

NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
October 21 & 22, 2022

Chair: Scott Poupart

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Scott Poupart, Dave McKinley, Justin McGuigan, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Mike Lewis (Friday), Jeff Cross, Charles Kavanaugh, Mike Walton, Kevin Theriault, Harry Farrell, Dwayne Stephenson, Serge Gallant, Roger Pitre, Charlie Chiasson, Jody Price, Ivan Corbett (Friday), Tony Cole, Brian Scott Worden, Daniel Dupuis, Dwayne Killingbeck (Saturday)

Missing: Tim Corbin, Brian Hunter, Jim Brown, Paul Bruens, Guy Paulin

Review of Agenda - Motion to accept by Charlie Kavanaugh, seconded by Kevin Theriault

Review of Minutes - Motion to accept by Harry Farrell, seconded by Dave McKinley

President's Report – Scott Poupart

I met with Josh Gammon, he has a proposal for a new website. I presented a bursary to a student from Blackville High School. We also gave a second bursary that was presented by David to David Arndt of the Heritage Christian School. We were sent information from LGBT-Quebec and asked to pass the site on to members. The downed power line protocols were sent out and posted. A trailer was purchased, and the cost was split with NBCC. Jeff Cross has brought up some fire scene issues. Those will be discussed later. I attended the Atlantic Leadership Conference in Halifax and the CAFC conference in Ottawa. I have some solar electric handbooks available. There was a survey sent out by Mario for the University of Calgary.

Motion to accept by Scott, seconded by Roger Pitre.

Reports From CAFC – Dave McKinley

The CAFC conference was held in Ottawa in September. Government Relations week will be held December 5, 6, 7, 2022.

Cancer Committee:

- Scientific data to help guide provincial associations as they lobby their provincial governments.
- Guidance on post-incident decontamination, what to wear under your turnout gear, clean cab policy, etc.
- This initiative has support from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Budget:

- Re-establishment of the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program
- Increase volunteer tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000
- National Cancer Framework and registry
- Pilot study for scope of practice for fire departments providing emergency medical services
- Fund a Canadian equivalent to the U.S.'s FEMA and USFA
- National safety messaging
- Public Safety Broadband Network

Great Canadian Firefighter Census: For the past two years, the CAFC has launched a firefighter census to get up-to-date information on the Canadian Fire Service. During Government Relations Week, politicians ask very specific questions, such as firefighter demographics, number of active members, response capability, etc. It is extremely important that we provide accurate data and it has been a great challenge to get high participation rates, which remain in the 30% range.

Mental Health Initiatives:

Resilient Minds training
R2MR Training
Peer Support program

Building Codes:

- Encapsulated mass timber construction
- Home sprinklers

Report for MFC – Charles Kavanaugh

MFC held a conference on July 7-9, 2022 in Halifax, it was well attended. They did have a loss this year from pandemic expenses incurred. Elections were held, Vince McKenzie (Grand Falls-Windsor) President, Greg Jones (Amherst) first Vice-President, Leon Ross (Tracadie-Sheila) second Vice-President, and Sherry Dean (Halifax) Sergeant-at-Arms.

Had our board meeting Sept 30 - Oct 1 in Halifax. Next year's conference will be in Halifax again, looking at another venue to save a few dollars. The MFC Leadership

Development Education & Training Advisory Committee is looking at adding some training to be combined with the conference. Met with the four provincial associations and had a discussion with the OFMs to examine issues with training to see where there is a place for improvements in leadership training. Four sessions are being prepared to roll out in the future: 1 - Leadership and Supervision, 2 - Minimizing Risk and Liability in the fire service, 3 - Effective Training and Mentoring Future Learners, and 4 – Documentation: Why it's important to have accurate and detailed records.

Home Sprinkler Summit to be held in Truro on Nov 16-17, 2022. From the provincial reports, all provinces seem to be having issues with excessive medical calls and downloading due to a of lack of EMS capabilities. FDIC Atlantic is set to resume in June 2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Fundraising Committee - Mike Walton

To date we have \$142,702.43 in the bank. Current investments at Valley Wealth are \$455,513.02 and Fenety has raised \$61,891.61 in this year's campaign. Motion to accept by Mike and seconded by Dave.

Firefighter Certification Board – Jody Price

Over 300 certifications done. Will be offering a Fire Investigator course and working on offering a Firefighter Officer course. Discussion took place on pre-requirements.

Awards Committee – Kevin Theriault no report

Training and Workshops Committee – Serge Gallant/Jody Price

Workshop was well attended. Met last week, FF 1 is all sorted out and ready to go. Working on some mental health components.

