



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting, October 6th, 2024

1) Call to Order – President Jones called the meeting of October 6th to order in Brookfield at 10:00 am. President Jones called for a moment of silence.

2) Approval of Minutes – corrections – Wording “Eel Brook Hall” and “If class 3 becomes mandatory” in draft minutes.

Motion: Moved by Shawn Andrews, seconded by Jim Cavanagh, approval of the minutes of May 26th, 2024. **Motion Carried.**

3) Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

Additions to the Agenda:

- a. NS Power Presentation and Question Opportunity – Terry Canning
- b. Nova Scotia Guard – Greg Jones
- c. Governance Review (Letter from the Minister) – Greg Jones
- d. Committee Assignments – Greg Jones
- e. New FSANS Logo Design – Aug 20th

4) Review of Action Items

5) Executive Reports

5. (A) President's Report – On June 6 attended Shelbourne Country Strong celebration where hearts for all 69 departments that assisted with the wildfires were laid. Students were excited that the fire service was there, and they went to the school and met the students. Greg disbursed CAFC challenge coins to some students. CAFC has a magazine coming out with a four-page section on the children and the impacts the wildfires had on them. Greg spoke at the dinner for all first responders and thanked the service for giving him the opportunity to attend.

Media requests – Over the summer there were numerous calls regarding the Nova Scotia Guard, wildfire prevention and preparedness, new department of emergency management, public alerting, first responder traffic incident Bear River, single means of egress etc. Some required being deferred to the province and some to CAFC.

Government Relations – Ministers and departments of government met with the Liberal party and current leader Zach Churchill and NGO's, virtual and in person, on the NS Guard and conversation included our Association, the fire school, team Rubicon, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army regarding

issues past and present. It was an opportunity to discuss all issues no matter who is in government. Mike Lockett added despite best efforts to educate Liberals on the Nova Scotia fire service, they do not understand the fire service at all. He felt Daniel said it right, we have 270 departments and 270 ways of doing business. Greg felt it was of benefit to be at the table and the issues discussed for the new bill 455 for a new EMO office.

Governance – Greg will send a letter to the province to discuss the structure of training, dispatch and relationships with municipalities. There is still no clear understanding of the NS guard and alerting.

Motion: Moved by Greg Jones and seconded by George Derabbie, to accept the Presidents Report.
Motion Carried.

5. (B) 1st Vice President – Terry Canning – Attended the NS Guard consultation held locally and was disappointed there was only 4 days notice, and it was held on a Saturday morning. There was poor attendance for Colchester County. Attended Communications and Conference Committee meetings and drafted documents for NS Guard Greg referred to and attended the meeting with Zach Churchill. I updated By-laws, drafted policy on Director's reports for review and was set up as a signing officer on the FSANS bank account. There are clothing samples from Fundy cresting and a 3 in 1 jacket for directors and alternates to try on for ordering.

Motion: Moved by Terry Canning and seconded by Robert MacEachern, to accept the 1st Vice Presidents Report. **Motion Carried.**

5. (C) 2nd Vice President – Nick Power – June 7 to 9 I attended FDIC and assisted Krista at our FSANS booth, June 27 to 30 I attended the Maritime Fire Chiefs conference and there was a lot of information on wildfires, mental health and environmental issues similar to CAFC. July 8 meeting online regarding NS Guard, MFR Stakeholder meeting online July 25, I attended 2 sessions, one in Digby one in Yarmouth, on the NS Guard however they were poorly attended. CAFC Sept 22 to 25 which I learned the medical and fire calls increase is common across Canada. Much discussion on mental health, wildfires and natural disasters. We had a communications meeting in September and stakeholders meetings online as well as 4 or 5 executive meetings.

Motion: Moved by Nick Power and seconded by Wade Jennings, to accept the 2nd Vice Presidents Report. **Motion Carried.**

6. Administrative Assistant's Report – VERBAL - Attended FDIC for FSANS and shared information pamphlets and met many attendees. Finances, audit preparations, minutes and highlights, updates to the website as required, emails and media requests, meetings with the conference/communications and executive committees as well as bi-weekly updates with President Jones.

7. County Reports – Antigonish – Robert MacPherson - NFPA standards state a 10-year life for bunker gear used or not. It is expensive for small departments to replace and sometimes they are only slightly used. Is there anything that could be done? Greg said NFPA sets the standard and departments can

check their gear for age, keep records, and budget accordingly. Rod feels we should advocate at governance for increased funding to support departments with increasing costs.

