legislated. Good discussion on amalgamation. OFM suggested waiting to see how the next few months are and then respond accordingly. There aren't supposed to be any changes to the way fire departments are run at this time.

Discussion about medical first responder and how it will work under potential new governments. Discussion on MFR being offered free of charge from the province in a similar fashion to level one. Discussion on the firefighter tax credit. There is a new survey coming out that will be vital to getting the credit increased. Departments need to develop a paper trail that shows when members were available to respond and were carrying pagers to be eligible for the credit. Discussion on a new working group for TMR communications and encouraged anyone with questions or issues to send them to their associate representative to forward to the group.

#### **Industrial Fire Chief –**

Elections took place at our last meeting. We are looking to change the group name to Industrial Professional Firefighters Association.

#### **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.

## **NG911 – Dwayne Killingbeck - Committee met on March 23 and April 27**

### **Work presently underway:**

1. Securing call handling solution vendor - to be finalized by the end of June 2022
2. Setting up data governance working group – Chief Killingbeck and Chief J. McQuigan to represent NBAFC
3. Finalizing privacy impact assessment - personal health information - Privacy and Access Act - Translating baseline PIA findings into data sharing and ownership principles to form a foundation for Data Governance activities.
4. Networking solution: GNB is moving to the next stage with SNB as our network solution. A project charter has been drafted for a common CAD for all PSAPs. Codiac PSAP has experienced significant delays with their network vendor in getting the network solution implemented (required before CAD solution can be finalized) but expects the project to be complete in late May/early June.

### **CURRENT STATE of 9-1-1 process:**

- Current state is more of an evolution of practice and a model of convenience
- The perceived limited mandate of NB 9-1-1 = call take, call transfer (9-1-1 where is your emergency) and everything else including dispatch and response are municipal responsibilities
- They use regular handset phones
- PSAPs operate their own CAD for cases and dispatch
  - 6 primary, 2 secondary (EM/ANB, RCMP) also DTI (PMCC)
- Dispatch communication over TMR radio (trunked mobile radio)
- Limited/no interoperability between PSAPs (rely on 'transfer' and verbal communication)
- RTIPPA requests for 9-1-1-related info are mostly processed by the municipality or by the police force/RCMP.

### **FUTURE STATE - NG911**

The right resource, the right location, the fastest time – this is consistent with the legislative definition of NB 9-1-1 service which means a province-wide system for the coordination of emergency services and for the reporting of emergencies to emergency service providers (ESPs) through a public safety answering point (PSAP).

**GNB will be operationalizing the full mandate, and this means:** VOIP (Voiceover Internet Protocol) Call Handling Solution - Standardized and centralized dispatch systems and processes (CAD), Further integration with secondary PSAPs, better situational awareness. NB 9-1-1 program redesign – governance, financing, policy and standards, service delivery improvements. RTIPPA change – bringing RTIPPA process more in line with the authority and ensuing it's clear who owns the data that is collected/created under the NB 9-1-1 service.

## ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

**OFM** - Mike Lewis

**Fire Service Support:** FFPSN - A reminder that the line is active and available. Posters and challenge coins are available as well through local peers. Please contact your PFI if you'd like to arrange an information session in your area.

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, apparatus, 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 by fall 2022. A survey will be distributed to FDs and municipal administrators in September, 2022.

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. Ongoing - Fire chief's handbook - Still working at compiling a comprehensive fire chiefs handbook outlining all aspects of responsibilities of a fire chief. January 2023 completion. FS2025- largely complete. Using this data to push for minimum service regulations. Executive summary will be available for NBAFC and FDs on July 1, 2022.

**Fire Prevention and Investigation:** Regulations being developed regarding sprinkler systems. See legislative section below. January 2023. Fire investigation portal - A new, virtual fire investigation portal has been created which is linked with our FIRS and FIRS insurance portals. Provincial investigators will be transitioning to the new system this summer, while municipal investigators will be transitioning in fall 2022.

Smoke alarm and CO alarm campaign - 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 alongside a number of CO and Alarms for FPW 2022. Will include a considerable bulk purchase of CO/smoke alarms, which will be made available for fire departments to distribute to these identified vulnerable groups. October 2022.

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. Brian will be meeting with NBAFPO to determine the content, which will be made available September 2022.

Legislation - FPA has been modified to permit a sprinkler regulatory scheme which will include an ability to license installers and review sprinkler plans. Modifications also include referencing a new document – “Fire Investigation Handbook” in lieu of the NB Arson Investigators Association. January 2023.

Minimum service regulations - We have been a proposed draft legislative minimum fire service standards for January 2023. These standards will aim to set legal basic requirements for municipalities and LSDs to invest in fire services. January 2023.

#### **NBCC – Serge Gallant**

We continue to operate out of the main campus, which is located at 80 University Ave. in Miramichi. We operate with three full-time staff and one part-time who helps on special projects such as the annual workshop.

NBCC along with the NBAFC have done the MBU In-service training and are ready to launch the MBU. We have successful delivery of three HAZMET Tech for Moncton and Fredericton Fire in partnership with OFM and Saint John Fire. NB Firefighter ID cards are available, please visit the website to complete the form and order. We have successful delivery of the first firefighter pre-employment class and initiated the online delivery of the WHMIS/OHS courses.

Future plans are to continue the upgrades to FTC training site. The training site is available to associations and departments that wish to use it for training at a cost associated to the materials used. The 2022 Fire Service Workshop will be held on Sept 9 and 10, this year's registration form will again be electronic. Once finalized, it will be shared with all. Again, this year everything will be held at the FTC. We will be launching Essentials of Firefighting 7<sup>th</sup> edition and update Fire Service Instructor 1 to the 9<sup>th</sup> edition.

NBCC Miramichi has 9 Association Training Representatives who are the liaisons between the fire departments in their association and NBCC. Training programs within each association are coordinated by the Association Training Representatives. These Association Training Representatives also help in the development of a training calendar within their respective associations. We encourage all fire chiefs and training officers to take advantage of the services provided by the Association Training Representatives for all of their training needs.

Please ensure that logbooks are completed properly with all supporting documentation prior to sending. We see numerous logbooks missing signatures and supporting documents on a daily basis. We are working on a fall schedule for the mobile burn unit, as soon as we have the final details, we will share with the Association Training Representative. In partnership with the NBAFC we are still working on the NB MBU. It is now at the federal government level for final approvals. We are optimistic that we will have an announcement in the near future.

This was a very busy year with a variety of training throughout the province. NBCC Fire Services along with the 9 Association Training Representatives are working together to ensure all training sessions are delivered effectively and efficiently.

**Local Government** – Ivan Corbin - No report.

#### **DNRE – Tony Cole**

NB Power calls standby procedures reviewed. Lynne will send out. Reminder: we have a Forest Fire Calls – 3-hour minimum, stay tuned for more information. Would like to meet with associations in spring and fall. Forestry Hose – we will give you a loaner while yours is being repaired or cleaned. We will replace any that are damaged beyond repair. Firefighter and designate pay rate increase of \$2 effective at the start of fire season. Year-to-date we have had 135 fires with 2 requiring air support.

**Aboriginal Council** - No report

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Both Brian Hunter and Justin McGuigan addressed members at the AGM. Secret ballot vote took place and Justin McGuigan was elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

Questions and answers were taken from the floor. Concerns were voiced about the radio system in the southeast area. Comments were also made about the restructuring of the FF 1.

Indoor meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Will be gathering in the back parking lot for the launch of the new Mobile Burn Unit.