

Fire & Emergency Services Committee Meeting AGENDA

Thursday, May 1st, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Election of Officers – Chair & Vice Chair
3. Approval of Agenda (as circulated)
4. Approval of Notes
5. Business Arising from Minutes
 - 5.1 Cumberland Governance Issue
 - 5.1.1 Code of Conduct for officers/members 2
 - 5.1.2 Class 3 Driver Requirements..... 3
 - 5.2 Insurance Update
6. L.R.F.E.S. Report
7. New Business
 - 7.1 Ministers’ Letter – Fire Services Review 4-5
 - 7.2 Governance – Oakland & Clearland 6
8. Added Items
9. In Camera
10. Adjournment

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Memorandum

To: Fire & Emergency Services Committee Members
From: Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator
Date: May 1, 2025
Re: Code of Conduct Breach by Chief Officer

Information

There was an incident involving a volunteer fire department in a county in Nova Scotia that resulted in the fatality at an off-road vehicle collision scene where the fire chief was the driver of the responding apparatus involved.

There were several events that led up to this decision by council. The result being the fire chief was removed from his duties as fire chief and banned from fire department property by council of that municipality, the decision to act on this incident was not taken lightly.

There have been several discussions regarding possible code of conduct breach by a chief officer and that a mechanism needs to be in place for our municipality to step in if a given fire department is unable or unwilling to decide on an outcome. This topic was discussed at Lunenburg Regional Fire Emergency Services meetings, it was brought up at a Fire & Emergency Services meeting and at the Annual General Meeting with fire services leadership, Mayor, councillors and the FESC members present.

MODL council asked for the FESC to have a discussion on this issue and recommendation(s) to be forwarded to council for further discussion.

Fire & Emergency Services Committee
Date: May 1, 2025
Item: 5.1.2
Authorization: Alex Dumaresq



Memorandum

To: Fire & Emergency Services Committee
From: Chris Kennedy, Fire services Coordinator
Date: May 1, 2025
Re: Driver Training & Class 3 Licencing

Introduction

The Training Strategy had a topic around class 3 drivers licensing for volunteer fire fighters which has been a long-standing issue in the province of Nova Scotia for as long as memory serves. The ability to drive an apparatus with a class 5 license with air brake endorsement being at the head of the discussions. Versus have a class 3 licensing standard across the board for anyone driving apparatus over the 14,000 kg with air brakes. Many of fire departments have the class 3 license as a standard practice currently.

There are also cases where a firefighter at any level could be driving without a valid driver's license responding to calls and how can we address that.

Is there a process we can develop to aid fire departments with this training and cost for achieving drivers of apparatus with the class 3 endorsement and examiners to carry out the driver examinations in a timely manner.



**Emergency Management
Office of the Minister**

Duke Tower, 5251 Duke Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 1P3 • Telephone 902-424-5620 • Minister.EmergencyManagement@novascotia.ca

April 17, 2025

VIA EMAIL

To: Mayors, CAOs and Wardens

Re: Fire Services Review

The Departments of Emergency Management and Municipal Affairs greatly value the essential role fire services play in ensuring the safety of Nova Scotians during emergencies across the province. Firefighters put their lives at risk every day to protect our communities, and we are deeply grateful for their unwavering dedication.

The Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia is conducting a comprehensive governance review of fire services in Nova Scotia. This review will focus on ensuring best practices are in place and that our firefighters are fully supported and protected. Key areas of examination will include governance, operations, communications, interoperability, human resources, mental health supports, training, equipment, facilities, fire dispatch, and funding.

We recognize that previous reviews have been conducted. However, this governance review will build upon those efforts and consider the growing impact of climate change on the frequency and severity of weather events such as floods, wildfires, and hurricanes. It is vital that the governance of fire services evolves to address these new challenges, ensuring that we are fully prepared for unprecedented weather events.

Your input is a critical part of this process. We strongly encourage municipalities to participate in the governance review and provide your valuable feedback. By working together, we can create a stronger, more resilient, and responsive fire service for Nova Scotia.

Additionally, we would like to take a moment to address a common concern regarding the Nova Scotia Guard. The Guard is designed to complement existing resources in the province, not to replace them. We are committed to ensuring that firefighters who volunteer for the Nova Scotia Guard will not be deployed outside their communities in ways that could leave their fire departments understaffed. Members will be deployed based on their availability, ensuring they can continue serving their local communities.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to the safety of Nova Scotians. We look forward to collaborating with you in this important initiative and working together to strengthen fire services across the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Masland".

Minister Kim Masland

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Lohr".

Minister John Lohr



Memorandum

To: Fire & Emergency Services Committee
From: Chris Kennedy, Fire services Coordinator
Date: May 1, 2025
Re: Governance Concerns for the Communities of Oakland and Clearland

Introduction

Fire & Emergency Service are continuously evolving and adapting to changing environments. The cost associated with all aspects of these roles and the increasing complexity of training and the soaring cost of PPE, equipment and apparatus.

Communities are protected by local area volunteer fire departments with a tax rate levied for operations and capital expenditures and register annually with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) for services provided.

There are two communities that have Fire Commissions under provincial legislation to provide Fire & Emergency Services. These communities do not have their own fire department to respond so they contract services from a bordering town Fire Department for these essential services. Districts 1 & 2 receive such service from the Lunenburg & District Fire Department and Maders Cove Fire Commission receives their service from the Mahone Bay & District Fire Department.

It was brought to the attention of Municipal staff by a concerned resident and the district's councillor that there is an area where Governance appears to be missing as there is no body incorporated who they can speak to directly. The communities of Oakland and Clearland that border the town of Mahone Bay, and receive their fire and emergency services from the Town of Mahone Bay & District Fire Department. The tax rate is set by the town who receives the funding for fire and emergency services offered in these communities by MODL. These residents have raised concerns they have no recourse when it comes to addressing any concerns or questions around tax rates and how they interact with town council with concerns. Staff have identified this issue to be reviewed after the driver training, code of conduct and training strategy are addressed.

The FESC has been asked to discuss this issue and make a recommendation to MODL council at that time.