Digby – Debra Henry – Digby purchased an aqua eye, and Clare is getting a side by side and low angle rescue training. One thing noted with a diving incident, RCMP and fire were on scene, RCMP said fire equipment was not good enough to use so fire's assistance was not required. This needs to be addressed. Greg said he met the next week with RCMP and had discussions and there are issues on the RCMP side and on our fire service coordination. The incident commander has the final say.

Hants County – Terry MacAloney - I would like to start off by welcoming Kirby Myers on as our new alternate director. Kirby is a DC with the Lantz Fire Department. There is nothing provincial wise to discuss from Hants County. There were a number of departments asking questions about Nova Scotia Guard, the TMR radios switch over timeline and if we will see a provincial fire dispatch. Hants County was at a normal level over the summer months, much different from last year's flooding and forest fires. There are a number of departments that are in the process of getting new apparatus or purchasing. Windsor and South West Hants stations are both getting new boats. Windsor just ordered 2 new pumpers, Maitland is ordering a new pumper, and 3 other departments in East Hants are in the process of looking for new pumpers and tankers. East Hants are in the process of doing an insurance review on the assets current in the fleet.

8) Committee Reports

a. **By-Laws** – Terry Canning – A wording change was required from Executive Director to Administrative Assistant.

b. **Finance** – Terry Canning – An updated year-to-date financial report was presented.

Motion: Moved by Terry Canning and seconded by Steve Marcellous, to accept the financial report.
Motion Carried.

c. **Conference** – Krista Dove -Verbal – Planning is moving along, and the conference committee meets regularly, and we will update on the planning process. Venue is booked, we are looking at entertainment for after the banquet, social night is confirmed and seeking funding for our 2025 conference.

d. **Vehicle Insurance Levy** – Terry Canning – guidelines were created for running the program for 2025. Proposal submissions for the October deadline were low so the deadline was moved to mid October. Notification of this will be sent to service providers. Decisions will be made by mid November, and it is hoped that money can be available by the end of January. The fire school proposal overshot the anticipated budget by \$20,000 from previous years. George asked what about our ask to increase the budget for VILF and Terry will contact the minister as he's heard nothing. If there is an increase it would likely be in effect 2026. – Finances were updated by Dave Sponagle, just bank fees last five months.

Motion: Moved by Dave Sponagle, seconded by Robert MacEachern, to accept the Vehicle Insurance Levy fund guidelines for distribution and financial report. **Motion Carried.**

e. TIR – Daniel Gaudet – Daniel Gaudet is not present for this meeting. Daniel and Jim Roper met with Transportation about traffic safety and no news yet. Andrew Mitten gave a heads up that Kings County Chiefs meeting decided a letter needed to go to Minister Maslen as his area is having issues.

f. Resolutions – Daniel Gaudet – update next meeting

g. Standards - Terry MacAloney – The standards committee has added some new faces over the past couple of months following the Conference in Truro. New committee members include Trish Pittman, Paul Gould, Adam Tkaczuk and Vernon Belliveau. Welcome to all! The committee has met a number of times since our last directors meeting. We continue to work towards the standard for driver operators, we have had two drafts for the committee to review and now we hope we will have a third and final draft to share with the director at our next meeting in November. We have a number of examples from departments around the province. This we believe will give us the right amount of information to have a detailed draft for review. One question that the committee is looking for information on, is on the current status of the traffic safety act. We do not know what is happening with it. If you have any ideas or questions for the committee let us know.

Motion: Moved by Terry MacAloney, seconded by Adam Tkaczuk, to accept the Standards Committee report. **Motion Carried.**

h. Dispatch – Terry Canning - Not much new to report. Minister for the new Department of Emergency Management was included in his list of to do's to ensure application of the standard for fire dispatch in the province. Terry assumes that the new Department will require dispatch enterprises to brush up capabilities and may see some of them disappear from the industry.

j. CISM – Wade Jennings – the report below was circulated to Director's and Alternates.

Since my annual report at your conference in April, our CISM team continues to be busy. Although, thank goodness, there have not been any major disasters like last year, our intervention numbers (January to August) are just short of what they were in 2023 during the same time period.

Jan 1 st - Aug 30 th , 2024						
	Debriefing	Pre-Education	Defusing	1 on 1	Other	Total
Northeastern	15	10				25
Central	14	8	1	1	2	26
Valley	7	3	1	3	2	16
Southwestern	10	1		1		12
				Total		79

	780 FF serviced	224 Non firefighters serviced	
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Member education continues to be a high priority, and we currently have 4 new members participating in asynchronous learning opportunities to achieve the minimum required training to become full members on our team. Additionally, we had a few members participate in virtual podcasts for developmental purposes.

