



PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT May 2019

Another active and interesting year has passed since we last met in Victoria.

Association

We welcomed several new members to our Board at the 2018 AGM. Fire Chief Bruce Green (Oyster River) was elected as Zone 1 Deputy Director for a two-year term, Fire Chief Mike Adams (Kamloops) was elected as Zone 3 Deputy Director for a two-year term, and Fire Chief Sylvain Gauthier (Quesnel) was acclaimed to the position of Zone 5 Deputy Director for a one-year term. Sadly, our past Industrial Director, Don Delcourt, passed away this year. Don was a great supporter of the FCABC and worked tirelessly to improve firefighter safety in the province. He will be greatly missed.

1st Vice President Fire Chief Don Jolley (Pitt Meadows) announced his retirement this year. 2nd Vice President Fire Chief Rob Krause (Burns Lake) stepped up to fill that role, with Zone 4 Director Regional Fire Chief Dan Derby (Trail) stepping into the 2nd Vice President role. Zone 4 Deputy Director Fire Chief Dale Heriot (Grand Forks) took on the role of Zone 4 Director.

Under the pillar of member services, we were pleased to provide discounted pricing for our members through Kidde and to continue to offer a reduced rate for access to the NFPA online codes. The weekly update has become an effective communication tool to keep members updated on important internal and external initiatives in a timely manner without filling up their inboxes.

We continue to work with the BCFTOA and FPOABC on common issues. This year's BC Fire Leadership Summit in partnership with the BCPFFA was a resounding success and a testament to relationship building. Our thanks to Career Director Fire Chief Larry Watkinson, Deputy Career Director Karen Fry and the organizing committee for their hard work in making this event a success.

Finances

The Association continues to be in sound financial shape and operate within its Board-approved budget. In addition to the operations and training budgets, the Association also has reserve accounts that include the conference reserve, general operating reserve, emergency assistance reserve and scholarship accounts. We continue to manage funds for the LGMA Effective Fire Service Administration program, EMBC Alternate Fuel Training Program, EMBC Road Rescue Governance Framework, EMBC Community Pre-Plan Program, and the EMBC Home Safety Program.

CAFC

I represent the Association on the National Advisory Council to the CAFC, participating in monthly conference calls and staying apprised of national topics as well as sharing what is occurring in BC. We continue to have a representation from the Board at the annual Government Relations Day in Ottawa. Topics of a national interest are presented for awareness and consideration by the Federal Government.

External stakeholders

The FCABC has several ongoing projects with EMBC. At the time of writing, a draft report for a Road Rescue Governance Framework has been submitted to the Fire Commissioner and EMBC for review. The pilot for the Home Safety program was completed earlier this year and the first phase has been launched.

Many of our members provide support to EMBC and BC Wildfire Service during the increasingly busy and intense wildfire seasons. At the administrative level, the FCABC supports these efforts through call outs for additional crews and equipment and EOC support.

The Board continues to work on relations and lines of communication with BCEHS. In November I had the opportunity to meet with the Office of the Auditor General of BC to provide input on their review of BCEHS. Key messages during our discussions primarily focussed on communication, input into the First Responder program and lack of acknowledgment of municipal choice. We are hopeful to see some traction from the recommendations in the OAG report, which has been released.

My sincere thanks to the Executive Committee and the Board for their hard work on behalf of the Association and our members. I am honoured to have the privilege to serve as President and thank the membership for their support.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Penticton.

Respectfully submitted,

Fire Chief Phil Lemire, ECFO
FCABC President