Standing Up & Standing Out for Canada’s fire services in Ottawa

Chief Fire Officer Ken Block
President Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs
Presentation Overview

- Who is the CAFC?
- What are the key issues?
- What are we doing in 2018?
- What are samples and examples of work?
- How can we work together?
Canadian Fire Context

• Vast country geographically
• Lean in to experience in the US and internationally
• Municipal, provincial and federal governments different roles
  Over 3600 departments (NFPA, 2018)
  – close to 3000 are thought to be fully volunteer
  – Only 66 are completely career Depending on the year, CAFC will hold between 600 and 1000 members
• CAFC focus is on federal policy and Ottawa
• Over a dozen federal departments engaged in fire policy
What’s New from Ottawa?

• Federal responses to national tragedies:
  – Megantic, Wildfires, Toronto and Humboldt Tragedies
• Proclamation of National Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Day
• Memorial Grant Fund takes effect
  – fatal injury, presumptive illnesses and psychological impairment
• More Fire Representation on Building Codes Commission
• Major investments in fire responder mental health
• NG911, national emergency alerting system, Interoperability
• This summer – legalization of Cannabis
• Next year – Federal Elections
• Others...
Introducing Operating Plan 2018

Members and Partners,

On behalf of the CAFC Board of Directors and the National Advisory Council, it is my pleasure to share the attached operating plan which reflects a summary of our policy, projects, and member benefits for 2018. We hope this plan helps you understand what we do and why we do it. As we progress throughout the year, we have made allowances to address critical issues and opportunities as they arise, but for the most part, this will guide our path. Thank you to the board, national advisory council, and our provincial association presidents or their delegates and presidents or delegates of the national affiliate organizations, staff, members, partners both in government and in industry, parliamentarians, funders and friends of the CAFC. Together, we will continue to modernize and improve the fire service in Canada. If you have any feedback or questions about our plan, please direct these to CAFC’s Executive Director, Tina Saryeddine at tasaryeddine@cafc.ca. Thanks for your ongoing support of CAFC. We’re looking forward to another great year with you.

Sincerely,

Ken G. Block, Chief Fire Officer
President, CAFC

With thanks from the CAFC Board
From left to right: Board members Chief Pierre Volette (Cornwall), Chief Ken McMullen (Calgary), CAFC President Chief Ken Block (Edmonton), Board Members Chief Ken MacAskill (Lethbridge), Chief Daniel Ferron (St. Leo), Chief Vince McKenzie (Grand Falls-Windsor).

With thanks from the NAC
From left to right: Chief Duane Anstis (NL), Chief Ken Stenberg, Chief Kevin Estola (SK), Chief Dave McKenzie (CM), Chief Cameron Ambrey (NAC Co-Chair), Chief Rod Keen (NL), Chief Phil Lemire (BC), Chief Rob Nelson (NB), Chief John Sawkins (NT), Chief Martin Gravel (PEI), Chief Don McCoy (NAC Chair), Chief Peter Rich (AB), Chief John Lane (Canadian Metro Chiefs) (missing from photo: Chief Richard Ammato, Quebec)
### 1. CAFC Strategic Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision</th>
<th>Uniting Canada’s Fire Service Leaders</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>Connecting Canada’s provincial, territorial &amp; allied associations and external stakeholders for the advancement of public and fire-fighter safety</td>
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<td>Pillars</td>
<td>Governance</td>
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<td>Leadership Engagement &amp; Development</td>
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<td>Partner / Stakeholder Relationships</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
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#### Governance
- Engaged members
- Leverage NAC provinces, territories and partners
- Meetings locally
- Common messages
- Content expertise

#### Advocacy
- Trusted source
- Parliamentarians & government staff
- Non partisan - new party platforms

#### Engagement
- Enviro scanning
- Media monitoring
- Gov. submissions & standing committees

#### Relationships
- Trusted helpers
- Great partners
- Fruitful relationships

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3. Policy foci 2018*

- National Fire Advisor Secretariat and clarifying role of federal government.
- Addressing the mental health needs of first responders
- Clarifying fire service role in non traditional areas (opioids, etc.)
- Recruitment, labour code issues, and maintaining volunteer tax credit
- Research fund for the fire service and national fire incidence database
- Firefighter safety objective and applications to National Building Code
- Addressing issues related to transportation of dangerous goods
- Rail Safety & Highway fund for first responders (training/equipment)
- Strengthening (Heavy Urban) Search and Rescue
- Diversity and inclusion addressing culture and recruitment issues
- Critical Infrastructure, Science & Technology, and Interoperability

*Policy priorities will be actioned through either specific committees, initiatives or position papers drafted for comment by the membership*
I. Branding: Better promotion of the sector and the association (communications)

- Redefining Fire (Resolution): A brief/campaign developed by the membership for various audiences raising awareness of evolving role of fire departments (resolution).
- Dragon’s Den with industry: A forum through which members have the opportunity to hear about new science and technology that helps the fire service.
- Role of federal government: A position paper on the role of the federal government in the fire service which may advance movement towards a national fire advisor secretariat
- Diversity and inclusion: an initiative designed to increase diversity and understanding of diversity in both the sector and the association and to facilitate recruitment.