Our annual Fall Conference is fast approaching. It is scheduled for October 18th to 20th at the Debert Conference Center. Over the past few months, we have been working on a pre-ed session for our Indigenous fire departments. To complement this, our Saturday morning session is devoted to learning more about our Indigenous peoples, their cultures, etc. that will help make us more aware when providing interventions for them. Additionally, it is hoped we can encourage a few experienced Indigenous firefighters to join our CISM team. The rest of the weekend consists of various learning / practical opportunities for members to enhance their skills. If any of the FSANS Directors would like to join us at any time during the weekend, let me know and I will make sure the cafeteria adds more potatoes to the pot!

Our AGM is always held on the weekend of our Fall Conference. The 3-year terms held by Secretary Stan Beaton and Member at Large Scott Penner are up for re-election. Both are eligible for one more term if they wish. Additionally, Vice Chair Warren Clement has resigned from the executive so the remaining 2 years of his term must be filled.

Another work in progress is our website development. <https://www.nsffcism.ca> The front side (Public) is mostly complete but the backside which hosts our many records requires a complete overall and is taking longer than we originally hoped.

In April I reported we are trying to get an MOU between our team and NSGSAR. We have been providing CISM services for many years to GSAR teams across NS at the expense of the fire service. GSAR teams do not cover any out-of-pocket expenses for these services and additionally, our mandate is the fire service in NS. For liability reasons, we feel an MOU is important. This negotiation process is slow but ongoing.

As chairperson, over the past year I have received requests from both within and outside our province, as to how to start a CISM team, requirements, policies, etc. They have been sent my way from ICISF instructors within Ontario as well as the OFM. It is nice to know our team is regarded as leaders in the field. Last but not least, as always, I want to thank FSANS for your continued support of our CISM team. Please reach out to me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Motion: Moved by Wade Jennings seconded by Steve Marcellous, to accept the CISM Report from Chair Wendy Rafuse as presented. **Motion Carried.**

k. Health & Wellness – Nick Power – Will update new members and report at the next meeting

I. Accreditation Board – No report

m. Nova Scotia FireFighters School – Verbal - Mike Lockett reported many changes will be coming relating to safety measures and training modules. These are OHS driven. Off site training could be more difficult as a result and costs may increase which would be a strain on smaller departments. Greg said he hopes communication from the fire school improves as we have received none. We cannot speak to anything and have asked 7 times in writing to the fire school president to have a sit-down meeting so information could be shared and communicated correctly. Certificates come from the fire school and are going directly to the firefighter students with no record going to the Department. This is a noted issue. Departments are unsure testing has been successfully completed and the email used by the fire school belongs to and identifies the student. The onus is on the student to ensure their Chief gets the results and copies of their certificates. If the department pays, then the student needs to be accountable. Mike Lockett will make notes and look into this. It was noted that the department is expected to be aware of their students' status and training and that the only way to ensure that is if the Department gets a copy of the certification.

n. Medical First Responders – Verbal - Rod Nielsen – The committee has met, and the highlights are new people at the table are very confident people. One thing is the startup of a working group for policy and equipment, so EMC gets up to speed quicker. Funding for training was approved for new agencies which raised some concerns so it was suggested existing departments could come on board and others get recertified. The long-term goal is to be cost neutral for budgeting going forward. Nick noted the new MFR bags are a bit bigger. Rod said if there are any issues, please bring them forward. Steve Marcellous said Richmond County receives calls for lift assistance and medical general that there is no follow up for. Send a detailed letter to Greg or Rod and that can be brought up on the agenda. Date/time of call on that day to be looked at and Steve will bring it forward. There is a creation of an MRF Supervisor and interviews are next week. George Derabbie asked if the 2 full time instructors hired had completed any courses and how many and Rod isn't sure. George wants all his members MRF trained and is sending someone to Newfoundland to be EMR level trained to train his own people.

o. Director to CAFC – Wade Jennings – The CAFC has just finished the Fire Rescue Canada conference in Montreal Sept 20 to 25. There were around 400 delegates in attendance at the conference with a lot of good speakers and a lot of good information. Dr. Laurie Marmor of the U S Fire Administration was supposed to be at the conference but was tied up with special meetings with the UN, but she did join in via zoom for a couple of meetings. Lester Rich, Deputy Superintendent of the US Fire Administration was at the conference and did speak at one of the sessions. Dr. Laurie Marmor has offered to help us to set up a fire administration in Canada. The results are in for the Great Canadian Census and will be released at the Government Relations week in Ottawa. Government Relations Week is coming up Dec 2 – 4 in Ottawa. A couple of the main topics this year are a push to set up the Fire Administration in Canada and single egress buildings which could be up to 6 stories. MP Sherry Romanado along with members of Health Canada have put together the firefighter cancer framework which is being presented as a bill in the House of Commons on Oct 7.

