

**NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS (NBAFC)**

**January 19-20, 2024**

**Bathurst, NB**

**Atlantic Host Hotel**

**Chair: Scott Poupart**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 19, 2024. This is the first meet-and-greet open to all local fire chiefs and officers. All fire chiefs from Chaleur, Miramichi and the Acadian Peninsula Association were invited to attend. The event had 24 fire chiefs from the area in attendance. All board members and associate directors introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their role on the board.

**Saturday Attendance:** Scott Poupart, Justin McGuigan, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Brian Brown, Mike Walton, Dwayne Stephenson, Serge Gallant, Roger Pitre, Kevin Theriault, Tim Corbin, Charlie Chiasson, Charles MacNeil, Tony Cole, Mike Lewis, Guy Paulin, Darren Hambrook, Charles Kavanaugh, Brian Scott Worden

**Absent:** Jeff Cross, Jody Price, Ivan Corbett, Denis Roberge, Harry Farrell, Derrick Fillmore

**Review of Agenda** - Motion to accept by Dwayne Stephenson, seconded by Charles McNeil

**Review of Minutes** - Motion to accept by Kevin Theriault, seconded by Dwayne Stephenson

**President's Report** – Scott Poupart

Since our October meeting, we have continued to meet and lobby our government and other partner organizations for support of our priorities. I was able to attend the draw for the Fire Chief of the Day held on the 14<sup>th</sup> in Fredericton.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, we held a Microsoft Teams meeting with WorkSafeNB to discuss the gap in the coverage of presumptive cancers for our firefighters and the continual struggle to adjudicate claims on a timely basis. We were informed that, in fact, this was already being addressed and the root of the issue was the fact our province had a Firefighter Compensation Act separate from our Workers Compensation Act. This is not the case in most jurisdictions across the country. There is work being done to merge the two acts together which will facilitate both the addition of presumptive cancers and aid in streamlining the application process for coverage. We were cautioned that this requires legislative change and will not happen overnight. We will continue to engage with WorkSafeNB on the status of these changes.

We further requested a seat on their board, but once again we were informed there is a process to this, and the awarding of seats is based on vacancies and is reviewed every two years. Sitting on this board requires a substantial time commitment, and we may want to consider establishing more open dialogue as opposed to this option.

I attended the Environment and Local Government (ELG) conference in Fredericton on November 24-25. This conference was well attended and provided a lot of good information that pertained to our regional fire services.

I was in Ottawa for Government Relations Week from December 4 to 7 as part of our Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) delegation lobbying the federal government for support on key issues facing our nation's fire service.

Motion to accept by Tim Corbin, seconded by Tony Cole.

### **Reports from the CAFC – Scott Poupart**

Attachment 1

### **Report for the Maritime Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA) - Charles Kavanaugh**

The convention will be in Summerside, PEI, in 2024. The theme will be Weather-Related Events.

A motion was made by Kevin Theriault to cover the accommodation cost for the NBAFC and MFCA representative beyond what is covered by the MFCA committee. Seconded by Dwayne Stephenson, voted upon and passed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Fenety - 202 Campaign - \$ 43,234.72

Bank Account - \$7,868.38

Association Investment - \$502,625.87

Discussion took place on new possibilities with Fenety. This will be discussed further in April.

Motion by Mike Walton to accept the report, seconded by Charles MacNeil, voted upon and passed.

### **Firefighter Certification Board – Jody Price/Serge Gallant**

Had our ProBoard visit. There are a lot of changes in the standards. We have issued around 500 certificates so far. Voting on our certification will take place in March.

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

Please remind your association members that we have a bursary, President Award, Certificate of Courage, and Hall of Flame. These applications are on our website. We will look at reviewing these forms.

### **Training and Education** – Serge Gallant

We just had our first meeting for the fall workshop.

### **HAZMAT Committee** – Mike Lewis

**Moncton HAZMAT team** - Moncton's HAZMAT team is operational. They held a training session in September. A reminder that training is available with provincial hazmat heavy team and scout members during regular training nights. Request through the OFM for coordination.