HAZMAT Committee – Mike Lewis

Moncton Team - Moncton is partially operational as a member of the provincial HAZMAT program. They will be receiving their trailer in December.

HAZMAT 'Roadshow' Training - We have a new format for HAZMAT 'Roadshows' previously offered. Instead of being two days and available only once every 2-3 years, we will now send 2-4 HAZMAT techs to each association for a 3–4-hour session during a

their regional association meeting. These sessions will provide the association a chance to walk through the trailers, see equipment, and discuss techniques with technicians. These are available upon request; just reach out to your RFI to schedule a session.

Fire Prevention – James Brown

James was absent but asked to pass along information on a training session in Campbellton on Nov 18-20. There are still a few spots left.

Nominations and Resolution Committee – Kevin Theriault – No Report

Convention & Games Committee – We will re-establish the committee. Members should start advertising the dates on social media. Convention dates are May 26-28, 2023. Will get Mario to put them on the website. Committee members are Serge Gallant, Justin McGuigan, and Jody Price. Quentin McGrath is also on the committee.

License Plate Committee – Lynne Gallant-Valley

Reminder to keep the list up to date. Had a few departments not happy that past members have plates.

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 – Tim Corbin

No report

Industrial Fire Chief Association – Scott Worden

Our next meeting will be February 17, 2023 in Atholville, the last meeting was held in person at Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station on October 17, 2022. In Attendance; NB Power, Irving Oil, OFM, McCain's, AV Group, Jolly Farmer, JDI. New executive as of May 20, 2022 meeting, Chair: Scott Worden; Vice-Chair: Jeff Waters-Gray; Secretary: Caleb Darrow.

NBIFCA – Scott Worden; request to OFM to grant access to FIR's and be part of cancer legislation?

OFM – Mike Lewis; No issue setting up access to FIR's and took the action to follow up on eligibility of Industrial firefighters being part of cancer legislation.
NBIFCA – Scott Worden; requested granting of stipend for association?
NBAFC – Scott Poupart; Granted stipend after consulting with executive, will be granted at annual meeting in May 2023.

Training Standard Review- Jody Price

Will be addressed by OFM and removed from agenda.

Next Generation 911 Committee - Dwayne Killingbeck, Fredericton

NG911 executive committee met on March 23, April 27, June 22, Aug. 24. Sept 28 was cancelled. Next Meeting scheduled October 26.

Work Presently Underway and Next Steps:

1. The call-handling solution vendor is Solacom, the project official kickoff was September 7. Activities included a project orientation session with the technical working group (Sept 15), a Solacom demo to PSAP staff (Sept 22), preparing documents for NCACR submission, and detailed project planning.
2. Networking Solution: Virtual site assessments are complete for each PSAP. A bill of materials in progress with SNB and will be finalized and the order submitted once requirements are confirmed with Solacom.
3. Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA)– For Fire-Personal Health Information Privacy and Access Act. The baseline Privacy Impact Assessment is being finalized, and a PIA Q&A document is being prepared based on stakeholder feedback. A final baseline PIA and Q&A document will be circulated to all stakeholders when ready.
4. Data Governance Working Group – Chief Killingbeck and Chief J McGuigan represent NBAFC, next scheduled meeting is October 24. Next steps are to translate baseline PIA findings into data sharing and ownership principles to form a foundation for data governance activities. 2022 goals include finalizing data sharing details and sourcing CAD data specifications.

OFM - Mike Lewis

Gave a brief overview of the 2025 survey. This will be out shortly. Still a few departments to complete the survey. Almost 74% of firefighters in the province have FF

1 and 37% have FF 2. There are a large number of variances in training, from some departments having 10 to others having 50+ per year. Very few departments have a written health and wellness manual. Survey results will be fully shared soon.

Digital Logbook - a digital version of the FF logbook will be rolled out and offered in early 2023. This would be intended to improve and speed up the process of submitting logbooks to NBCC upon completion and is being done based on feedback from a survey distributed earlier this year.

Block Redistribution - In early 2023, NBCC will redistribute the block system to allow prerequisites for subsequent courses (Auto Ex, Pump Operator) to be obtained without obtaining an entire FF1 certificate. For example, Pump Operator may not need to do HAZMAT in order to enter a Pump Operator course. They will not obtain an FF1 certificate. However, if they choose to return later and complete the HAZMAT block, they can obtain it.