Motion: Moved by Wade Jennings, seconded by Steve Marcellous, to accept the Director to CAFC's Report. **Motion Carried.**

p. Director to MFCA – Verbal - Rod Nielsen – The conference in June was successful financially and attendance wise. Next year's conference will be in Summerside, PEI at the same venue. It will be held the first weekend of July and will be a four-day event. Rod reports for FSANS at their board meetings and it's good to know what other provinces are doing around governance and training. They are working continuously on leadership training at Dalhousie. Greg said there is good stuff going on at Dalhousie and has been back and forth about a year or so assisting them with a rewrite of curriculum focused on rural fire service in Atlantic Canada and across the country. There is a need for basic fire leadership training and rural fire depts will have ability to train with basic leadership fundamentals.

q. Fire Marshal – Verbal – Doug MacKenzie – There will be a number of changes and new initiatives as a result of the Auditor General's report, and he will update in the new year. Adoption of the 2020 building codes and all work done with the building code is moving to a different division not with OFM but within Housing so that is a transition over the next few months. Fire codes and regulations are not adopted yet so that's work being undertaken now and working on language clarity. Once complete likely the same implementation date as codes which is April 1, 2025. The OFM has a new Fire Service Coordinator Chelsea Partridge, and she is not from internal government. She is currently working on the medal backlog so reach out to her at ofm@novascotia.ca and she will be able to provide updates. The position for Deputy Fire Marshal in Kentville was posted and closed so hopefully that will be filled soon. The OFM is not part of the new Emergency Management Department and is staying with Municipal Affairs. Fire reports are coming in and increasing so having that data is great. Software needs replaced as the current system is at the end of life and it is one of the initiatives being worked on. Single means of egress is something being worked on, and you can read about it on the CAFC website.

s. Governance Committee – Daniel Gaudet – Report next meeting.

t. Communications – Nick Power – Worked on business card format and got them printed. Please look at the FSANS website in case you want to see changes and we would like your feedback. We need more social media presence so that will be worked on. While attending conferences this year people are saying they don't receive the information from our meetings. We are working on email dissemination. Krista is reviewing Constant Contact as a possible platform. Generic business cards are now available, and Krista will disburse to the Directors during the meeting.

Motion: Moved by Nick Power, seconded by Terry Canning to accept the communication report as presented. **Motion Carried.**

u. Nominations Committee – Daniel Gaudet – Report next meeting.

v. Joint Municipal Fire Service Review – Verbal - Rod Nielsen – The committee has some issues with meeting dates and finally has the AMANS rep and lots of conversations have taken place. One issue is work around the municipal election and scheduling meetings. Greg and Rod sent their schedules and hopefully will have a meeting before the next BOD. Municipalities, AMANS and federal departments

know we must meet on items like TOR, fire prevention services, fire dispatch, wildfire prevention and mitigation, fire governance.

10. Correspondence – Lunenburg Fire Services sent a formal letter dated July 8th, 2024, indicating they are not receiving FSANS meeting minutes. Their director said he is bringing issues to FSANS, and no one is getting back to him. The President there spoke with Greg, and they are having back and forth conversation on correspondence.

Email from Canadian Emergency Preparedness and Climate Adaptation Convention – Their conference was a few weeks ago in Montreal. The event emphasized emergency/disaster management and climate adaptation, highlighting the collective efforts of government, companies, and communities to enhance disaster risk awareness, preparedness, and response strategies across the country. The purpose of this event was to create resilient infrastructure and communities in the face of natural disasters, foster collaboration between all levels of government and communities across Canada and accelerate emergency response efforts by deploying new and innovative climate technologies. Greg was asked to speak on the topics, so he contacted their representative and it became more political vs fire related and opted out for this year.

Strait Area Mutual Aid email– At their recent meeting there was a discussion regarding acquisition of successfully completed course certificates from fire school. They strongly believe certificates should go to fire departments for safe and effective record keeping. Their concerns were sent to fire school and Mike Lockett said the board is meeting on the 10th and it will be discussed.

AA Munroe photo contest is running from Oct 6 to Nov 1st so send your photos in.

Make a Wish Foundation – The local rep reached out and thought we ran firefighter 50/50 and they were requesting a donation. It was explained that we were not that association, and we requested a list of their events to share with everyone for information on their fundraising endeavours.

Standing Committee on Human Resources – They release an annual report and President Jones, and colleagues were thanked for their recent appearance. Information will be forwarded to the BOD.

