



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Zone 1A Meeting Minutes

In-person – Strathroy Caradoc Fire Department
Wednesday, February 21, 2018
10:00am

Participants:

Department	Name
Ingersoll	John Holmes
Woodstock	Jeff Slager
Kerwood	Dan Parker
Zorra	John MacFarlane
South West Oxford	Jeff VanRybroeck
Norwich	Paul Groeneveld
Adelaide Metcalfe Kerwood	Arend Noorddof
Strathroy Caradoc	Jap DeVoest
Brooke	Jeff McArthur
Lambton Shores	Lawrence Swift
Sarnia Fire	John Kingyens
Thames Centre	Randy Kalan
Strathroy Caradoc	Brian George
Lucan Biddulph	Ron DeBrouwer
North Middlesex	Will Davidson
Essex – OAFCA rep	Rick Arnel
Tillsonburg	Jeff Smith
Warwick	Brad Goodhill
Plympton Wyoming	Steve Clemens
St Clair	Steve Bicum
St Clair – PAC 1A chair	Walt Anderson

Guests: Laura Leitch – Middlesex Communications Centre

Minute Taker: Steve Bicum

1. **Welcome** – Chief Brian George welcomed the group to Strathroy, and PAC 1A Leader, Chief Walt Anderson, welcome the group to the meeting.
2. **Introductions** – Attendees were introduced.
3. **Additions to the Agenda** – None
4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** – None



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5. OAFC Update (Executive Vice President, Chief Rick Arnel) –

- OAFC's briefing note on the draft regulations were reviewed. The Technical Table, which provided input into the draft regulations, was comprised of members from the OAFC, FFAO, OPFFA, Toronto Fire and AMO.
- It was discussed that chiefs should have established costs for training based on draft regulations, in order to advocate for funding.
- It was announced that the OAFC's spring conference would be opening soon.
- There was a complaint that PAC meeting minutes take a long time to post for the membership.
 - **POINT OF CLARIFICATION:** The PAC approval process for meeting minutes is expedited, specifically to ensure vital information is disseminated to the membership in a timely fashion. Where all other OAFC committees (consistent with processes used in most not-for-profit associations) waits until the next meeting to approve meeting minutes, the PAC uses a maximum two-week process where minutes are prepared within three days of a meeting occurring, chairs have three days to review, and committee members have five days to review. Comments and approval are sent via email. Also, PAC Leaders are permitted to deliver verbal updates from committee meetings to their zone members, in advance of the meeting minutes being finalized and posted on the OAFC website.

6. New Business – Roundtable Discussion

- **Draft Regulation on Public Reporting**
 - It was noted that regulation is open for comment until March 18, which is a short period.
 - It was noted that Section 2.2 of this draft regulation reports that one volunteer in-scene stops the clock, but it should be on apparatus with sufficient crew. NFPA 1720 lays out personnel and tasks, rather than time, which is more appropriate for volunteer departments.
 - **POINT OF CLARIFICATION:** Note that the draft MCSCS regulation on public reporting does not expressly mention NFPA 1710, nor 1720.
- **Draft Regulation on Mandatory Firefighter Training and Certification**
 - It was noted that this draft regulation is open for public comment until March 1.
 - There was agreement that certification is a positive thing, but recognition of challenges to meet prerequisites for certification.
 - The group shared that many were unable to secure grandfathering statistics from the OFMEM.
 - It was noted that the word "predominant" was removed from the regulation, based on the previous version shared with the OAFC membership at the Midterm 2017 meeting. This could mean that volunteers without assigned jobs would need to certify to NFPA standards that apply.



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- It was agreed that the government must understand how the proposed regulation could degrade the volunteer fire service, lowering levels of service currently offered by departments. There was a push for extended timelines for implementation.
- There is feeling that OFMEM thinks there should be no issue with getting programs and training in place, but little information on these programs has been made available.
- There was support expressed for grandfathering to be re-opened, with support from OFMEM and Pro-Board.
- There was worry that since budgets have already been approved for 2018, securing funding to train staff to proposed regulation will be difficult.
- It was noted that the OAFB is asking every chief to comment on the draft regulations. The Zone members agreed that these key messages also be included:
 - We support certification.
 - We want to maintain present level of service.
 - Some departments may not be able to support their present level of specialty rescue.
 - We will have issues with getting supervisory staff (officers) certified, leading to lack of supervisors in departments.
 - The lack of recognition of previous training and experience would mean that staff will have to start training from beginning. This would be an undue burden on personnel and departments.
 - Training program deemed equivalent by OFMEM are now not being recognized.
 - The province has a diverse fire service.
 - There has been no path or direction given for certification of existing officers that have been told they need certification.
 - There are not enough courses for certification available, and in some cases, none exist.
 - Departments need sufficient time to achieve and accommodate training.
 - There should be a different compliance schedule for career and volunteer.
 - Grandfathering needs to be re-opened.
 - OFMEM needs to give options on how departments can meet regulation i.e. go from compliance to certified
 - There needs to be funding assistance.
 - We need official interpretation of the regulation, Transition 4. Are the people identified under this point exempt from Table 1, Mandatory Certification, Item 1-5?
 - We need to understand OFMEM's vision of the intern program.
- **MTO Invoicing on 400 Series –**
 - Departments experiencing difficulty, so going straight to insurance company, not MTO.
 - It was noted that departments should keep track of no-service calls.



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- **ACTION ITEM:** Ask for update to be provided by OAFCA Program Manager, Brad Bigrigg.

7. **Next Meeting** – Chair will schedule before the May Conference

8. **Adjournment** –

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.