

April 9, 2025

Your Worship, Municipal Councillors, Fire Chiefs, and Fellow Firefighters,

Good evening. It is both an honor and a privilege to stand before you and represent the membership of the Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Services. Tonight, I bring you warm greetings from our dedicated team and take this opportunity to shine a light on the impactful work we've accomplished together, as well as the initiatives that continue to shape our future.

As we navigate the evolving demands of fire and emergency services, it's important to acknowledge the collective efforts that make our work possible—the collaboration, determination, and shared commitment to the safety and well-being of our communities. Together, we are not only meeting challenges but building a stronger foundation for years to come.

Let's take a closer look at the milestones we've achieved and the exciting plans on the horizon.

## Updates on Key Initiatives

1. **Modernizing Bylaws** We are proud to be in the final stages of approving updated bylaws for the Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Services (LRFES). This nearly two-year effort has been led by the executive team to ensure that our bylaws align with today's standards. These updates include the development of a mission statement and a collaborative code of conduct, created in partnership with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) and the Fire and Emergency Services Committee (FESC). These guiding principles will help shape our service for years to come.
2. **Advancing Training Programs** The LRFES training committee has been diligently running Level 1 training programs, with significant success over the past two years. To date, we have successfully trained 40 firefighters, with 17 currently enrolled in this year's program. These initiatives aim to equip our firefighters with the necessary skills for both attainment and certification, further professionalizing our service.
3. **Empowering the Next Generation** Investing in our youth is critical as we adapt to changing demographics within our fire service. The annual Junior Firefighter Training Day, scheduled for late May, continues to thrive. Around 50 young participants, aged 13 to 19, engage in training scenarios, network with peers, and learn about the fire service. These programs not only develop future firefighters but also inspire a new generation of community leaders.
4. **Fostering Inclusion** To support and celebrate diversity, LRFES sponsors an annual Female Firefighter Networking Day. This year's event is set for early fall in Lunenburg and will feature wellness seminars, firefighter training, and opportunities for camaraderie. Last year, this event drew a large number of attendees, and we anticipate another sell-out this year as it grows in popularity and importance.
5. **Innovative Strategic Initiatives** We are working on several strategies to enhance both operational efficiency and leadership capabilities. One initiative is a standardized truck

numbering system, initially developed in Kings County, which is being adopted by several departments. This system simplifies apparatus identification—for example, “Northfield #2” would become “Northfield 11,” signaling an engine. Another initiative is the creation of a “tanker task force” to ensure quick and effective deployment of high-capacity tankers in rural areas, where hydrant systems are unavailable. These forward-thinking strategies will significantly streamline fireground operations.

6. **Collaborative Training Opportunities** To strengthen unity and skills across departments, we are exploring the idea of hosting a training day or symposium weekend. This would provide an opportunity for members from various departments to train together, promoting consistency in training standards and familiarity with each other’s equipment. Additionally, we aim to bring in guest speakers from across Canada and the United States to share their expertise and enrich our knowledge base.
7. **Enhancing Communication Through Technology** In line with recommendations from the MODL draft discussion paper, we are working on developing a comprehensive website to serve as a central resource for all LRFES members. This platform will feature a shared calendar of events, training schedules, downloadable forms and documents, and an efficient communication conduit to ensure timely information sharing across all departments.

In closing, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the MODL staff—Chris and Alex, in particular—the FESC committee, and the dedicated membership of the Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Services. It’s through this remarkable collaboration that we’ve been able to achieve so much and lay the groundwork for an even brighter future. Our fire service is evolving to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. With shifts in family dynamics, increasing demands from industries, and growing requests for service, we face a landscape that requires us to innovate, adapt, and work more closely than ever before. But together, I have no doubt we will rise to these challenges.

As we continue to embrace change and strengthen our shared commitment to the safety and well-being of our communities, I am confident that the Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Services will remain a vital, professional, and highly respected organization for years to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in our mission. Together, we will ensure a safer, stronger future for all.

Chris Dares, President  
Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Services