

NEW BRUNSWICK ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS (NBAFC)

October 4 & 5, 2024

Grand Falls N.B.

Chair: Scott Poupart

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 4th, 2024. Meet-and-greet open to all local fire chiefs and officers. All board members and associate directors introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their role on the board. Q & A took place.

Saturday Attendance: Scott Poupart, Charlie Chiasson, Jody Price, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Dwayne Stephenson, Serge Gallant, Roger Pitre, Kevin Theriault, Tim Corbin, Charles MacNeil, Charles Kavanaugh, Scott Worden, Eric Guerrette (alt), Carol Gilmore (alt), Brad Calhoun, Corey Nicholas(alt)

Absent: Harry Farrell (Saturday), Ivan Corbett, Mike Lewis (alt sent), Mike Walton, Guy Paulin, Darren Hambrook, Justin McGuigan, Tony Cole, Jeff Cross, Derrick Fillmore (alt sent), Darren Hambrook, Larry Sockabasin (alt sent)

Saturday Meeting called to order at 8:43 am.

Review of Agenda - Motion to accept by Dwayne Stephenson and Charles Kavanaugh

Review of Minutes - Motion to accept by Tim Corbin, seconded by Kevin Theriault

President's Report – Scott Poupart

I represented the association in several interviews and events since the May meeting. Various interviews were conducted on topics such as firefighter coverage, wage increases, opioid crisis calls, cancers and firefighter training differences. I declined to comment on the topic of the role and responsibilities of the fire marshal.

Attended the 2024 Atlantic Leadership Conference focused on climate change and wildfires at the end of June on PEI.

August 20th, I sat in on a meeting with Minister Austin, FM Lewis, NBEMO Director Kyle Leavitt, NBGSAR President Bradley Parker and others from the Minister's office. The discussion was around the increase in off road rescue calls throughout the province, how could our two organizations work together to mutually respond to these. Mutual training opportunities, funding for NBGSAR, sharing of equipment

and acquisition of vehicles for NBGSAR. All agreed there was opportunity here and the OFM will look at a pilot project in the near future.

Sept 6th and 7th I attended the Firefighter workshop in Miramichi. We were pleased to have Minister Austin tour the facility and address the attendees. He was accompanied by the Mayor of Miramichi and the local MLA. All were impressed with what was there to offer to our firefighters.

Sept 21st to 25th I attended Fire-Rescue Canada in Montreal. Sept 21st and 22nd consisted of the CAFC Board and NAC meetings. Topics covered included: Ontario 378-18 legislation, Fire Dispatch challenges, National Fire database- tell our story, Single Egress – push for legislative changes in B.C, to allow single egress in larger multi storied buildings, Lithium-Ion battery challenges, Wellness programs, 24hr shift challenges, reluctance to leave for administrative, logistic and management positions going back to a 5 day a week 8-4 job. It's becoming a challenge to fill these positions.

Disaster Financial Assistance some consultation already done looking at an April 2028 launch. Public Health working on a national civilian workforce to support in large emergencies, we are echoing caution here as more on the ground does not mean more efficiency. Training a concern.

U.S.A pilot project on a National Fire Information Database, there may be opportunity to create a North American database, Initial conversations being held. Some restrictions need to be explored Canadian data must remain in Canada as of now, Patriots Act. Possibly a Canadian hosted database would address this.

Some of the features, Simple language, built by a global group, Open to other nations, Offered to Mexico as well as us. Open source North American system, Data sharing and sourcing, Data accessing of real time data during responses and real time building of an event. Chronological event and location interoperability fire, police, EMS, etc. Step 2 will include investigation details, pictures, etc. Step 3 firefighter safety – wearables, bio-monitoring, exposures, 60 departments in Texas have been onboarded for a trial and data gathered has been spectacular.