Global TV – We were contacted by Steve Russell, Halifax, to discuss creating commercials for the association. They were expensive to do regularly, however it may be an option for particular event promotion.

FSANS Committees – this was reviewed and updated, and members listed. It will be posted Oct 7th on the website. These committees can change so review on the website for the most recent list.

Additions to Agenda:

Nova Scotia Power (NSP) Presentation – Mike Amero Western Operations Manager, Paul Warren Director of Regional Operations, with colleagues Melissa and Kate, attended the meeting. Terry Canning said discussions with NSP started over a year ago regarding clean up after Fiona. There were concerns

raised that the fire service was spending time looking after issues for NSP or on their behalf before their arrival on scene. The New Brunswick model was reviewed for compensation to volunteer Departments.

NSP teams attend MVCs, down wires and fires for the province. NSP is experiencing record growth at this time, many upgrades to service, and struggling to grow and for resources. There is a need for line workers and as of this meeting, are down 29-line workers across the province.

Mike Amero presented a video on safety information for down wires. Stay 2 pole lengths away from a down wire. Stay inside the vehicle if the line is down on your car and call 911. A down line can put you in the ripple effect because power is coming out of the wires like ripples in the water. Do not touch anything with a wire on it because electricity is always looking to make its way into the ground.

NSP has a large capital budget to offer more to communities such as tree trimming and dealing with vegetation. NSP attends approximately 150 mvc's every month and poles get damaged. Increasing population and infrastructure means more construction equipment, dump trucks and excavators and these can hit poles and wires and cause damage to power lines. Adverse weather, animal interference are also causes and these 911 emergencies cause some of NSP scheduled jobs to have to be put on hold to take care of the response. The challenge is regional, and response times are challenging for staffing as they are not 24/7. NSP has staff on standby.

Also, know your address for a down line and NSP can kill that line and let you know it's off. Customers will be affected, it's a challenge, if it's the safe thing to do then do it. Fire departments can do that via SHUBIE radio. NSP can check to see if they have critical care customers in the grid before shutting down power for an accident. The critical care team would look at this. Traffic control is a challenge for NSP, and contracted traffic control cannot supply what they are looking for and do not have their own traffic control. Fire departments have to watch down lines for NSP and there should be compensation to volunteer departments for this. It's not a fire service issue.

NSP wants to work together with the fire service, hear what departments have to say and will try to get answers for you. NSP supports training with fire departments and updated training will roll out in 2025 with the new public safety awareness campaign. There is a QR code for questions and feedback that can be utilized. Another presentation will happen in the upcoming months. The line worker trade is not for everyone, and recruitment and retention are difficult so signing bonuses and incentives for moving are available to those living outside the province.

Nova Scotia Guard – This committee formed under Minister Lohr and involved 9 counterparts including Greg Jones, GSAR, United Way, Peter Andrews Halifax Fire, Red Cross and others. We met over the summer 16 times. After meeting and consultation, it was clear not everyone was represented at the table. Information outlining the guard was sent out, however, not everything was clearly identified relating to training/background/criminal record checks and there was confusion. If you have signed up for the Guard, you are insured through the Guard. More information will be released. NGO's are part of

the Guard and people offering comfort centre support. There is information to follow on alerting systems. There is no job protection if you are called out to the Guard. Much work still needs to be done.

Governance Review – A request was sent to the Government for a review of past studies and the future of fire service. It is time for a conversation about that, the NS Guard and the new EMO Department. The Joint Municipal Reviews request is for fire service review and an in-depth look at how climate change, the change in landscape of emergency management and the NS Guard would help to offset that work with chainsaws, comfort centres etc. Also, a partial review of the fire service standards, dispatching standards, administration and coordination review of municipal and provincial relationships. There is no response yet from the Minister. Greg said the review that we finished at our level is shining a light on where we are currently. The Liberals were blinded by what the fire service can/cannot do. It's a good time for this review. We need help, funding and we asked for a 12-month review but it's not going to change overnight however, to highlight the importance of the fire service and what we need to make it work. There has been much interaction with the government over the last four years, however, if the government changed tomorrow, we may not have the same understanding. Greg will reach out to the committees for assistance and information.

New logos – Thank you to Kevin Bushey for creating some logo examples and sharing. We will share with all BOD to review if we change the logo or keep our own.

Terminating alerts – There is a protocol in place with Shubie for terminating alerts. If you send out an alert it is your responsibility to have it terminated.

11. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 3:04 pm by George Derabbie.

Next Meeting – November 24th, 2024 - 10:00 am Brookfield – in person and good attendance is requested.