II. Creation of a response capability (Call to action)

- Advising government: A more formal and regularized approach to ensuring members are aware of and partake in government committees and consultations.
- Mapping of fire departments: Efforts to bring greater recognition and connectivity to each fire department particularly those in smaller communities
- National and International Best Practices Committees (Resolution): Creation of an international (and national) best practices committees to seek advice and new ideas
- Policy congress at Fire Rescue: Leveraging Fire Rescue Canada 2018 being in Ottawa, we will invite government departments to partake actively in a fire policy congress.
- HUSAR initiative (Resolution): Focusing on facilitating national and international deployment in the fire service.

III. Better products and communication of products

- Topics in Fire Series/Beyond Helmets and hoses: Webinars or seminars on policy or priority related issues
- Development of a roster of researchers in fire relevant areas
- Answer the Call 2.0: Mapping of fire departments/volunteer recruitment methods.
- National Fire Information Database (NFID) 2.0: Access to data from the NFID for policy and advocacy
Who you gonna call? The fire chiefs, naturally.
Photographs courtesy of Dave Chan

First chiefs from all the provinces in Atlantic Canada with Liberal MP Rodger Cuzner, House Speaker Ghett, and Ottawa hosted the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs on March 20 in Room 715-5 Centre Block.

Vancouver Fire Chief John McKeen, left, Liberal MP Raj Saini, and Calgary Deputy Fire Chief Ken McMullen.

Liberal MPs Helen Fry, left, New Westminster Fire Chief Tim Armstrong, Victoria Fire Chief Paul Bruce, and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May.

Revenue Minister Diane LeBlanc, left, Liberal MPs Hémi Massé and Denis Lemieux, and Gatineau Fire Chief Gary Barnes.
Day on the Hill

CAFC Government Relations Week 2017 - Chiefs on the Hill #chiefsonthehill
National Fire Advisor (ask)

E. Install a National Fire Advisor Secretariat to advise and coordinate fire-related issues

We are asking that a National Fire Advisor Secretariat be installed so that Government can modernize and coordinate national policy as it pertains to diverse federally relevant and fire related policy issues. For example:

- Wild fires, climate change, natural disasters, and environment related issues
- Mental Health needs of first responders
- Involvement in national health crises (opioids, pandemics, etc.)
- Labour Code, diversity, inclusion and resourcing issues
- Volunteer Firefighter tax credits, recognition of fallen firefighters and families.
- Research and sustainability of a national fire information database
- National Building Code (first responder safety objective and modernization)
- Transportation of dangerous goods, rail and highway safety
- Strengthening Heavy Urban Search and Rescue and its deployment
- Diversity and inclusion
- Cybersecurity and critical infrastructure etc.

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2. What’s needed?

A. Prevent and treat mental health issues in first responders

The federal government has recognized the need to address the mental health of first responders. However as longer-term efforts are put in place, we need interim measures:

1. Put the “Road to Mental Health Readiness Program” from the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) and DND in fire departments, free of charge, immediately to help prevent the development of mental health issues. Currently, MHCC makes this available on a cost recovery basis. This can be done for $2.5M

2. Implement the Mental Health Innovation Fund to fund innovations that expedite access to care for a larger number of Canadians, which will also help first responders. This is also the ask of 16 national health organizations making up the Canadian Alliance of Mental Health and Mental Illness in Mental Health Now! $100M
Mental Health (Response)

Ralph Goodale @RalphGoodale · Jan 25
"CIPSRT" @UofRegina gets $187K from GofC for work on @CanadianForces Road to Mental Readiness Program to help prevent+raise awareness of post-traumatic stress injuries. canada.ca/en/public-safe...

You Retweeted
Regina Fire @Regina_Fire · Mar 2
@RalphGoodale announces $30 million in funding over the next 5 years for research & therapy of PTSD injuries among public safety personnel.

CAFC/ACCP @CdnFireChiefs · Feb 28
Good job @CIPSRT_ICRTSP @RalphGoodale @ScienceMin for #Budget2018. CAFC is proud to be on CIPSRT. Look forward to helping with research to practice, scale and spread of R2MR and pilots. Hope NRC funds can help fire service with building code research. cafcmite-ym.com/news/388812/Fe ...
Diversity (Opportunity)

Fire Service Women @FSWOntario · Feb 14
Congratulations Chief Martens, we are with you and support your main focus!