This fall the U.S. will begin onboarding 100 departments at a time no matter the size of the department. 27000 departments to be onboarded. Canada we would need to identify our metrics. Seamless metrics can allow for future additions such as Hydrogen Based incidents. FEMA is building this but will be owned outside of government. It is not a database but a data analyzer, taking input and AI analyzing and turning out meaningful outputs.

A submission on a Public Safety Broadband Network will be presented to government on October 8th, the CAFC will be a signatory on this. Scott made a motion "that the NBAFC support the CAFC motion to support the submission of the Public safety Broadband network document". 2nd by Roger Pitre. It was voted upon and motion passed.

Lastly, During the CAFC cross country checkup which is done on day 1 of FRC the following common themes were brought forth from across our nation.

Presumptive Cancer and cancer legislation	Climate change
Recruitment and retention challenges	Day time response – VFD’s
Preparation for all hazard responses – technological changes	JEPP renewal
Solar mass storage/ lithium-ion batteries Montreal	Mental Health
Budget restraints – escalating equipment costs	Fire Prevention
Fire prevention Act revisions	Single Egress
Cell coverage – gaps and redundancy	Wellness
Ontario Volunteer Departments unionizing	Fire Smart
Wildland response teams	Homeless encampments
Peer support for chief officers	National Database
concern of sustainability of the important association	— need for funding
168 names added to the FFF wall in Ottawa	

Great convention and informative topics. Reminder about the CFFA scholarships and bursaries. Next year’s FRC will be in Winnipeg. Motion to accept the report as read by Scott Poupart, seconded by Dwayne Stephenson.

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

Will be meeting on 18 & 19 of October. Next years convention will be in Summerside, PEI, July 3-6, 2025. Hotel is already full. This year’s convention was well attended.

Motion to accept report by Charles Kavanaugh, seconded by Dwayne Stephenson.

Scott Poupart- confidentiality agreement was discussed and all members were asked to sign.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Fundraising Committee – Lynne Gallant-Valley

FENETY **\$39,719.79** INVESTA **\$541,734.83**

Bank **\$338,634.80 - Money is tagged** from grant monies for the following: Modular classroom \$115,000, Hydrant system \$65,000, and Hazard Houses \$126,000 for a total of \$312,500. This means the actual working balance is \$26,134.80.

Convention revenue was \$93,6500 with expenses of \$71, 427.18. - 161 Attending the convention. Workshop revenue was \$25,650 with expenses of \$48,841.96 - 171 attending the workshop.

Operational expenses were reviewed and options were discussed. Jody Price made a motion “that membership fees be increased for \$225 to \$300 in 2025” and seconded by Brian Worden. Voted upon and passed. It also to be noted that membership must be assigned to a name.

Motion by Lynne Gallant-Valley to accept the report, seconded by Charles MacNeil, voted upon and passed.

Firefighter Certification Board –Jody Price

We will be bringing a 3rd party to assess and help establish best practices. Certification numbers are increasing. A lot of volunteer firefighter going through the process and getting their gold seals.

Awards Committee – Kevin Theriault

Please remind all your associations of the awards available for their members. The deadline for the Hall of Flame is October 31. Have been reviewing awards criteria and info, may have a couple of questions on deadlines and locations details i.e. only events in New Brunswick?

Will need to have a committee meeting soon to discuss. Scott Rowe will be added to the committee.

Training and Education – Mike Lewis / Serge Gallant

Workshop numbers were good. Looking for more cost-effective meal options. Workshop cost was discussed during finance report. Will be looking for grant options for FTC.

Fire Prevention – Carol Gilmore for Derrick Fillmore

The board met via Teams on June 12th and the executive met via Teams on October 2nd. The decision was made to have the committees meet in October/November with a board meeting to be held November 14th.

Getting to Know Fire Curriculum has been translated. Motion made to purchase 200 jump drives to distribute to fire departments. Applying for grant to fund printing of hard copies.

First annual NBAFPOE Bursary awarded to Preston Steeves from Elgin.

Fire Prevention Week Materials were purchased. 30 fire extinguishers for OFM Gazette Backpack Fire Prevention Week Draw. Purchased NFPA Fire Prevention Week Posters for elementary schools.

