



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee Minutes

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs 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.

Thursday, September 9, 2021 @ 10:00am via Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98573194239?pwd=TEtKemZENmZGcVR5eGNtd016MUJoQT09>

Meeting ID: 985 7319 4239

Passcode: 080399

Attendees: Blair Arthur, Kent Readman, Bill Hunter, Pascal Meunier, Todd Binkley, Brian Van Gaver, Ellard Beaven, Mike Cavanagh, Jeff Kirk, Kris Newton, Graham Warburton, Michelle O'Hara

Regrets: Nancy MacDonald-Duncan, Owen Cranney, Jeremy Parkin, Bruce Montone, Mike Givens, Ryan Murrell, Paul Hutt

Minute Taker: Mark Tishman

1. Welcome

- The Executive Director welcomed everyone and started off the meeting with a demonstration of the O AFC Trade Show. Anyone in the fire service can attend the trade show and there are a few complimentary passes left.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

- None

3. Agenda Additions

- None

4. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the November 12, 2020 and June 7, 2021 meeting minutes as written.

Moved By: Jeff Kirk

Seconded By: Blair Arthur

Carried

5. Mandatory Vaccinations

- One northern fire protection team apparently is 0% vaccinated and have no intention of getting vaccinated. They're employees of the government and if the OFMEM comes in with a policy, and they continue to refuse, that could leave a 200km stretch near Thunder Bay uncovered.
- The O AFC is aware of a department and will be speaking to the deputy fire marshal.



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- Has the O AFC been in conversation with OFMEM about vaccinations? It is a bit upsetting that OFMEM has been quiet on this. We all lobbied to be lumped in with health care providers and now the OFMEM has been quiet and leaving it up to municipalities. OPFFA has their position, but it seems the municipalities are being left alone.
- The O AFC did ask the OFMEM about this and was supposed to get an answer last week, but we never did. They're more interested in our position. The NFPP are provincial employees so it's an interesting point. It is hard for OFMEM to get a communication out due to the politics behind it. We haven't seen OPFFA's position.
- Timmins council mandates masks, and we support that. Full time is 100% vaccinated, and volunteers around 70%. We have modified TRA so only career firefighters respond.
- The employer is responsible for the health and safety of its employees. It would be difficult for O AFC to not support vaccines after we pushed to get firefighters into Phase 1, and priority testing, etc. There will be medical and human rights exemptions, but some are pretty strong. UHN is vaccinated; and the employees get two more weeks to get vaccinated or get fired. We want a mandatory policy. The employer can force the vaccine.
- A committee member commented that the local EMS gave a date to be double vaccinated. If not vaccinated, the employee will be put on administrative leave.
- Another committee member stated that the municipality is using Siskins legal briefs as their policy. Does Hicks Morley have a sample policy to compare?
- The O AFC did ask. We're trying to get policies to share with our members.

6. Provincial Advisory Committee – 2021 Goals and Objectives

- Nothing more has been done to the Urban Committee TRA document since the original document agreements were created. Next meeting has not been scheduled as they took the summer off.
- The O AFC needs to work on the 12-year medals with Chief Hunter. We've done a bit of the backend work.

Action item: Laura Aivaliotis to schedule a meeting with Chief Hunter, Michelle O'Hara and Mark Tishman for the 12-year medal of merit award.

7. Roundtable

- PAC 8
 - Appreciates the member information requests the O AFC office sends out.
- PAC 9B
 - First responders' illnesses and deaths (fire engineering). How are first responders outside of health care managing with COVID? Is someone tracking this?
 - Since the length of the restricted fire zones lasted for so long, we found that we received a lot of phone calls about small bon fires. We met with MNR and the mayors in the area and worked together to create a 310-fire phone number to submit complaints for people building fires in a restricted fire zone (basically a snitch line). This worked well as MNR shifted their working schedules based on the calls received by that 310-fire phone number.