### **Fire Prevention** – Brian Brown for Derrick Fillmore

The New Brunswick Association of Fire Prevention Officers and Educators (NBAFPOE) board has not had a meeting since October. One is in the works for the end of January or the first week of February. The seminar planning committee met in November. The board made the decision to ask for participation from individuals outside the board. We welcomed Laura King (Regional Director, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Canada), Ricky McNaughton (Chief of the Campbellton Fire Department), Jean-Phillipe Audin (Deputy Chief, Edmundston Fire Department), Dustin Aube (Bathurst Fire Department), and Arthur Willins (Kennebecasis Fire Department).

### **Seminar Update**

The annual NBAFPOE seminar will be held over the weekend of April 26-28 at the Fredericton Motor Inn. An invitation has been sent to Minister Kris Austin to open the seminar. We are also planning to send information about the seminar to mayors and councils in the hope that the seminar theme and speaker topics will encourage registrations from this sector.

### **Seminar Theme: Community Risk Reduction**

Speakers/Topics (the exact title of the presentation may change) as of January 18, 2024:

- Laura King, NFPA Regional Director, Canada (English) - What is community risk reduction and what does it have to do with me?
- The Pub-ed Shed 2.0. Streamlining Standards
- Candace Gibley - Regina Fire Service (English) - Residential Cooking Research Project
- Public Education Business Plans – from data collection and analysis to target audiences and effective messaging.
- Youth Fire-Setter Intervention Program – Community interventions to respond to and prevent youth arson. Candace was given Brian Brown's contact information. He has been working on trying to get more information out to the fire service about a youth fire-setter program in NB.
- Dave Waterhouse - Montreal Fire (French and English) – The Cost Benefit of Fire Prevention.
- New Brunswick Multicultural Association of NB - Brian Brown is discussing the subject matter of the presentation with them.

- Michael Lewis, Office of the Fire Marshall (OFM) (French and English) – Topic to be determined.
- Brian Brown (French and English) – Fire Prevention Trailers.
- Roger Collet (French and English) – Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNRED) Update and FireSmart Presentation

**Social Media/Public Education Planning Committee** - Created and distributed the board's first newsletter in December. The purpose of the newsletters will be to update the membership on what the board is working on in between seminars. (Newsletter #1 is attached.) We are working on updating the website information.

We created a private Facebook group (NBAFPOE/AAPIENB) to discuss current topics and discuss what fire prevention looks like in departments across the province. We will be starting live discussions in the Facebook group for people to join or just listen to. The board decided to rebrand our logo. One will be chosen at the next meeting.

The committee is working on resources that can be provided to departments, so members don't have to take the time to create lesson plans or safety messages. The work will be done for them. Laura King directed us to a resource created in BC called Getting to Know Fire. We ordered a copy and received it at the end of 2023 (\$234.71). We contacted BC and received confirmation this week that if we provide them with a French translation, then they will give us permission to use the English version here in NB. We are seeking a quote for the cost of the translation and will be submitting a request for a grant from the OFM to get the document translated. Mike Lewis is on board with this venture.

#### **Nominations and Resolution Committee** – Kevin Theriault

Elections will be held at the conference in May, nominations can be sent to the committee, or brought forward from the floor. The constitution should be reviewed.

#### **Convention and Games Committee** – Lynne Gallant-Valley, Scott Poupart, Serge Gallant, Harry Farrell, Jody Price, Justin McGuigan and Mike Walton

The convention will be held in Fredericton in 2024. Discussion took place. A motion was made for the registration fee to be \$450.00 until April 15, 2024, and \$500 thereafter. Voted upon and motion passed. Attendees will remain in one room for all sessions and speakers will rotate. The idea of offering corporate tables was discussed.