CAFC/ACCP @CdnFireChiefs
"Diversity and inclusion within the fire service is my main focus," Fire Chief Keri Martens, first woman elected to CAFC's Board of Directors
cbc.ca/news/canada/ca ...
Diversity (Initiative)

Female Fire Chiefs and Company Officers Network of Canada

Calling All Female Fire Chiefs and Company Officers! (FFCN)

Because it’s 2018, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs is pleased to establish the Female Fire Chiefs and Company officers Network of Canada.
Evidence-based decision making for Canadian leaders in Fire Services

B. Fire service research fund to inform policy, practice and resource allocation

Research fund: We’re asking $50M/year for a fire research fund that would allow Canadian Fire Departments to inform our building code applications and evolve the National Fire Information Database. $50M
Welcome to the CAFC Fire Research Roster (FR2). Members of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs value the contributions of the research sector, from health, to natural sciences and engineering, to social sciences and humanities. In fact, we want to help and encourage your research. As such, the CAFC would like to know about Canadian Researchers, Post-Docs, and graduate students who are doing research in areas relevant to the fire service. In exchange, we hope to provide you with opportunities to disseminate knowledge, build knowledge to practice partnerships, and increase engagement in your research. You will find the instructions below. Thank you for participating!

Instructions: Please fill the form below and submit it for relevance and completeness review. An example of how a completed profile looks on the website is provided. Once you submit your form, we will contact you within 30 days of your submission to advise on the status. If you have any questions about how to complete the form or in the meantime, please contact Anabe Thierrien at atherrien@cafc.ca. Thank you!
C. Protect the Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit

The volunteer firefighter tax credit is not only a financial measure, it's a statement of valuation for volunteer firefighters. Even if each of the country's 200,000 firefighters claimed this credit it would cost the government less than the wages of 1000 full-time employees.
HUSAR (Ask)

D. Allow Canada’s Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Teams to train on the World Stage

We are asking the federal government to build up its HUSAR Task Forces so that they are qualified to deploy internationally and across provincial boundaries.

1. Canadian HUSAR teams are not presently qualified with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) which makes them ineligible for international deployment. International deployment is not only an issue of good international relations and reciprocity building for when we need help; it is also an important training opportunity given that catastrophic events are rare.

2. Canadian HUSAR teams do not have national deployment agreements in place as Forest Fire suppression teams do, which means that our HUSAR capacity is not agile even within Canada. This is a safety, efficiency and training issue.
## Committees and Groups

CAFC Committees and Working Groups

CAFC members play a vital role in the Association’s governance and policy through their involvement in committees and working groups. Committee members are subject matter experts, gather critical information, produce reports, and provide recommendations and guidance to CAFC’s Board of Directors and National Advisory Council for 2018.

In mid-February, the CAFC put out a call for committee members and its proposed slate of committees. What follows is the result of that call, which includes both new and existing committees:

### Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR)
This group will explore the merits of INSARAG accreditation and deployment issues and raise with Public Safety’s Search and Rescue Group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Position Paper</th>
<th>Staff Lead: External Consultant</th>
<th>Frequency: March, April, May, June, July, August</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members</strong></td>
<td><strong>Department</strong></td>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Darrell Reid</td>
<td>Vancouver Fire &amp; Rescue Services</td>
<td>Vancouver, BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Rigg</td>
<td>Toronto Fire Services</td>
<td>Toronto, ON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Henry</td>
<td>Calgary Emergency Management Agency</td>
<td>Calgary, AB</td>
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<td>TBC</td>
<td>Manitoba Search and Rescue - CAN/TF4</td>
<td>MB</td>
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**Answer the call: Re-energizes program and advances volunteer recruitment ideas.**

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<th>Staff Lead: Tina, Vivvy</th>
<th>Frequency: TBC (Availability of Chair)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
<td><strong>Department</strong></td>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vince MacKean (Chair)</td>
<td>Grand Falls Windsor Fire Dept.</td>
<td>Grand Falls Windsor, NL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karl Martens</td>
<td>Camrose Fire Rescue</td>
<td>Camrose, AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob Evans</td>
<td>Redwood Meadows Emergency Services</td>
<td>Redwood Meadows, AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Krich</td>
<td>City of Camrose Fire Department</td>
<td>Camrose, AB</td>
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### Evolving role of (Redefining) Fire Dept.
This group will lead an initiative to help describe the new and emerging roles of Canadian fire departments.

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<td>Broderick Moore</td>
<td>City of Leduc Fire Services</td>
<td>Leduc, AB</td>
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<td>Karl Martens</td>
<td>Camrose Fire Rescue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad Cooper</td>
<td>The City Of FilmFab</td>
<td>FilmFab, MB</td>
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<tr>
<td>John T. Feige</td>
<td>Halton Hills Fire Department</td>
<td>Halton Hills, ON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Boyle</td>
<td>Kneehaven Valley Fire Department</td>
<td>Rochester, NB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Dierig</td>
<td>Cornwall Fire Services</td>
<td>Cornwall, ON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ibor Pokuscinsky</td>
<td>Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service</td>
<td>Winnipeg, MB</td>
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**Building Codes**
This group will respond to government consultations, propose changes, and deal with all issues related to building codes, testing with TBC.

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<th>Frequency: Monthly</th>
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Opportunity for Collaboration?

• Research and innovation?
• Science and technology?
• International Best Practices Committee?
• Raising the bar by pointing to other practices?
• Implementation of new NFPA standards?
• Come Join Us....Fire Rescue Canada 2018!
  ....Our Door is Always Open
Standing Up & Standing Out
for Canada’s fire services in Ottawa

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