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- PAC 1A
 - Pretty quiet here. Would like to share the Trade Show demo with the members.
- PAC 3C
 - Winding down the fire service review and expect it next month. It seems like they didn't find a lot of efficiencies in the county of Simcoe which was no surprise. Will present next PAC 3C meeting on October 12.
- Graham Warburton joined the meeting.
- PAC 2
 - Nothing to report.
- PAC 6
 - There is one chief in the area who raised the issue of the government giving grants to purchase electrical vehicles and the charging stations, but no money for training for the fire department about how to handle a fire of an electrical vehicle.
 - Brought up the Elliot Lake pumper issue. The 2018 pumper is defective and there have been issues with getting parts. It has been parked for 2 months and the wait for parts is 19 weeks. They may have to now purchase a new truck. We're having same issue with our spartan truck too. Has spoken to CAFCA about this.
 - PAC 9B - Is the issue defective fluid sensors? Has two trucks affected by it. One firefighter in our department had connections. We were barely able to keep it running, until we received a part from Vegas and got lucky. Currently lobbying the EPA since there are fleets being parked right now. They have an approved format to eliminate the component of the defect.
 - OAFCA – The bigger piece is to find out how many more this affects. Other industries are likely affected. The scale of impact dictates the response. We will reach out to FEMSA/FEMA to see if they have resources to help. If this affects more people, then the premise of the exemption is stronger.
 - PAC 8 – Our 2019 custom spartan is going back to Toronto because of a corrosion issue (pump failure). It has been in the shop 7 times. It was a demo, and it is still under warrantee, but we have spent \$70k of mechanical time trying to get this one the road. We are getting an old 1998 replacement for the interim.

Action item: Michelle O'Hara to reach out to FEMSA

- Pascal Meunier left the meeting.
- PAC 10A
 - Restricted fire zone lifted after 2 months. Lot of wildfires and evacuations. We will be having a PAC meeting in October too.
- Bryan Van Gaver left the meeting
- PAC 5
 - We are looking to plan a fall meeting.
- Jeff Kirk left the meeting.
- PAC 10B
 - Keeping in touch about forest fires. Also looking at fall PAC/mutual aid meeting combined.



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- OAFIC is working with Graham Warburton on the solar book, which will include a battery update. This may help with electric vehicle fires.
- PAC 9B
 - Ongoing MTO saga. Southern Ontario is booking appointments in Thunder Bay to get their DZ licenses. Trying to book road tests which takes 4 hours online or on the phone. I have staff going outside of our district for licensing.
- PAC 10B
 - Completed a course to allow us issuing licenses to fire fighters. The package can now recertify but not upgrade the same class (like a D rewrite). One caveat to the program is that the 'Z' endorsement can only be done through the 'Z' endorsement program, but the opportunity is there to upgrade with a 10-day 'Z' course to train the trainer.
- OAFIC
 - The OAFIC SA Fleet Authority course has been approved, but still waiting for paperwork. Now waiting on DCP approval. Those wanting to be a SA have to take a 2-day course. Our course will let you work with other SA in our program. It's been slow moving, but our fleet signing course is done, and we need fleet signing teachers now. The second part is the Driver Certification Program which members can take to get their license using the OAFIC curriculum that is MTO approved. OAFIC would have to approve the testing route and be part of the auditing process, but as long as you do our program, you don't need an MOU or bylaw and that would mitigate going to Service Ontario. Working on the 'Z' endorsement aspect and air brake too. Not sure we can do a train the trainer but looking into that. SA is approximately a 20 hour course and the DCP is about a 30 hour course, but this will help with the Service Ontario backlog.
 - Our Board of Directors is currently working on OAFIC's strategic plan.
 - The NG 9-1-1 working group is actively working on a briefing note.
 - We are putting more labour relations information on the OAFIC website such as awards, and soon to add CBA's. We are working with OMHRA on LRIS, but they shut it down for upgrades. Not sure we're going to continue with them.
 - The training task force is moving ahead with their work and their report should be going to the Board shortly.
 - FPPE Committee is working on 1031/1035 and the Large Urban Committee is still working on the 1006.
 - There will be a business session at the OAFIC conference with likely some changes to how we deal with Board vacancies, voting the Executive directly, better defining 'member in good standing' (we've had individuals and companies who don't meet our standards, trying to become members) and that will be presented at the AGM.
 - AGM will be similar to last year.
 - First in-person event is likely Labour Relations Seminar. Planning in-person for 2022 if we can.
- PAC 3A
 - Shared peer support training locally. Not hearing a lot from the local area these days.
 - Public works may be able to help with the essential equipment being out of service.
 - Issues with MTO billing and invoicing. The new system sent payment with no information to our finance department which caused a headache. The lack of information had caused extra work.



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Next meeting – November 10, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am. Seconded by Todd Binkley