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

As a reminder to your fire chiefs, they can reach out to me anytime to get a copy of their fire department list that is currently on file at Service New Brunswick (SNB). This will give them a starting point to updating their department lists. The list should be updated throughout the year when a member leaves, joins, or has a change of name or address. License plates will be refused at SNB if the driver's license and list information do not match.

**Permanent Chief Committee** – Scott Poupart for Jody Price

Cities have raised some concerns about wildland areas they have taken in through amalgamation. There are some concerns of having DNRED respond within their authorities having jurisdiction and the associated costs to this. Jody will follow up with Tony Cole.

There are questions being raised about changes to response areas and fire boundaries. For example, there are cases where one department has to travel through another department's territory on a response. This can be further discussed at the April meeting.

Dispatching of medical calls, Robin True's report, and the Nova Scotia model.

There are ongoing discussions regarding the upgrade of Computer Aided Design (CAD) systems within the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to install the modules necessary for text messaging. Fredericton would require installed a \$45,000 upgrade. Is there money available through NB9-1-1 to upgrade the rest of the PSAPs? This issue is to be brought forth to the Joint Emergency Management Committee (JEMC) meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dispatching Fire Departments to Medicals in New Brunswick, by Fire Chief Robin True, was read aloud.

ATTACHEMENT 2

**Volunteer Chief Committee** – Tim Corbin

A meeting was held at the conclusion of the Friday evening session of the ELG Fire Conference. Only one item was brought up at the meeting. It involved DNRED and the confusion in payments being made to departments after forest fires. Some departments aren't getting paid at all (i.e., St. Stephen, Dumfries), while some departments are getting partial pay (i.e., Welsford).

Over the Christmas holidays, a problem has become evident with Ambulance New Brunswick (ANB). Over the past few years, we have seen an increasing number of cases where we have not been able to cover the entire province. This year I was made aware of the lack of coverage in my own area, and since then I have received messages from other departments. Is there anything that the NBAFC executive can do with ANB to try and get this problem addressed?

**New Brunswick Industrial Fire Chiefs Association (NBIFCA)** – Brian Scott Worden

We are looking at a change to the logo. We have a Facebook group that is good for sharing information. The Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station (PLNGS) plans to do the Fire Service Workshop again in 2024. It would be open to members of the NBIFCA. About 125 people attended the one this year, which had good food and great training. Per Mike Lewis, HAZMAT training is available. We would like to have a list of HAZMAT-trained personnel/resources that each brigade has so that if there is an incident in your area, we could give your guys a chance to help. Even if you can't provide a list of resources, a 24-hour contact number would be helpful so that we can contact you if we need HAZMAT-trained personnel.

Presumptive Cancer Legislation - Individual chiefs need to discuss it with their employers. We need to develop a letter to give to Mike Lewis to explore industrial firefighters being added to presumptive cancer legislation by January/February.

Irving Refinery – Walker Clark - 17 notifications since September, only one of which was non-medical. We were called to help with American Iron and Metal (AIM) fire. We assisted with the ladder truck but had some water supply challenges. They were using a tugboat to pump 15,000 gallons per minute of seawater but had a lot of junk. When they used the cannon on the tugboat, it was hard to direct and had a lot of overspray. A ladder truck with a remote Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) was much more effective at actually spotting and putting out the hotspots. We've already found tarnished spots on the pumper - saltwater and chemicals likely took four years off the lifespan of the truck.

Irving St. Leonard (Eric Pelletier) - 25 incidents, including a planer fire and a conveyor fire. Implemented new procedures as a result. Integrating TICs for operators, checking 3 times a day. This gets the operators involved in prevention. There was a good response time on the two incidents – they were packed up in five minutes. After 15-20 minutes, they had hoses going and the fire was out. We had a few other small fires that were extinguished by the fire watch. Mostly they were due to poor pre-work inspections. We have implemented that the pre-work inspection must be signed by a department head.

McCains Grand Falls (Joey Brayall) - Just a couple of calls. One was an electric motor on a fryer, but the sprinklers were activated. Also there was an “oil spill” – oil was backed up due to the pump being left off. We surrounded the area and pumped it. There were no calls on shutdown, so that's good. Nurses were there taking care of first aid incidents.

