



Big countries; small world
Getting to know us a little better...

Chief Ken Block
President, CAFC

About the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs

About Us

Founded in 1909, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) is an independent, non-profit organization representing approximately 3,500 fire departments across Canada.

The primary mission of CAFC is to promote the highest standard of public safety in an ever changing and increasingly complex world to ensure the protection of the public through leadership, advocacy and active collaboration with key stakeholders.



About the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs



Vision

Uniting Canada's fire service leaders



Mission

Connecting Canada's provincial, territorial & allied associations and external stakeholders for the advancement of public and fire fighter safety



Pillars

- Governance
- Leader Engagement & Development
- Partner/Stakeholder Relationships
- Advocacy



About the Canadian Context...

1. We have ~153,000 firefighters and 3,800 fire departments; 80% volunteer
2. Most fire services report municipally; federal government impacts fire service
3. Fire sector responds to building, social and technological innovation
4. Fire service role is changing – lower number of structural fires to all hazards
5. Increased professionalization – regulations, certifications etc.
6. Presumptive illnesses and line of duty deaths
7. Recruitment, diversity & inclusion
8. Extreme weather conditions – wildfires, tornadoes, floods
9. Public support and confidence in fire service high
10. Indigenous Fire Marshall's Office in development



The Canadian Context...
Federal election

**Election 2019 – Thinking About Fire
in Your Riding?**

Ten Tips from the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs



*Justin Trudeau, Liberal Party of Canada /
Parti libéral du Canada*



*Andrew Scheer, Conservative Party of Canada /
Parti conservateur du Canada*



*Jagmeet Singh, New Democratic Party of
Canada / Nouveau Parti démocratique du
Canada*



*Elizabeth May, Green Party of Canada /
Parti vert du Canada*

It never hurts to ask...

A Look Back at CAFC's Government Relations Week



Fire Chiefs on the Hill 2018



Does it help?...yes, sometimes

4. Canada's MPs and Officials are Getting it Right! Successes...

- Support of Indigenous Fire Marshalls Office (see attached)
- Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit
- Fire Service Representation on Building Codes Commission*
- Memorial Grant Program*; Proclamation of National Fall Firefighter Day
- Funding for CIHR-CIPSRT Research Consortium on 1st Responder Mental Health*
- Stable ongoing funding for HUSAR teams; INSARAG exploration
- Temporary National Coordinating Office for Interoperability*
- Initiating free R2MR training*

**CAFC is/is willing to assist in next steps*



Government led policy/projects – CAFC responds

1. Wildfire Urban Interface Education
2. Public Safety Broadband Network
3. Critical Infrastructure
4. Transportation of Dangerous Goods/HAZMAT
5. Memorial Grant Program
6. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/Strategic Mental Health Funds
7. HAZMAT/Dangerous Goods
8. Search and Rescue/HUSAR
9. Status of Women and Gender Equality
10. Coast Guard



Other internal policy priorities-projects

1. Describing the evolving role of fire departments
2. Understanding and preventing suicide
3. Diversity and inclusion
4. Monitoring the implications of building and social innovations
5. Closing the knowledge to practice gap, best practices, etc.
6. Maintaining volunteer departments/philanthropy readiness
7. US Fire Administration/FEMA type structure



And if we could only do 3 things...

1. Find immediate ways to reduce mental health injuries

- Tragic and absolutely unacceptable rate of suicide
- Long term efforts are great, but what to do until then
- Will even explore in house solutions if we need to

2. Fire Safety Objective in the Code

- This would change many clauses in the building and fire codes
- **Sprinklers** (myth-busting and teambuilding), Floor Joists, Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction
- Cannabis etc.

3. Stable, predictable (human and financial) resourcing

- Volunteer firefighter recruitment
- Diversity and inclusion
- For the Association as well



CAFC Programs & Initiatives

Programs

Events

Membership

Partners

C

Women Fire Chiefs and Company Officers Network

CAFC Fire Research Roster

The Canadian Fire Chief Magazine

National Fire Information Database

Executive Chief Fire Officer Program ▶

Answer the Call

Beyond Hoses and Helmets

Fire Chief of the Year Award ▶

Fire Press Friday ▶

CAFC TV



Planning for 2020 +

- Strategic planning refresh for the CAFC
- Succession planning for the sector/association
- Consistent data linking operations to planning
- Training of company officers ECFO ‘candidates’
- Continued focus on key policy priorities/projects
- Establishing a “council of advisors”
- Educating new elected officials
- Focus on low Carbon Economy/Climate Change
- Possibility of FEMA-US Fire Admin for Canada



You're always invited...Fire Rescue Canada

SEPTEMBER 13-16, 2020
LE WESTIN MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC



**FIRE-RESCUE
SECOURS-INCENDIE
CANADA**

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

CONFÉRENCE ANNUELLE D'ÉDUCATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES CHEFS DE POMPIERS



Happy to be with you
Hope to see you in Canada
Thank you...