Mental Health - An online, self-taught "Mental Health Awareness" course for firefighters will be available free of charge online in February. The course will take 3-4 hours to complete, and will be available on the OFM website. Topics include resources, self-recognition of indicators of stress, and what firefighters encounter in the line of duty. Will be a requisite to obtain your FF1 certificate, and available to all else as professional development.

Leadership - Creating a leadership course which will focus on areas where no formal training presently exists (WorkSafeNB legislation, how to develop a budget, intro to Local Governance Act, HR relations within fire departments, etc.). The course will involve online self-taught aspects, and 2 days in-person (Friday evening/Saturday) and will be offered annually, the date to be determined. The target demographic is current and future fire chiefs and senior officers.

Virtual Courses - OFM now has 3 online courses on the website. No signup needed, self-taught.

1. NFPA 10 (portable extinguishers)
2. Fire Investigation
3. Fire Prevention Act

Minimum Service Regulations - The OFM is looking to introduce regulations under the Fire Protection Act that would set certain minimums for municipalities to meet in terms of their fire service. We are considering the LSD fire policy as a jumping-off point, with

the additional consideration for requirements on FUS rating levels, maximum apparatus age for front line, etc.

Consultation Period - Two surveys were distributed to CAO/Mayors and Fire Chiefs. We are looking to develop feedback on priorities for minimum service regulations.

Price and Service Delivery - Primary motives for this are to hold local governments responsible for ensuring that the fire service in their community provides a strong, well-equipped service and keeps fire insurance rates affordable for ratepayers as a result.

Firefighter Peer Support Network - FF Peer Support Network continues to be active. It is available 24/7/365 free of charge for all NB firefighters and is staffed by volunteers who are also firefighters. If anyone else is interested in joining, they can contact Brian Brown at the OFM. 1-833-535-3472 (1-833-535-FIRE)

Future Training - NFPA 1035 (Fire and Life Safety Educator) – Campbellton, Nov 18-19, 2022. Course seats are available, entry cost is minimal, and applicants will have the ability to write IFSAC and Proboard dual-seals. NFPA 931 (Fire Investigator) – provincial course will occur in late 2023. Location and costs to be determined. More information to follow in the spring.

Fire Death and Injury Report - OFM is reviewing every fire fatality and injury that occurred since 2010 to identify secondary factors. These secondary factors are items which may not be directly related to the fire's cause or origin, but nonetheless contributed to its ignition, continuation, injuries or fatalities. The idea of this is to identify trends to better target prevention by identifying high-risk groups. For example, a pot of grease on a stove catches on fire during the cooking process when left unattended. The cause is the unattended pot on the stove; the origin is the stove. Secondary contributing factors would be that the victim was in a wheelchair and had cognitive issues, both of which are contributing factors that would make that demographic at greater risk.

Fire Investigation Portal - FIRS now has an added functionality - fire investigators (municipal and provincial) now have a dedicated portal to enter fire investigation reports into the FIRS system. This will allow us (for the first time) to track fire investigation reports provincially, query data submitted, and track contributing factors. All municipals will be expected to utilize this system by June 1, 2023. Chief Wordon made a request to have industrial brigades included in the FIRS, this was welcomed by the OFM.

Sprinkler Regulations - Sprinkler regulations are being introduced for designers/installers in spring 2023. We are looking to have a recourse against poor-quality installers whose defects cause hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars of damage. At present, there is no way to prevent an installer from continuing to work. We are proposing a license system where the fire marshal may suspend or withdraw a sprinkler installer's license for poor quality work. **There will be no additional requirements to obtain this license if you are already a sprinkler installer (designated trade). It is only intended to give us a tool to suspend in the event of faulty work.**

Fire Chiefs Handbook - In conjunction with our proposed leadership course, we are looking at creating a fire chiefs handbook to provide guidance on all conceivable topics relevant to NB fire chiefs. This is intended as a reference document for any fire department or officer. Aiming for the end of 2023.

Scene security - If NBAFC votes to allow OFM to take over scene security, we will offer casual call/when needed contracts for suitable candidates to offer fire scene security throughout the province. Candidates will be contacted when scene security must be maintained and will be compensated roughly \$26/hour plus mileage, incidentals, and an hourly compensation for car use. An application form will follow but reach out to your PFI if you have any questions. NOTE Lynn I believe we had a motion on this and it was accepted.

Fire Service 2025 - Fire Service 2025 report is nearly complete and will be shared with the NBAFC, Mayor/CAOs, fire departments and chiefs. Individual fire department reports are not available publicly; only regional averages will be shared in the final report. Individual departments will be able to ask their PFIs about their report and update their areas for improvement if they wish. The Fire Service 2025 initiative will now be used to support the push for minimum service regulations.