McCains Florenceville (Brian Dugan) – No one was paged, but they had a few smoke incidents. An onsite nurse was taking care of first aid incidents.

Belledune (Jeremy Stuart) - No large incidents. There is work in progress converting unused fuels and used biomass. This could increase the fire risk. Belledune has been hit hard by attrition, not a lot of well-trained, long-term employees.

Point Lepreau (Jeff Waters-Gray) - Mostly nuisance calls. Interesting statistics on maintenance/incidents across the nuclear industry. Out of 51 total incidents (annually), 78% were electrical, 15% mechanical, 7% hot work, and 4% human. Additionally, 61% of the incidents were from equipment that was “run to failure.” This highlights the importance of regular checks and maintenance.

Jolly Farmer (Caleb Darrow) - No incidents to report. We do have access to an M30T all-weather thermal drone in case it is beneficial to other brigades for fire/HAZMAT incidents. Caleb Darrow is the pilot and has advance pilot certification for use in restricted areas.

**Next Generation 9-1-1 Committee – Justin McGuigan**

Fire departments continue to come on board in the Codiac Region of New Brunswick. The province continues to work with municipalities that have been sourcing dispatch services from Nova Scotia. Progress is being made to ensure the safety of residents here in New Brunswick.

The service contract for New Brunswick Trunked Mobile Radio (NBTMR) is up for renegotiation. NB Radio Communications is working with a wide range of groups to whom they provide service, to learn what aspects of the contract need to be addressed. Recently a survey was circulated on their behalf, and the findings of that survey will be discussed at the January meeting of the NBAFC in Bathurst, January 20, 2024.

The province continues to work toward creating their solution for Next Generation 9-1-1 service here in New Brunswick. Our proposed system is now undergoing pilot testing. This has been a large and complex project that has required tremendous effort from a range of individuals and teams.

The NBAFC continues to communicate with the great folks at NB9-1-1 to continue to maintain, adapt and improve the services provided by PSAPs throughout the province.

It is important for all fire departments who have concerns or questions about the services described in this email to communicate with their regional associations, or with the appropriate government office responsible for the service.

The contract is coming due for NBTMR. A presentation with Todd Brown took place, see NBTMR

**OFM – Mike Lewis**

Grant Funding - \$482,500.00

\$6,500	Poster campaign and workshop
\$50,000	Mobile Burn Unit (MBU) cost (past year)
\$65,000	Installing a hydrant at the NBCC training grounds
\$115,000	Modular classroom at NBCC training grounds
\$126,000	Fire prevention kits
\$120,000	6 line extinguishers, Rolling Suitcase Hazard House, garage, stove and Sparky costume for each association.

The OFM will be purchasing smoke alarms. They will come with an incentive to get them installed – a \$5.00 gift card for proof of installation. They have a 10-year battery life.

We are looking at creating a foundation like the Atlantic Burn Foundation. The corporate Fire Fit will take place July 23-24 in Fredericton. Looking for participants.

The provincial firefighter tax credit is moving along. A letter of support for the NBAFC would be good. We have 2 new Regional Fire Investigators (RFIs) in Charlotte County and Chaleur. New jobs are posted with the OFM – an MBU programmer/editor, an assembly and accommodation inspector, and industrial fire inspections.

Each association will be given 25 challenge coins. The interactive fire prevention trailers are being placed in Bathurst, St. George and Grand Falls. Make sure to use them at the school or any community events in your area.

We are looking to establish a humanitarian workforce. This would be a group of people who can help with warming stations, wellness checks, etc. There will be enumerations.

Motion to accept the condition funding grant by Mike Walton, seconded by Roger Pitre.

**NBCC – Serge Gallant**

We are getting a lot of calls from people who did not meet the deadline. We are trying to do what we can. The results coming from the 7<sup>th</sup> edition are better than previous. The information flows much better.

