

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

Fire Chiefs on the Hill, December 2024



Thank you for meeting with the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs! Your office is an important part of the Fire Service in Canada.

We have prepared this leave behind to help you and staff follow up and remember our meeting together. Here's the agenda:

1. Who are we?
2. What's needed?
3. How can you help?
4. Successes
5. Participants

Better together

CAFC's National Advisory Council brings together all provincial and territorial fire chief associations as well as all national affiliate organizations. The associations members are individual fire chiefs and company officers.

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1. Who are we?

Founded in 1909, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) is an independent, non-profit organization representing approximately 3,200 fire departments across 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.





2. What's Needed?

A. Canada Needs a National Fire Administration (NFA) to Coordinate Fire and Life Safety Issues

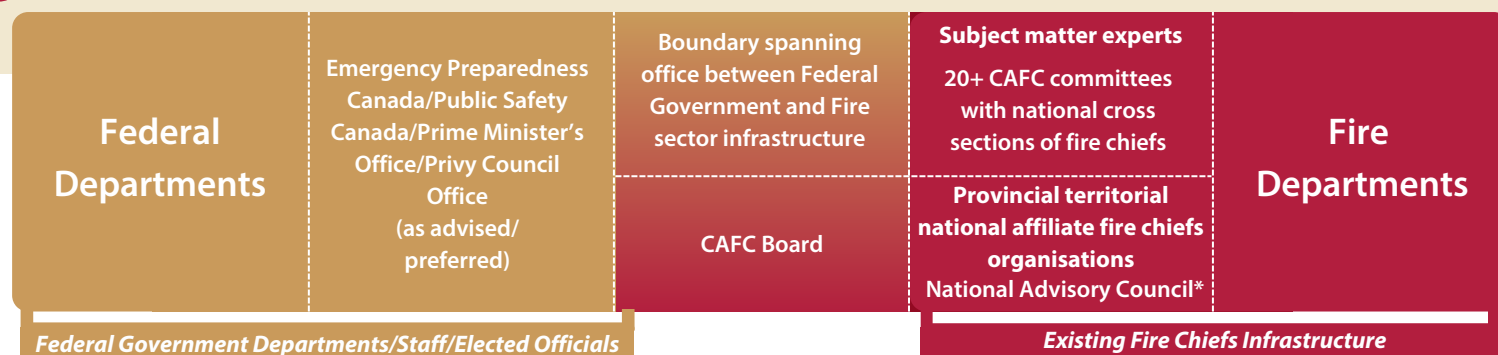
? Consider ... What do we mean by a national fire administration?

A coordinating office which liaises nationally between local fire departments and federal departments as well as with provincial and territorial governments and agencies, non-governmental associations, insurers and other bodies. Its purpose is **bidirectional communication and coordination** with fire departments which are often **authorities having jurisdiction** in an emergency and/or who are in a position to **advise on the fire and emergency implications** of federal policy proposals and decisions.

? Consider ... Why do we need a national fire administration?

FEDERAL PRIORITY	FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATIONS	WHY IS NFA IMPORTANT?
Housing: Canada needs to build 3-5M new housing units by 2030	69% of cities are experiencing rapid new housing construction, but only 17% have new fire resources	Ensure building code proposals like "single egress" (federal budget) don't exacerbate safety issues.
Affordability: Keep home insurance rates affordable	47% of fire departments concerned about losing fire protection rating due to old equipment. Insurance losses from 4 climate events (\$7.7B) exceeded all fire department budgets for 2M calls (\$6.1B) .	Coordinate measures to maintain fire protection ratings so insurance rates and losses don't increase.
Wildfire: Reduce catastrophic losses	90% of fire departments engage in wildfire response. 51% of fire departments need equipment . 80% have no Fire Smart™ resources.	Improve local-provincial-federal coordination/information gaps.
Civilian emergency response: being considered to help in emergency	60% of urban fire departments serve as authorities having jurisdiction in an emergency. 71% of firefighters are volunteers, 20% are already cross appointed to other emergency agencies.	Facilitate coordination nationally between civilian response organizations, fire departments and governments.
Explosives: NRCAN looks after Explosives Act, which includes fireworks	500+ communities responded to firework calls 50% have bylaws against sale/use to consumers	Federal Explosives Act undermines local bylaws by permitting sale without appreciating implications
Electric vehicles: 100% of new vehicles electric by 2035.	400+ communities responded to lithium-ion battery fires which power electric vehicles (EV)	Lithium-ion battery fires are different than traditional fires
Federal responsibility for fire in Indigenous Communities*	Indigenous people are 10X more likely to experience death by fire	Ensure fire operations managed by Indigenous fire leaders*

? Consider ... What could a national fire administration look like?





