

**NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS**  
**AGM 2023**  
**May 28, 2023**

**Chair: President Scott Poupart**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB

**Attendance:** Scott Poupart, Dave McKinley, Justin McGuigan, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Mike Lewis, Charles Kavanaugh, Mike Walton, Harry Farrell, Dwayne Stephenson, Serge Gallant, Roger Pitre, Kevin Theriault, Brian Scott Worden, Tim Corbin, Jody Price, Denis Roberge, Charles MacNeil, Derrick Fillmore

Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m.

**General Introductions**

Membership was made aware that 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president Dave McKinley will be stepping down. Seco<sup>nd</sup> vice-president Justin McGuigan will move to 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president. The floor was opened for nominations. A nomination for Fire Chief Charlie Chaisson from the St. Leonard Fire Department was made by Mike Walton. He was not in attendance, and the NBAFC constitution states a person must be in attendance to accept the nomination. Another nomination – Fire Chief Roger Pitre – Rogersville Fire Dept, was made by Serge Gallant. The nomination was seconded by Harry Farrell. The nominations ceased, there were no further nominations from the floor. Fire Chief Roger Pitre accepts the nomination as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president.

**Review of Agenda** - Motion to accept by Harry Farrell and seconded by Dwayne Stephenson.

**President's Report – Scott Poupart**

The president acknowledged the support of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC), the Government of New Brunswick (GNB), the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), the Maritime Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA) and the provincial media. He said there has been progress in several key issues that have been in the works for years.

There will be increased funding for the NBCC training grounds in Miramichi. This is allowing our workshop committee to develop the site even further. The challenge here will be to sustain site improvements and growth with further projects, such as a more robust and permanent water supply and an upgrading of apparatus and equipment.

We continue to have an open dialogue with ministers in government. This past week, we met with the Minister of Public Safety (Mr. Kris Austin), the Minister of Local Government (Mr. Daniel Allain), the Minister of Post-Secondary Education (Mr. Trevor Holder) and the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development (Mr. Mike Holland) to thank them for their continued support of the priorities of the NBAFC and also to shine a light on some of our more critical priorities, such as presumptive cancer coverage for firefighters and the impacts of governance reform on the provincial fire service. This approach is one that was started several years ago and has

enabled us to communicate directly with the key political leaders who have either direct or indirect responsibility for the New Brunswick Fire Service.

The other key factor which enables our association to garner government support has been our ongoing strong relationships with the OFM specifically and the Department of Public Safety in general. By having an ongoing dialogue with these groups, we have been able to provide direct and candid comments on matters relating to the New Brunswick Fire Service.

We have launched a new website. Please make sure you verify your department's contact information. If it needs updating, please send Lynne an email with the new information. The association is working on creating a 5-10-year plan.

The association presidents are actively involved in providing guidance to your executive and they represent the interest of their associations extremely well. It must be noted, as we have done many times before. Your association and your association president are your conduit for information to and from the NBAFC. If you are not active in your association, you will not be aware of the issues and the work being done on them, some of which may be of key interest to your department.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that the fall workshop continues to be one of the premier training events in Atlantic Canada. Congratulations and thank you to our training committee, NBCC Miramichi, the OFM and the Department of Local Government (to name but a few) for your collective efforts and ongoing financial support.

### **Work to Complete**

Although we enjoy a measure of success, there is much more to do.

### **Department of Local Government**

1. Support the OFM on its initiative to revise the Fire Prevention Act for minimum standards.
2. Maintain the financial support of our Annual Workshop.
3. Recognize the impacts of local governance reform on the fire service and pause or stop those processes where current fire service provision is being negatively impacted until a better resolution is found.

### **Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour**

1. Presumptive cancer legislation, increase the number of cancers covered, streamline the processing of claims through the designation of a staff member to adjudicate firefighter claims
2. Continue support for workshop

### **Department of Public Safety**

1. Local governance reform
2. Regional fire dispatch – Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)
3. Ambulance New Brunswick (ANB) downloading.

### **Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNRE)**

1. Opening of the Act and making all wildfires DNRE response, same as out-of-town boundaries.
2. Rates

The president thanked the executive for their support and guidance. He also reminded membership to feel free to discuss any areas of concern that they may have with respect to our association, as he is always available to the membership.

