

April 8, 2026

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

Good evening. It gives me great pleasure to bring you greetings from the members of LRFES.

Updates on Key Initiatives

1. **Modernizing Bylaws** Our By-Laws have been completed and adopted by the membership. This has been a several year project by Executive to ensure the By-Laws are up to date.
2. **Advancing Training Programs** The LRFES training committee has been diligently running Level 1 training programs, with significant success over the past three years. To date, we have successfully trained several firefighters to the Level 1 attainment level. 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. The event was held last year in Lunenburg and featured wellness seminars, firefighter training, and opportunities for camaraderie.
5. **Innovative Strategic Initiatives** Our Strategic Initiatives Committee has been extremely busy with the development of Bill 186. The focus of the year was centred around this bill and ensuring that our voices through LRFES to FSANS and Government has been heard.
6. **Website** Our new website is now up and running. This will provide our members access to various documents including OG's, by-laws, upcoming training and announcements in real time. This is a further step to ensure transparency, and also to keep all members informed of happenings with LRFES.
7. **President** It is with mixed feelings that I announce that I will not be re-offering for the position of President of LRFES next year. The reason for this is to provide more of a focus on my career and my family. Thank you to all including Municipal Councillors and staff, members of LRFES and to our Executive for the support throughout the years of my tenure.

Chris Dares, President

Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Services