B. Canada Needs a Modernized Version of the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP+)

? Consider ... Why Canada needs a JEPP+?

- ✓ **Incent renewal of fire and emergency preparedness equipment**
- ✓ **Prepare for wildfire seasons**
- ✓ **Stabilize fire protection rating for house insurance affordability and save structures**
- ✓ **Optimize commitments to firefighter cancer framework**
- ✓ **Ensure that women firefighters are protected during fire and emergency**

💡 Did you know?

- 56%** of fire departments have deferred essential equipment purchases, including fire trucks, personal protective equipment, etc.
- 82%** of fire departments received no equipment from the federal flow of wildfire equipment funds to provinces
- 46%** of fire departments indicate the age of their equipment may compromise their community fire protection rating (insurance costs)
- 20%** of fire departments have no designated equipment for cleaning toxic chemicals from personal protective clothing or are using gear over 10 year old
- 15,000** women firefighters may be using personal protective equipment designed for men

? Consider ... How would a modernized Joint Emergency Preparedness Program differ from the former?

Maximum flexibility to accommodate the variation in needs across the country, funding would be available **prior to purchase**, and contingent on **matching funds** from other levels of government.

? Consider ... Why is the federal government being asked to participate in local fire equipment purchases?

The JEPP would stimulate **matching funds** from other levels of government to create an **economy of effort** and more effectively address a **national problem** in fire and emergency equipment.

? Consider ... How much would it cost?

The former JEPP was funded at \$5M per year. A good starting point today may be **\$10M**, but **any amount** matched by other levels of government would be a **step forward**.

3. What you can do to help?



1. Support CAFC's Federal Budget 2025 requests to

Install a National Fire Administration in collaboration with the fire chiefs
Seed a modernized Joint Emergency Preparedness Program in Budget 2025



2. Ensure Fire Sector is invited to relevant studies to discuss if and how fire and life safety implications may be in Standing Committee study blind spots



3. Consider fire and life safety issues and results of the Great Canadian Fire Census in party platforms



4. Canada's MPs Are Getting It Right! Successes ...

1. Doubled the Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit
2. Firefighter Cancer Framework
3. Firefighter Safety Objective in the Building Code for 2030
4. Fire department eligibility to apply to Canada Community-Building Fund
5. Memorial Grant Program
6. Implementation of recommendations post Lac Mégantic
7. Women and Gender Equality Grants
8. Search and Rescue New Initiatives Fund
9. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Framework and Action Plan, and more!

5. Fire Chiefs on the Hill Participants

Ken McMullen, President, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Fire Chief, Red Deer Emergency Services, Red Deer, AB*

Abbott, Kent, Captain, Torbay Fire, Torbay, NL

Adams, Nathan, Deputy Fire Chief, Ottawa Fire Services, Ottawa, ON

Antle, Duane, Fire Chief, Come By Chance Volunteer Fire Department, Come by Chance, NL

Beauchamp, Normand, Directeur incendie / Fire Chief, Kapuskasing, Kapuskasing, ON

Bettens, Mark, Chief, Cape Breton Regional Fire, Sydney, NS

Bibeau, Chantal, Director-at-Large, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Deputy Chief, Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal, Laval, QC*

Boissonneault, Paul, Secretary, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Fire Chief & CEMC, Oakville Fire Department, Oakville, ON*

Brice, Trevor, Treasurer, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Fire Chief, Okotoks Fire & Rescue, Okotoks, AB*

Canning, Terry, Vice President, Nova Scotia Association of Fire Chiefs, Brookfield, NS

Derby, Dan, President, Fire Chiefs Association of BC, Fire Chief, Kootenay Boundary Regional Fire Rescue, Trail, BC