Motion to accept the report, seconded by Mike Walton.

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

Meetings are held monthly; the last meeting was May 17. Items discussed during these meetings included:

- Great Canadian Fire Census
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) cylinder life extension
- Government relations, including budget asks
- Cancer legislation, cancer screening
- Volunteer firefighter tax credit
- Wildland interface
- Mental health awareness training
- Sprinklers
- CAFC grants from Bell Let's Talk, Duracell and CASA
- Broadband strategies
- Sensitive chemicals in turnout gear
- Emergency Preparedness Week

Government Relations Week was held the second week of September. CAFC members, including 6 from NB, were assigned to teams to meet with government MPs, ministers, deputy ministers, and senators. We discussed the CAFC priorities and how they could be addressed at budget time.

The Firefighter Census results from last year gave us a huge boost with media interest, which quickly caught the attention of elected officials. The 2023 census request is now out, and it is imperative that we get as much participation as possible. Last year, the New Brunswick participation rate was about 35%, but we can do much better. We need the association presidents to push their members to complete the survey, for the sake of the fire service.

Bill C-244 was passed on firefighter cancer. It includes the 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.

During roundtable discussions, I kept the group up to date on the government reform occurring in the province.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

To date we have \$169,744.24 in the bank. The year-end for 2022 is completed. The investments at Valley Wealth are secure but are not making money right now. Fenety has raised \$23,329.15 for the 2023 campaign that began at the end of March. The 2022 campaign raised \$63,137.44. We received a grant of \$163,690 this year and purchased 3 fire prevention trailers costing \$150,000. We also received \$25,000 for upgrades at the NBCC training site. Motion to accept the report by Mike and seconded by Charle MacNeil.

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

We purchased a trailer with help from OFM to store our HAZMAT equipment and transport it around the province. International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) recertification is done. We need to get our Pro Board and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) done. We are looking at some policy changes to get things done a little more quickly and easier. Also, we just set a reminder it is important to keep our NBCC

Firefighter 1 course. A lot of volunteers cannot or do not want to put in the time for the gold seal. We are very fortunate to have these options. Motion to accept the report, seconded by Charles Kavanaugh.

**Training and Workshops Committee** – Jody Price & Serge Gallant

The workshop will be September 8-9, 2023. If you have never been to it, take advantage of it. Book your hotel room early and send someone. It is top-notch training. The form will be online soon. If you have a training idea, let us know. We want fresh ideas. First come, first serve; it fills up fast.

**Awards Committee** – Kevin Theriault – Reminder there are several awards; do not forget to nominate members. New members are needed for this committee. Quentin McGrath has offered and will sit on this committee.

**Fire Prevention** – Derrick Fillmore

The New Brunswick Association of Fire Prevention Officers (NBAFPO) has had a name change to the New Brunswick Association of Fire Prevention Officers and Educators (NBAFPOE). Elections for president and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president were held. We are trying to increase membership. We currently have 52 memberships out of 167. We will be mailing our invoice for membership this year. We are looking to update our website. We had our seminar in April; attendance was down. We are conducting a survey to see what the NBAFPOE can do differently to attract members.

**Nomination & Resolutions Committee** – Kevin Theriault - No Report

**Convention & Games Committee** – Serge Gallant & Harry Farrell

We have 4 teams, and they will be in the back parking lot. We are looking for committee members.

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

Just a reminder to update your members list each time a firefighter leaves or comes aboard. This will allow for fewer problems when they go get their license plates at Service New Brunswick (SNB). If they are not on the list, they will be refused. If they are on the list, they will get their plates. So, as members leave your department or become inactive volunteers, please remove their name from the firefighter license plate list. Also, make sure they are registered with the same name as on their driver's license, i.e., Robert and not Bob. Make sure their address is the same. You can request your list from me anytime at nbafc.ca@gmail.com.

**Maritime Fire Chief Association** – Charles Kavanaugh

We have the MFCA president Vince Mackenzie with us this weekend. Our conference is July 7-9 in Halifax. We will be looking at offering a training tour. We will be sending representation to government relations week in Ottawa. If this something your department can afford, it is very informative.