We are working with the departments to set up training. We will be having a new course – Building Inspector/Fire. It will be a 22-week program, 8 weeks of practical.

**Local Government – Ivan Corbett (absent)**

(information presented by Denis Bujold Friday evening)

**ENTITIES THAT HAVE TAKEN OVER FIRE SERVICE (January 1, 2024)**

FIRE STATION	LSD (FORMER)	ENTITY (NOW)
Brigade d'incendie de Restigouche SJB	Saint Jean Baptiste	Kedqwick
Musquash Station 1	Musquash	Fundy Shores
Musquash Station 2	Musquash	Fundy Shores
Harvey	Manners Sutton	Harvey
Keswick Ridge	Keswick Ridge	Central York
Keswick Valley	Douglas	Central York
Campobello Fire Hall and Utility Building	Campobello Island	Campobello Island

**NEW FIRE TRUCKS (as of January 29, 2024)**

FIRE DEPARTMENT	TRUCK TYPE	ESIMATED COMPLETION
Musquash	Pumper	February 2024
Beersville	Pumper	January 2024
Cumberland Bay	Pumper	March 2024
Fundy Bay	Pumper	March 2024
New Bandon	Pumper	May 2024
Central York (Keswick Valley)	Pumper	July 2024
Welsford	Pumper	December 2024
Dumfries	Fast Response	November 2024
Long Reach	Fast Response	November 2024
Richibucto-Village	Pumper	TBD
Hoyt	Pumper	TBD
Coles Island	Fast Response	TBD
Millstream	Pumper	TBD
Peninsula	Pumper	TBD



### **Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNRED) – Tony Cole**

We had 208 fires in 2023 with 854.1 ha burned. Last season had 191 fires with 146.2 ha burned and the 10-year average is 253 fires with 408.2 ha burned. Only 10 fires were caused by lightning and the rest were human-caused. Other than 1 larger fire of 504 ha, if it was a very wet and quiet season.

As predicted last January, it was a very difficult year for paying fire departments. Due to municipal reform, most fire departments transitioned from a Local Service District (LSD) department to a municipal department. This changed where the payment was sent, and many departments were not set up to be paid through SNB. We are still finalizing a few invoices and are currently reviewing every single invoice and verifying the supplier number as there have been a few errors. Please be patient as we resolve each of these and I anticipate a much smoother 2024 season.

Training - As discussed last year, NBAFC requested additional training including a condensed Emergency Firefighter refresher, a revision of the Emergency Firefighter course to include a field portion, and some officer training for forest fires (S215).

Structure Protection Unit (SPU) - Program Development - Tenders have been sent out and equipment contracts are being finalized. Training information will be available soon.

S215 – Wildland Urban Interface Course - As requested, we have completed the first 4 courses. In some cases, attendance has been less than anticipated with several junior firefighters rather than the officer or senior firefighters that the training is targeted toward. We will continue to offer this course around the province in 2024 with another 4 courses planned.

The Emergency Firefighter course has been revised to include a field portion. We will be looking for feedback as this rolls out. The refresher course is still being worked on, with more details to follow.

### **Aboriginal Committee – Larry Sockabasin**

Will be working with DNRED to get this established.

**Southeast** – Denis Roberge - No Report

**Chaleur Association – Dwayne Stephenson**

A meeting was held on Jan 11, 2024. A Firefighter Cancer Month presentation was given to the membership and the same presentation was sent to the association. A pledge form was presented for firefighters to sign to prevent exposure to carcinogens according to the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Best Practices listed in the presentation. It was suggested that the pledge form be brought to the NBAFC for possible distribution to other associations.

The Bathurst PSAP communication manager-covered dispatching: To medical calls of a sensitive nature (i.e., suicide), when paging fire departments to a call, they will only be paged once. If there is no acknowledgement within a set time frame, a backup department will be paged next.