Doucet, Denis, Directeur, Service de sécurité incendie de Gatineau, Gatineau, QC

Doyle, Josh, Fire Chief, Zorra Fire Rescue, Zorra, ON

Evans, Rob, Fire Chief, Redwood Meadows Emergency Services, Redwood Meadows, AB

Grenier, Mathieu, Directeur, Service Incendie Warwick, Warwick, QC

Harris, Tim, Fire Chief, Peace River Fire Department, Peace River, AB

Hepditch, Richard, Fire Chief, Waterloo Fire Rescue, Waterloo, ON

Hine-Schmidt, Louise, Deputy Chief, Ottawa Fire Service, Ottawa, ON

Hudon, Jean-Luc, V.P. Prévention AGSICQ, Chef de division prévention, Régie intermunicipale G.E.A.N.T., Normandin, QC

Hunter, Brian, Fire Chief, Simonds Fire Rescue, NB

Jennings, Wade, Past Chief, Nova Scotia Association of Fire Chiefs, Debert Fire Brigade, Debert, NS

Jones, Greg, Director-at-Large, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Fire Chief, Amherst Fire Department, Amherst, NS*

Kavanaugh, Charles, Fire Chief, Grand Falls Fire Department, Grand Falls Regional Municipality, NB

LaMontagne, Shayne, Fire Chief, Regina Beach Fire, Regina Beach, SK

Lazare, Arnold, Indigenous Fire Marshal, Indigenous Fire Marshal Service, Kahnawake, QC

Lemire, Phil, Executive Officer, Fire Chiefs Association of BC, White Rock, BC

Lockett, Michael, President, Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association, Lawrencetown, NS

Mackenzie, Vince, Fire Chief, Grand Falls-Windsor Fire Department, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL

Martens, Keri, Vice President, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Fire Chief, Banff Fire Rescue, Banff, AB*

McMahon, Gerard, District Deputy Chief, Charlottetown Fire Department, Charlottetown, PEI

Mohl, David, Fire Chief, Hanna Fire Department, Hanna, AB

Nichol, Rob, Fire Chief / Director of EMO, Saint John Fire Department, Saint John, NB

Pitre, Roger, Chief, Rogersville, Nouvelle Arcadie, NB

Poirier, Fred, Fire Chief, Ottawa International Airport Fire Service, Ottawa, ON

Poupart, Scott, President, New Brunswick Association of Fire Chiefs, New Brunswick, NB

Power, Nicholas, Fire Chief, Saint Bernard Fire Department, Saint Bernard, NS

Robertson, Dave, Fire Chief, South Glengarry Fire Services, Lancaster, ON

Seth, Michael, Fire Chief, Six Nations of the Grand River, Ohsweken, ON

Schaefer, Curtis, Deputy Chief, Red Deer Emergency Services, Red Deer, AB

Schroeder, Randy, President Alberta Fire Chiefs Association, Vice Chair National Advisory Council, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Fire Chief, Lac Ste. Anne County Fire Services, Town of Mayerthorpe, Sanguo, AB

Starkell, Brian, Past President, Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association, Nipawin, SK

Theriault, Kevin, Fire Chief, Saint Andrews Fire Department, Saint Andrews, NB

Toews, Kelvin F, Fire Chief, Steinbach Fire Department, Steinbach, MB

Vandevord, Michelle, President and Interim Executive Director, National Indigenous Fire Safety Council, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, ON

White, Matthew, Assistant Deputy Chief, Red Deer Emergency Services, Red Deer, AB

Whiteley, Jason, Chair National Advisory Council, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Chief, North Bay Fire & Emergency Services, North Bay, ON*

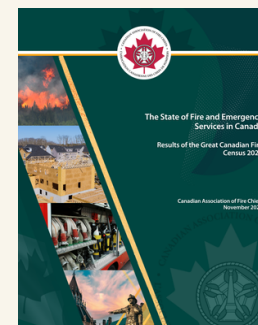
Wiggins, Blaine, Chief Operating Officer, Indigenous Fire Marshal Service / NIFSC, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, ON

Young, Nick, Fire Chief, Miniota, Miniota, MB

Zakus, Warren, President, Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs, Fire Chief, Ibex Valley Fire Rescue, Ibex Valley, YK

*Members of the CAFC Board of Directors

Check out more information on:



The Great Canadian
Fire Census Report



Towards a National Fire
Administration Report

www.cafc.ca

More Information

For more information about the CAFC, the materials in this brief, or to reach any of us, please contact CAFC's Executive Director:

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