**Permanent Chief Committee** – Jody Price

We met this past Friday, May 26. Some of our issues included the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNRED) response within municipal boundaries and the change to towns being included with the Forest Fires Act. However, cities are not included, so there are issues we are working on.

**MFSR** and dispatching: Fire chiefs would like to see both the NBAFC and the OFM ask the province to look at the Nova Scotia model for fire dispatching. We don't have that in New Brunswick and the Nova Scotia model has five or six different levels. Municipal boundaries were also discussed.

Justin McGuigan mentioned that he sat in on a provincial meeting and Ambulance NB expressed interest in resolving its issues with fire departments.

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

The last meeting was in late February in Miramichi. We had 11 people attending, 5 of which were from the board or members. We received one question asking for Firefighter 1 to be moved to online. In discussion with the board at that time, there was concern that the quality of training will go down. There has also been discussion on reform. We will be sending a survey to our members to see how often they want to meet.

### **Industrial Fire Chiefs** – Brian Worden

We met this past Friday, May 26. There was good attendance. We are looking at developing our social media accounts. The Point Lepreau Fire Service workshop is scheduled for June 24 and is open to all industrial members. There may be spots open if others are interested. We are working with the NBAFC to have industrial firefighters recognized under the cancer legislation. We will be starting to report in the Fire Incident Reporting System (FIRS).

### **Next-Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1)** – Justin McGuigan

There have been a lot of developments in radio communications both in technology and in the way that we use it. Over the last number of years, there have been some great wins and there continue to be a few hurdles with respect to dispatching. Your executive has worked hard with Justice and Public Safety (JPS) and with various Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to resolve issues.

The Codiac region was the last to come on board; they are currently coming on. There are still some challenges in this region. If you are not familiar with what NG9-1-11 means, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has imposed on all provinces in Canada a whole new standard or specification for 9-1-1 service from coast to coast. That comes into effect in the early months of 2025, so the executive here is involved with the creation of this new system to those specifications.

## **ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS**

### **OFM** - Mike Lewis

**Reminder if there is anything that needs translation, reach out to the OFM.**

**Minimum Service Regulations to be Accelerated, Introduced First as “Best Practices.”**

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 Local Service District (LSD) fire policy as a jumping-off point, with the additional consideration for requirements on Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) rating levels, maximum apparatus age for front line, etc.

### **Consultation Period**

Two surveys were distributed to Chief Accounting Officers (CAO), mayors and fire chiefs. We are looking to develop feedback on priorities for minimum service regulations.

### **Price and Service Delivery**

The primary motives for this are to hold local governments responsible for ensuring their community provides a strong, well-equipped fire service and keeps fire insurance rates affordable for ratepayers as a result. The current plan is to deliver “best practices” quickly, with legislative amendments to follow.

### **National Fire Information Database (NFID) Project**

OFM is reviewing every fire fatality and injury that occurred from 2010 to the present 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.

### **Smoke Alarm Campaign**

This fall, OFM will have 2,500 smoke alarms available for fire departments. Departments will be able to apply for free smoke alarms based on high priority areas. An application form will follow, with the program to be launched during Fire Prevention Week (FPW) 2023.

### **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 FIRS. This will allow us (for the first time) to track fire investigation reports provincially, query data submitted, and track contributing factors. All municipalities will be expected to utilize this system by June 1, 2023.

### **Sprinkler Regulations**

Sprinkler regulations are being introduced for designers/installers in the spring of 2023. We are looking for a recourse against poor-quality installers whose defects cause hundreds or 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 licensing 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 a license 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 the 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 an hour, plus mileage, incidentals, and an hourly compensation for car usage. An application form will follow, but reach out to your Regional Fire Investigator (RFI) if you have any questions.

### **Fire Service 101**

OFM is hosting a webinar series for mayors/councillors/CAOs mid May entitled Fire Service 101. This series intends to provide basic information on fire departments and how they operate. The intention is to de-escalate tensions between new municipalities and fire departments and provide background information to municipal officials.

### **Provincial Firefighter Training**

OFM has nearly doubled its budget for provincially funded firefighter training. OFM is working with Tactical Strength and Conditioning (TSAC) facilitators and Associated Training Representatives (ATRs) to finalize how it will be used.