NBCC – Serge Gallant

French FF 1 manuals are at the printers. Will have a new FF 1 format that will be sent out soon. Hazmat will be a stand-alone course. Log books will be done online. Discussion took place on hard copy vs online for manuals.

Local Government – Ivan Corbett

No report. Took questions. Discussion on the public safety committee took place.

DENR – Tony Cole – Rules of engagement were emailed to all board members.

Review of Updates from Previous Meeting:

1. Concerns with Sunny Corner not able to get EFF training - Resolved
2. Request to have PSAP automatically dispatch DNR on any fire call with “Forest, Brush, or Grass” - Ongoing
3. Email mandate for when DNR should be called. Rules of engagement document sent to the association for distribution.
4. Minimum 3-hour call for fire departments - Completed
5. Sign out a pump kit to LSDs - No, not at this time
6. Purchase hose from DNR’s contract - Yes, contact Matt Ruff for details
7. SPU units. Ongoing
8. Train the Trainer for Fire Smart - Training is available online and DNRE is looking to hire a provincial coordinator.

2022 Fire Season Update:

To date, 191 fires for 146.2 hectares burned, compared to 2021, which had 180 fires for 380 hectares burned. The ten-year average is 274 fires for 476 hectares burned.

2022 Fires by Cause

- 86 resident
- 29 unknowns
- 24 incendiaries
- 16 miscellaneous
- 13 recreations
- 8 railroads
- 6 other industries
- 5 lightning
- 3 forest industry

New for 2022:

We had a firefighter on a forest fire wearing bunker pants and a t-shirt. When asked to come get proper PPE, he replied, “I don’t work for you.” This is not acceptable and should be addressed immediately by the firefighters chief.

The St. John PSAP automatically assigned a mutual aid channel. At the beginning of fire season, they automatically dispatch police and ambulances as well. We are working with the PASPs to standardize and automate notification of DNR.

Fire Association Reps - When I met with them last, only two had been invited to the local meetings. With meetings resuming after the summer, can we please make efforts to get the local DNRE reps to the association meetings?

We have recently automated the 1-800 burn line to a computerized voice recording for clarity and consistency.

Fire smart program is gaining traction. We are currently developing a plan to hire a coordinator to establish the program in the province.

Structure protection units - We have specs and prices for 2 units. We hope to be able to purchase these in the near future. We will require additional training for both a structure protection specialist as well as fire department crews for the installation and operation of the units.

What would the NBAFC like to see from our department to help us support you: education, training, wildland hoses, and pump kits

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Southeast – Daniel Dupuis for Paul Bruens No Report

Chaleur Association – Dwayne Stephenson

We elected a new executive in June. President Fire Chief Keith Legacy (Belledune Fire), 1st Vice Deputy Dwayne Stephenson (Belledune Fire), 2nd Vice Fire Chief Rickey McNaughton (Campbellton Fire) The MBU was in Our association area (Campbellton at NBCC). 24 participants were put through the unit in a train the trainer scenario (some are instructors, the rest are willing to take trainer 1 course when offered). There was one small situation with the unit during one training evolution, unit would not fire up.

Training in our association has been slow to get back off the ground since COVID. Reasons are COVID, lack of instructors and availability of instructors. We are awaiting an instructor's course as we have 24 candidates willing to take the course. With the candidates there is approx. a 50/50 English/French ratio. Virtual FF1/Pompier 1 was attempted but seems to not be the preferred method, most prefer face to face instruction.

Executive will be sending out survey to association chiefs to find out the numbers of FF's needing FF 1, 2, Officer 1, Trainer 1, and the number of instructors we have available and if they are still willing or wanting to help in training.

Acadian Peninsula – Guy Paulin No Report

Northwest FF Association - Charlie Chiasson

We have a level 1 and 2 starting in November. We had a question for local government representative. The transition committee was given different information on how the amalgamation will proceed with the fire departments. Budgets, etc. Also, we would like signage to improve response times on route 180 and 17 (possibly other highways also). Eliminate sending two responding departments. (St-Quentin)

Royal District- Brian Hunter

We had 11 departments at our last meeting. The financials were reported, and it was voted on to wave our annual dues for the 2022 year. We had Cummings Fire in as a guest supplier. First Vice-President David McKinley and Second Vice-President Justin McGuigan of the NBAFC were present.