Meet with Serge Gallant to discuss adding Fire and Life Safety Educator Level 1 and Level 2 Course courses to NBCC Curriculum. Serge to present request to Training and Advisory Committee.

Training/Webinars - Laura King gave her annual NFPA Fire Prevention Week Webinar on September 19, 2024. We had 32 registers for the webinar.

Treasurer’s Report

Bank Balance as of September 30, 2024	\$14,316.48
Cheques to Deposit (Memberships/Seminar Registrations)	\$ 900.00
Outstanding Invoices	\$ 1,925.00
Outstanding Cheque (Bursary – Preston Steeves)	\$ 250.00

NBAFPOE Executive – President, Derrick Fillmore. 1st Vice President, Karen Trecartin. 2nd Vice President, Jason Richardson and Secretary/Treasurer Carol Gilmore.

Nominations and Resolution Committee – Kevin Theriault

Nothing to report at this time.

Convention and Games Committee – Lynne Gallant-Valley

2025 Convention will be in Moncton at the Delta. Hotel information will go out soon.

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 – Jody Price

Met last at the Convention in May. Chiefs would like 1 regional dispatch out of Fredericton. All Fire Departments dispatched from there. This would help when looking for trends. Discussion took place on pros and cons.

Volunteer Chief Committee – Tim Corbin

Complaint from fire department over firefighter license plates. Resigned/quit firefighters are still being able to renew their plates on line, and other firefighters are being refused over spelling errors even though list has been updated. Last meeting was at the May convention.

New Brunswick Association Industrial Fire Chiefs (NBAIFC) – Scott Worden

Our workshop was well attended with 140 participants. At our last meeting Association reports were given and issues were discussed within the industrial departments.

Presentation of plaque to Scott Poupart by Brian Worden in Appreciation of what he has done for the Industrial Association. We had a discussion on if a website is needed.

Training PLNGS 2024 Fire Service Workshop on June 22nd. Good food, great training, free t-shirt
 Miramichi Workshop on September 9 and 10
 Jeremy Stuart – having the MBU at Belledune last year was great PR. Highly recommend.

Next Generation 9-1-1 Committee – submitted by Justin McGuigan (absent)

Regional Fire Dispatch

- The RFD project is winding down. so, the regularly reoccurring meetings have slowed.
- The last PSAP to be switched over (Codiac) has five or less fire departments left to onboard. Two are switching next month, therein there are only two or three left.

- Regional Fire Dispatch up in the Bathurst area is still being completed by their simulcast system, but the system is quickly reaching end of life. They will eventually be installing black boxes for those 30 or so fire departments. Calls go out on the simulcast system, then those fire departments use TMR to communicate with the PSAP.
- All fire departments in the province have been seeded their radios, and many, including those up north, are continuing to purchase a few extra radios per year.

NG911

The majority of work that's happening with NG911 is into technical details now, and surrounding the framework of who has access to what information, and under what circumstances, and what information is protected. The pilot for the new system should take place soon so that any gaps that are identified are addressed before next year's go live date. There are plenty of good questions being asked and answered. The system looks great. In many ways NB fire departments will not notice any impact. It will all feel the same to us.

This is a good time to remind all fire departments that when the system goes live, the use of third-party Response Verification Service (RVS) apps will be prohibited for any app that sent info outside of Canada. FireQ and a few other apps keep all their data inside of Canada, so there will be options. Now is a good time for fire departments to check with their RVS provider to ensure that their data does not leave Canada. If their data routes through a server somewhere in the US or any other country aside from Canada, they're going to need to find a new RVS provider that keeps their data in Canada. Here are some examples: I see that lamResponding's home office is in New York. If a New Brunswick fire department uses lamResponding, there is a good chance that their traffic routes through a server in New York, and if so, the use of lamResponding will be prohibited when NG911 goes live. FireQ on the other hand is a Canadian provider, and their owner has confirmed to me that all their traffic remains only in Canada. Fire departments should be looking into this now so they are not left scrambling later.