Notification to DNRED for grass/forest fires: The Provincial Mobile Communications Centre (PMCC) is called and DNRED is notified so they can come in and assess the situation and paging is done through CAD to fire applications. They look at 2 options and try to get the best option. A notification should be received within 30 days, but time frame is not set in stone.

The association is looking at putting together a discrimination policy tool for any department to use or modify for their department's use. I mentioned that the NBAFC quarterly meeting will be rotated to the associations to allow for more interaction between the association chiefs and the NBAFC. The Association Training Representative (ATR) reviewed the upcoming training schedule for 2024 and discussed the cost of training. The Muscular Dystrophy Association has updated their events for the upcoming year. Fire Prevention has updated on the NBAFPOE meeting and the new fire prevention trailers. We discussed the launch of our website - a draft site has been made and will be presented to the association for input and suggestions on its design and use. An association honour guard was suggested. Based on the discussions, there is a good amount of interest.

**Acadian Peninsula** – Guy Paulin

We have divided into 4 sections to do more training. We were having instructor issues. We also have Ambulance NB issues in our association. Our next meeting is January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Northwest Firefighter Association - Charlie Chiasson**

I am pleased to provide you with a progress report on the activities and achievements of the Northwest Firefighters Association for the end of the year 2023. Our dedicated team has been working diligently to enhance the effectiveness of our organization and further our mission of promoting safety, professional development, and community engagement within the firefighting community.

**Membership Growth** - The Northwest Firefighters Association has experienced significant growth in membership attendance during the reporting period. Our outreach efforts have

included inviting every all firefighters to attend meetings. We have also been talking about different engagement initiatives that would result in an influx of new members who share our commitment to excellence in firefighting.

**Training and Development** - A key focus area for the association has been in development and is always growing. We have organized an unusual number of classes at the end of the year to accommodate the retirement of the 5th edition. We would like to thank NBCC, the Office of the Fire Marshal, and especially our dedicated instructors who have made this possible. We now have a committee that is in place to examine and recommend the training priorities for the association. For 2024, we are talking about organizing workshops, seminars, and hands-on training sessions to equip our members with the latest skills and knowledge in firefighting techniques, safety protocols and mutual aid response.

**Community Outreach** - Our commitment to serving the community has been demonstrated through various outreach programs. Fire prevention campaigns, educational initiatives, and collaborative efforts with local organizations have strengthened our ties with the community we serve.

**Emergency Response Preparedness** - Recognizing the importance of being well prepared for emergency situations, the association has requested some information on the Trunked Mobile Radio (TMR) communications update.

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) have no cell coverage in parts of the territory. Many questions remain unanswered. We are coordinating a session with the RadComm group for February 2024. We continue to collaborate with other emergency response agencies to ensure seamless coordination during critical incidents.

In conclusion, the Northwest Firefighters Association has made significant strides in achieving its goals. We are committed to building on these accomplishments and continuously improving our services to better support our members and the communities we serve.

**Royal District** – Charles McNeil

Royal has held one meeting in January since the last NBAFC meeting. The Royal's association held elections for president, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president, and treasurer. I accepted the position of president. John Codling accepted the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president and Tim Nickerson accepted the position of treasurer. The current 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president position is vacant as I left it to fill the president position. This will be filled at our next meeting.

The Royal would like to thank Jamie Vantassel for serving as president for the last term. The Royal would also like to thank Brian Hunter for serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president and for filling in as acting president during a portion of Jamie's term.

The Royal's association training representative has given notice of stepping down and Royal's nominating committee is accepting names for this position. This will be filled at the next meeting. We are still working on a representative for the volunteer chief committee.

On behalf of Royal, I was honoured to join the staff of the OFM to present Rayna-May Williams from Sussex as provincial winner of Fire Chief for a Day. I presented the regional winners of the Fire Chief for a Day contest to Ivy Chamberlain of St. Martins and to Jesse Way from Fairvale.