We would like the NBAFC to look into the workers compensation and the fee being charged to members of departments who have retired from their regular work and receive a pension. Do they get monies if they are hurt while working for the fire department if they are collecting a pension? Our next meeting is January 18, 2023

Fundy FF Association – Kevin Theriault

Fundy Association has been busy over the summer with different events. Aug. 7 RCMP Musical Ride was at the Ganong Nature Park in St. Stephen, where members of the counties' fire departments in association with RCMP, Public Safety, OFM, and numerous groups, held an open house with each department having the chance to demonstrate a different aspect of firefighting and the jobs we do. After the open house, members were invited to attend the RCMP Musical Ride where I accepted on behalf of all responders the salute from the sergeant major to start the show.

On Aug. 27, county departments attended a Touch-a-Truck in Blacks Harbour as a fundraiser for the local school lunch programs. Sept 7, we held our fall meeting, which was hosted in St. Andrews, with some departments joining online.

A couple of items were brought up to bring forward to the NBAFC:

1. Our association has written a letter to NBAFC giving our full support to the executive to continue to fight for more cancers to be added to the firefighter compensation program.

2. Our lead instructor for the MBU has moved out west and we do not have anyone trained for the trailer. Will there be more training for instructors?

3. Has a schedule been drafted for the MBU?

4. Any word on the new Firefighter Level 1 course? Will it be starting in January? Will the instructors have a personal day from NBCC? We feel it is a major short falling of NBCC, and the instructors would like to see more personal days.

Sept 14, we held a retirement party in Moore's Mills for Fire Chief Steve Smith. Steve has been the chief for 36 years and will continue to be active when he can. Jonathan McCaffery has taken the reins and we are looking forward to collaborating with him. September also saw the first large ladder truck arrive in the county with St. Stephen acquiring a 110 'Pierce tower, which was displayed at their annual bucket sit fundraiser for the community to see.

Our next meeting will be Nov 23 at 6:30 p.m. in Oak Bay. This will also be a dinner meeting. During this meeting, we will also be holding elections for president, secretary, and area training coordinator. Sean Morton will be stepping down at the November meeting.

Miramichi Valley – Roger Pitre

It's been a relatively quiet fall. We started meeting live in September. We are doing a trial on hybrid meetings, with two virtual and one live. Live meetings will be held in station 2, Miramichi. Departments were busy doing presentations for Fire Prevention Week, and the annual Hector Fournier Memorial Day was well attended by departments and the public. We intend on finishing up outstanding Level 1 courses this Fall and Winter. All are worried about the impacts municipal reforms will bring, with most expressing concerns with the lack of information provided on this. Also brought up was how this reform will affect association business, with departments being consolidated. Also, of concern is TMR availability where network failure occurs.

Capital District – Harry Farrell

The association just finished up the Level 1 course. Looking to start up a new Level 1 and Level 2 using the essentials 7. Had a briefing about the NB511 system. Talked briefly about the possible regionalization of fire dispatch or the whole province. The association is going to set up a meeting having to do with a water shuttle for insurance ratings for each fire department. The association will write a letter to send to the fire marshal about scene security. Will be going to update the mutual aid agreement after the elections for all the communities at the end of November.

Central Valley – Mike Walton

Just finished up FF 1 and will have a 2nd starting late October. Discussion took place on Fenety Marketing. Agreed to form a committee. Mike Walton, Justin McGuigan and Serge Gallant will sit on the committee. Fenety's contract is done in March 2023.

Old Business

Memorial monument: Please discuss at your association meeting and it will be brought to our January 2023 meeting.

Workshop cancellations – Discussion took place. It was agreed that people must cancel 2 weeks prior to the workshop date or they will be charged the registration fee.

Meals and Millage – Jody Price made a motion, seconded by Kevin Theriault – Motion to accept the GNB rates and adjust with the GNB rates going forward. Motion voted upon and passed. Rates will become effective October 23, 2022.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors – The executive meet with the Hawkins-Gignac Foundation and they are looking for a donation to support their cause of carbon monoxide detectors in the home. A \$5,000 donation was discussed. This will be brought back to the January 2023 meeting.

Website - Jody Price made a motion, seconded by Mike Walton, to spend up to \$20,000 to develop a new website. Motion voted upon and passed.

Summer Student – Having a summer student was discussed. They would be able to help with the convention, with planning for workshops, fundraising, selling ads on the website, and other duties. Lynne and Serge will watch for SEED and federal applications.

Meeting dates - 2023

January 20 & 21, 2023

April 14 & 15, 2023

Convention & AGM (Sunday morning) – May 26-28, 2023

Workshops NBCC – September 8 & 9, 2023

October 20 & 21, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