Charles Kavanaugh attended June meetings - there are issues within each PSAP. They have large incident issues, software issues. They will soon be allowed to replay each other's calls. Was some discussion about the Wat 3 words app. SOP's need to be updated. They currently have a translation program that can translate in 170 languages. NB911 mapping updates are being done. They are also dealing with staffing issues.

OFM – Eric Guerrette for Mike Lewis

The OFM remains busy working on various projects and day-to-day activities working with and supporting fire departments and municipalities alike.

- The fire prevention trailers were finally deployed in June and since getting them on the road, they have been a huge success with many fire departments taking advantage of them and we appreciate those who have agreed to haul them around, which seems to be working well. Approximately 4500 people have been through them. They will all be coming off the road in November for maintenance, winterization and to get ready for next year. We are looking for a home for one of the trailers so it does not have to sit outside if anyone has a place for it.

- We have conducted approximately 75 fire investigations this year (April – current) with 2 fatalities.
- Each PFI now has one of the Lion Fire Extinguisher training props that is available to any department upon request if they wish to provide training. Please reach out to your regional PFI.
- The Hazard Houses have been ordered and are currently in the build stage and we should receive the first five of the units early November with the remaining four to follow hopefully by the end of the year. These units will be going out to each Association for use by the fire departments at their special functions.
- The OFM has 46 pallets of 10yr sealed battery smoke and combination smoke/CO alarms and a bulletin will be circulated soon launching a major campaign to allocate these in needed areas of communities. This will be a multi-tiered launch with many agencies involved to ensure we get them into homes where they are needed most. There will be an incentive program attached to the campaign.
- The OFM is working in partnership with DNRE on the formation of SPU's (sprinkler protection units) that will be deployed in the event of a wildfire threatening residential areas. This will be worked on throughout the winter with courses being offered to the fire service who wish to participate in the program. Much more to come on this topic – stay tuned.
- Scene security – seems to be working well. Still require some people from the Royal Association if anyone might be interested. Please advise Joe Richardson, the PFI for that region.
- Mark Nowlan, PFI for the Capital Region remains out on leave and will continue to be covered by other PFI's as requested. If there are any issues that arise in the meantime, or you require anything, please contact CPFI Jeff Cross until we are able to obtain a replacement.
- Fire Prevention Week is from Oct. 6-12 and the OFM would like to know of any events that are going on around your areas. Please reach out to your local PFI or Fire & Life Safety Education Specialist Brian Brown with the information so we can promote it. Also, this year's Fire Safety Gazette has gone out to all the schools across the province, when you are in the schools doing your presentations, please promote the Gazette and encourage the children to take it home and go through it with their families and fill out the ballot for a chance to win prizes and Fire Chief for a Day.

NBCC – Serge Gallant

The Sea cans and building are in place at the FTC for the MBU winter storage. Will be doing interviews soon for vacant position at the fire center.

We are working with the departments to set up training. We have been asked for Team building and how to have difficult conversation training. Fire inspector course being revised. Will have a safety educator course. Structural FF certificates are also available.

We will be offering a pilot project for online registration. Workshop went well. Numbers were good.

Currently looking for green grant money to have with budget of the modular classroom. It was asked if the OFM could inquire if they may be able to provide an engineer for the drawings and blueprints.

Local Government – Ivan Corbett (absent) No Report

Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNRED) – Tony Cole No Report

Aboriginal Committee – Corey Nicholas attending for Larry Sockabasin - No Report

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Southeast FF – Brad Calhoun

Elections were held early in September. We have FF 1 and blocks going on. Short discussion took place on how others are getting members to attend meetings.

Chaleur Association – Dwayne Stephenson

Next meeting scheduled for Oct 16, 2024. Executive meeting in September to plan for future meetings. Fall courses planned by ATR for association based on department needs. Association divided into North and South areas for course accommodation. English Firefighter 1 and Pumper Ops courses to be held in both North and South areas. Auto Ex course to be held in North, with South course planned for the new year. Instructor's course to start in person and via MS Teams on Oct 4th weekend. French courses still ongoing for Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, etc.