### **Fundy Firefighter Association – Kevin Theriault**

The Fundy association last met in December at our annual Christmas dinner and meeting. A good turnout of departments was present, as well as Fire Marshal Lewis, DNRED, Emergency Measures Organization (EMO), and a few suppliers. Some issues discussed were:

1. The HAZMAT section of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition Level 1 - we would like this to be reviewed and, if possible, return Awareness to Level 1, and add Operations to Level 2.
2. There are issues with NB9-1-1 and amalgamating departments to one dispatch channel. NB9-1-1 has advised the departments of what needs to be done and provided a timeline.
3. An issue was brought up to our radio working group about the black boxes turning on the microphones at night.
4. We're still noticing an issue with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) advising about road closures.

We currently have a Level 1 course in progress with 22 firefighters taking part. An S-215 course was held in December and was well attended by county departments. We are hoping this course may be given again in the future, as it was very well received. We're looking at an Air Brake course and a Pump Ops course over the winter.

### **Miramichi Valley – Roger Pitre**

There have been three association meetings since the last NBAFC meeting. The November 2023 meeting was held in person at the Renous-Quarryville Fire Department. The guest speaker was Chris Bamford, Leadership Development Trainer, LMI Canada, who gave a presentation about the training and support they have to offer to fire departments. The association is considering purchasing a laser/virtual fire extinguisher simulator.

The December 2023 meeting was held virtually. The association departments would like one specific night provided each month for exams. This will allow more planning for departments, and depending on firefighters' study needs, they will know well in advance of the next test dates. There was group consensus to have more guest speakers at the 2024 meetings.

The January 2024 meeting was held virtually. An idea was brought forward about purchasing a mask fit test machine as an association. A Miramichi Valley Firefighters Association (MVFFA) executive election will be held in February 2024. Roger Pitre expressed concern that Ambulance NB still contacts the Rogersville Fire Department to respond to medical calls when Ambulance NB has been notified and is well aware that Rogersville members are not trained to handle medical calls and therefore do not respond to said calls.

A fire brigade from Arbec Forest Products is joining the MVFFA but has not attended any meetings thus far. They have gotten involved with the NB industrial fire chiefs as well.

**Regionalization** – The Saint-Louis Fire Department is now in the town of Beaurivage and is no longer in MVFFA Miramichi. Baie-St.-Anne, Neguac, Rogersville, Doaktown and Upper Miramichi fire departments have not changed. Blackville, Renous-Quarryville and Sunny Corner are now in the community of Miramichi River Valley, with fire departments continuing to keep their separate identities.

**Central Valley** – Mike Walton

We just had our meeting. We're getting good attendance – 40 to 60 people. The host rotates, and they are responsible for getting a speaker. We had vendors like Mic Mac, Linda Patterson, Safety Source, and the OFM.

**Capital District** – Harry Farrell (absent)

Since the last NBAFC meeting in October 2023, the Capital District has finished up two Level 1 courses. As for other courses that the association has completed and are now in progress, they've done two Air Brake courses, a Firefighter Instructor Course, an Auto Extrication Course, and they've started two new Level 1 courses. Courses that coming in the next couple of months are Auto Extrication, Level 2, and an Emergency Firefighter course.

### **New Business**

Discussion took place on the membership fee that has not changed since 2016. A motion was made by Mike Walton to increase the cost to \$225.00 and keep the \$25.00 for additional department names. Seconded by Justin McGuigan, the motion was voted upon and passed.

Saint-Pierre and Miquelon are asking to be able to attend our convention and workshop. Discussion took place on whether they should have to pay a fee. Serge and Roger will reach out to them to see exactly what they want.

Discussion took place on who can advertise on our website. It was agreed that ads of a medical nature would not be accepted. Any other in question can be addressed to the executive or brought to a meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Walton at 3:06 and seconded by Justin McGuigan.

### **Important Dates 2024**

April 19-20, 2023 – St. Andrews  
Convention and AGM - May 2024 - Fredericton  
NBCC Workshops – September 6-7, 2024 - Miramichi  
NBAFC Meeting - October