### **Additional OFM Staff and K9**

OFM requested and was approved for two new RFIs (to be in Charlotte County/Saint John and Campbellton/Bathurst/Acadian Peninsula), one new Sprinkler Plan Reviewer in Fredericton, and one new Fire Service Training Coordinator based out of Miramichi, focused primarily on Mobile Burn Unit (MBU) operation. OFM has also gained a new K9.

### **Fire Investigation Trailer**

OFM now has a Major Fire Investigation Trailer. The intent is to use it for larger investigations (fatalities, multiple days, large industrial incidents) to store equipment and provide a heated space to warm up, as well as to use it as a deterrent in locations with an elevated likelihood of incidents.

### **Fire Inspector/Building Inspector Pre-Service Program**

OFM and New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) are considering a pre-service (full-time, 6-month duration) training program for future career fire/building inspectors, which would include Inspector 1 and 2, and New Brunswick Building Officials Association (NBBOA) Level 1 and 2 certifications.

### **HAZMAT- Mike Lewis**

**HAZMAT 'Roadshows'**- Roadshows will now be conducted upon request – a heavy or scout team will come to your association on a regular training night, 7-10 p.m., and provide a hands-on demo and discussion on the provincial HAZMAT program. Contact the OFM to schedule.

**Moncton HAZMAT team** - Moncton's HAZMAT team is soon to be operational.

**Radiological Training** - Provincial HAZMAT team representatives are presently in Ottawa on a radiological training exercise.

**Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Contract** - OFM and the RCMP are finalizing a CBRNE contract.

**CBRNE Exercise** – There will be a CBRNE exercise in Fredericton on June 12, 2023. It will likely involve OFM HAZMAT teams.

### **NBCC – Serge Gallant**

7 th edition has been rolled out. We are getting good comments on it. We are going to be working on getting the MBU around the province by late fall. We will be sending out a schedule, if you have any issues with your association's time please let us know.

**Local Government – Ivan Corbett** No report.

**DNRED – Tony Cole** No Report

**Aboriginal Council** No report

## **NEW BUSINESS**

We are currently working on a location for the 2024 convention. We will keep you posted. We will be sending out a survey to attendees to get feedback.

We have set Mobile Burn Unit (MBU) rotations. They can be adjusted if need be. Each association will have it roughly 10 days over 2 weekends.

Questions from the floor were taken.

Chief Boyle spoke about the Executive Chief Fire Officer (ECFO) - attachment

Roundtable discussion took place led by Jody Price and Vince Mackenzie.

Some of the topics included mentoring in the fire service, newcomer recruitment, mental health, and recognition.

Indoor meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Firefighter games began at 1 p.m. in the back parking lot.



## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

### About the CAFC

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Founded in 1909, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) is an independent, non-profit organization with a voluntary membership representing approximately 3,500 fire departments across Canada. CAFC was incorporated in 1965 under the Canadian Corporations Act and it has its head office in Ottawa, Canada.

*CAFC's Mission is to advance safe, effective, and sustainable fire and emergency services across Canada.*

*CAFC's Vision is to see Canada's fire and emergency management leaders united in service of public health and safety.*

The CAFC represents the three major types of Fire Departments in Canada: full-time, volunteer and composite.

CAFC's governance includes a National Advisory Council comprised of Fire Chief Provincial and Territorial Associations as well as the:

- Canadian Council of Fire Marshal's and Fire Commissioners
- Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada
- Department of National Defense
- Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association
- Canadian Metro Chiefs
- Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation

CAFC values the public trust given to the fire service and will honour this trust by helping members serve as upstanding stewards of their communities.

#### Programs:

- Answer the Call
- Awards
- Building Codes
- Great Canadian Fire Census
- Equity Diversity and Inclusion
- Executive Chief Fire Officer
- Firefighter Cancer Prevention
- Fire Prevention / Emergency Preparedness
- Mental Health
- Remotely Piloted Aircraft

#### Committees:

- Answer the Call
- Building Codes
- Cancer Prevention
- Climate Adaptation
- Dangerous Goods
- Data
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Leadership & Ethics
- Executive Chief Fire Officer
- Fire Prevention
- Governance in the Fire Sector
- Human Factors
- Interoperability
- Leadership Development
- Mental Health
- Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems and Drones
- Science and Technology



ECFO Program



CAFC Red Book