MBU to be in association area starting Oct 7th.

Acadian Peninsula – No Report – Guy Paulin (absent)

Northwest Firefighter Association – Charlie Chiasson

MBU was in the Saint Quentin area in August. Next meeting is scheduled for October 30th. Currently updating association documentation, including constitution and reference manuals. Working with regional services commission committee to potentially implement a regional mutual aid agreement. Training and instructors have hit a standstill, with discussion planned for the upcoming meeting. Discussion took place on course instructors.

Royal District – Charles McNeil

Royal has held one meeting in September since the last NBAFC meeting. The Royal's training has made great strides since the placement of our new ATR. The ATR has set up a calendar for training now.

Some of the scheduled training is as follows:

Zone 1 FF1 – Jan,2025, FF2 Feb,2025, Working on an instructor course for the 2025.

Zone 2 FF1 – Sept 2024, FF2 Jan.2025, ICS 200 Oct 2024

The ATR is also working with Saint John Fire Dept. to have the Hazmat Demo come to the Royal. Unfortunately, the Royal Truck Pull for Muscular Dystrophy was cancelled due to lack of teams and volunteers.

Fundy Firefighter Association – Kevin Theriault Meeting held in September at Eastern Charlotte Fire Rescue's Pennfield station. Discussions on fire season and starts, update from DNRE took place. Regional training rep Brian Gardner appointed, training committee to be set up and will meet 4 times a year.

Question raised on instructors' contracts with NBCC, liability concerns if injured during training were discussed. Summer training activities attended by departments, including MBU and Point Lepreau Workshop. Departments held 4 Fire Smart events, positive feedback on Fire Prevention trailer. New fire extinguisher prop tested at event in Saint Andrews, well received.

Eastern Charlotte working on transitioning to one dispatch channel for 5 stations. Dispatch is on board with it, but NB 911 has been holding up the process a bit, but it looks like they are working through the issues they have. Next meeting on November 27 in Saint Andrews, includes dinner meeting and elections for President and Treasurer.

Miramichi River Valley- Roger Pitre

We have a new ATR – Leon Ross. Meeting coming up soon. Will be having a demo. Meeting attendance numbers are an issue for us also.

Central Valley – Mike Walton No report

Capital District – Harry Farrell

Just finish up 2 Level 1 courses, finish up Auto Ex course, Did Level 2 course, Did ICS 200 course Had Mobile Burn unit in Upper Gagetown Fire Department for Training in June. This Fall we're going to do another Auto Ex course and ICS 200 course. Will be having a presentation for 1-800 Board up. Look at starting another Level 1 in December

New Business

2nd Vice President Kevin Theriault was sworn in.

Priorities will be discussed in January. Lynne will send out current priorities for 2024.

A motion was made by Scott Poupart to send President, 1st VP and 2nd VP to GRW this year. 2nd by Brian Worden. Voted upon and passed. It is important that we lobby for a National Fire Advisor. Lynne will reach out to get contact info. for Robin MacLachlan regarding – GR101 training.

Discussion took place on weather Industrial Chief should be able to attend the Permeant Chief meetings. Jody Price and Brian Worden will work on this.

Advertisements - a written criteria shall be developed.

Dwayne Stephenson has offered to sit on the Constitution committee.

Discussion took place on sickness/death donations/gifts. Serge will forward information on this.

Motion to adjourn by Scott Poupart at 2:24 p.m. and seconded by Scott Brian Worden

Important Dates 2025

Meeting April - Moncton

Meeting - January 24 &25 - Fredericton

NBAFC Convention and AGM

May 23-25, 2025

Delta Moncton

Hotel reservations can be made by copying and pasting the link below in your web browser.

www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1721225963576&key=GRP&app=resvlink