



## Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Industry Committee Meeting Minutes

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*The Ontario Association of Fire Chief's mission is to lead innovation and excellence in public and life safety. Our vision is to inspire and influence a safer Ontario.*

*DEI vision: That every fire department in Ontario is equitable, inclusive, and reflects the diversity of the community they serve.*

**Monday, February 27, 2023 @ 12:00**

### Teams Meeting

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19:F6QcVrOvsbW6BO6JFUVj3nCCKsFgH-1AygWH7YrXbA41@thread.tacv2/1644546126229?context=%7B%22Tid%22:%2276ae1115-1efc-4af2-a536-e2b2443af1a0%22,%22Oid%22:%22121531ae-d656-4315-b085-2447823b64e3%22%7D>

**Attendees:** Emily Patten, Rosanne Kalenuik, Todd Finnie, Trevor Picard, Stephen Welton, Steve Rittenhouse, Dan Stone, John Donovan, Don Kruger, Jeremy Inglis, and Karthik Swaminathan

**Regrets:** Dave Dawson, Robert Anselmi, Anthony De Angelis, Pino Natale, and Brent Thomas

**Minute Taker:** Karthik Swaminathan

1. Chair's Welcome
  - The Chair thanked everyone for attending the first Industry Committee meeting of the year and thanked them for their time.
  - The Chair also welcomed John Donovan and asked him to introduce himself.
  - The Chair proceeded to share an overview of future meetings.
2. Agenda Additions
  - None
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
  - None
4. Terms of Reference Review
  - The Chair prompted the committee to share if they had anything to discuss following their review of the Terms of Reference.
  - The Chair also shared that he had been receiving good feedback for the information bulletins that had been sent out earlier.
5. Trade Show and Conference
  - OAFIC Staff shared an update regarding the 2023 OAFIC Conference and Trade Show.
  - The Chair shared some information about the planned Queen's Park Advocacy Day.
  - The Chair also added that Katherine Lamb would be conducting a workshop.

Steve Rittenhouse leaves the meeting at this point (12:10 pm)



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### 6. Market Conditions Update

- John Donovan shared that there were frequent changes and a lot of factors were affecting orders; water rescues are bad right now.
- Dan Stone agreed with the observation and shared that the difficult part for manufacturers was to decide whether to do multiple, small price increases over the course of the year, or do one big price increase at the end of the year.
- The Chair recommended that departments ought to be given more tools to help budgeting.
- Dan Stone asked if there had been any thought given to PMI.
- Rosanne Kalenuik shared that as a lot of items were manufactured in USA, the currency exchange rate was affecting companies and departments alike.
- Todd Finnie shared there was a similar difficulty being experienced with regards to vehicle orders; there were long delivery times (up to 2 years) too.
- The Chair agreed that long wait times were making it hard for Councils to approve budgets, especially when prices were not firm.
- Emily Patten noted that price increases were almost 6-12% every quarter and that the 2024 data book was not open yet; long lead times were making it difficult.
- Rosanne Kalenuik added that customers are not happy and that the days of \$2,000 bunker gear were long gone; also agreed that having one price change a year would work better.
- Trevor Picard was in agreement and shared that while he was beginning to see some easing in price pressure, the sudden increase in cost was affecting all stakeholders.
- The Chair said that amidst other challenges, it was good to see electronic components back in supply.
- Chief Kruger shared that costs increases were affecting everyone and not just the fire service and associated industries.
- Deputy Welton noted that customizations were taking longer and slowing things down; his department was yet to receive orders made in 2020.
- Todd Finnie asked how high costs could be justified if politicians/Council were to ask.
- The Chair agreed with the sentiment and urged the departments to advocate at the provincial and federal levels.
- The Chair recommended Chief Kruger and Deputy Welton to apply for funding opportunities and meet with members in their respective councils.

### 7. Meeting Schedule for 2023

- The Chair suggested meetings in March, April, May (after the Conference and Trade Show), September, and October.
- It was agreed to persist with Monday meetings at noon.

**Action Item:** Jeremy Inglis to circulate minutes and send out next meeting invitation.

### 8. Roundtable



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- Deputy Welton offered to share the lessons his department had learned after changed out of PFAS.

**Action Item:** Stephen Walton to share information for the committee to review.

- The Chair updated that many departments were evaluating their foams and that there were lots of questions on PFAS and bunker gear.
- Dan Stone shared that insurance companies were giving everyone 7 to 10 days to switch to a different foam.
- The Chair acknowledged that there was a lot of foam that would need to be disposed of and that it would be a challenge.

### 9. Adjournment

- The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:46 pm.