



Fire Chiefs' Association of BC

ZONE 1 DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT May 2019

During the 2018 AGM the position of Director Zone 1 and Deputy Director Zone 1 were up for election. Thomas Doherty was appointed Director by acclamation and Bruce Green was elected Deputy Director.

Zone Meetings:

Zone 1 held their fall zone meeting in Powell River BC on October 24, 2018. Twenty (20) members attended, with 1 member on conference call. Prior to the meeting, the members participated in a tour of the BC Ferry Salish Orca which is a dual fuel (LNG/Diesel). The tour consisted of the engine room, damage control rooms, and bridge. Once in Powell River, the membership toured the Sante Veritas Cannabis Production Facility. Following the tours, the general meeting took place at the Regional Library in Powell River.

During the fall zone meeting, members discussed:

- Conference Update
- BCEHS changes to Critical Response Model
- Road Rescue Program
- FR Committee Meetings
- Thetis Island FR Challenges with BCAS/EMA Licensing
- OFC Deployment experiences in 2018
- Fire Smart Canada & Local FireSmart Workshop Facilitator
- BC First Responder Mental Health Conference Jan 31 – Feb 1,
- Community Resiliency Investment Program

Thetis Island Fire Department advised that BCAS is now dispatching an ambulance to the island right away and the issue of BCAS waiting for the FR's to provide a report before dispatching an ambulance appears to have been resolved.

The spring zone 1 meeting was held in Sooke at the RCMSAR Training Facility on March 13, 2019. Twenty-five (25) members attended in person. Prior to the meeting, members we provided a tour of the training facility including the Marine Rescue Simulator & control room, following the tour, staff at RCMSAR provided a brief presentation on the services provided by RCMSAR. Following the presentation, the general meeting took place on site.

During the spring zone meeting, members discussed:

- Conference Update
- BCEHS most recent changes to the Critical Response Model related to OD MPDS codes and 10 min delay automatic notification to FR Departments
- Road Rescue and the work being done by the executive on a governance model.
- Smoke Detector Pilot Program in Smithers
- FR Committee Meetings
- EMA Licensing and Transportation Licensing (Thetis Island)
- OFC Deployment experiences
- Local FireSmart Workshop – Bruce Green Zone 1 Facilitator rep.



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- BC First Responder Mental Health Conference
- JIBC Regional Training Weekends
- BCFTOA Zone 1 A rep vacancy
- Auditor Generals Report on BCEHS
- Scholarship & Awards
- GR Day (Government Relations Day)
- Leadership Summit (FCABC & BCPFFA)

Chief's on the Hill

Zone 1 Director attended the CAFC Chief's on the Hill in Ottawa November 26 & 27. During the two-day meeting sessions with members of Parliament, representatives of the CAFC presented 5 topics of discussion which were prepared in advance by the CAFC:

1. Short-term help protecting the mental health of first responders – The federal government has recognized the need to address the mental health of first responders. However as longer-term efforts are put into place, we need interim measures. Some of these the Federal Government has already developed and provides to its own employees.
 - Put the “Road to Mental Readiness Program” (or other resilience training) from the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) and DND in fire departments free of charge, immediately.
 - Currently the Mental Health Commission of Canada makes this available on a cost recovery basis. According to calculations from MHCC this can be done for \$2.5M.
 - Ensure that as the \$30M for Mental Health Research and Treatment is being spent that we are investing in the types of research and projects that have a real time impact on the front line.
2. Establish a Fire Safety Research and Innovation Fund – Develop a \$50M Safety Innovation Fund that would allow the fire service to develop, test and socialize the appropriate response to various social and building code innovations.
3. Clarify Heavy Urban Search & Rescue Deployment – Establish clarity on the rules of engagement and business models for heavy urban search and rescue teams to deploy to other provinces.
4. Reinstate a modified “Joint Emergency Preparedness” Program – The Joint Emergency Preparedness Program was a federal grant program that allowed organizations to enhance regional capacity for all types of emergencies.
5. Establish a National Fire Advisor Secretariat – Install a National Fire Advisory Secretariat to provide substantive expertise in linking federal fire related initiatives which are ongoing in departments ranging from:
 - DRDC, DND
 - Environment and climate change
 - Fisheries & Coast Guard
 - Global affairs
 - Health & Public Health



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- Indigenous Services Canada
- Infrastructure and communities
- ISED, Research
- Justice
- Natural Resources
- Northern & Indian Affairs
- Parks Canada
- Public Safety
- Social Development
- Statistics Canada
- Status of Women & Diversity
- Transport
- Veterans Affairs

During each meetings, Chiefs highlighted some of the successes from Canada's MPs and Officials such as:

- Support of Indigenous Fire Marshalls Office
- Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit
- Fire Service Representation on Building Codes Commission
- Memorial Grant Program; Proclamation of National Fall Firefighters Day
- Funding for CIHR-CIPSRT Research Consortium on 1st Responder Mental Health
- Stable ongoing funding for HUSAR teams: INSARAG exploration
- Initiating free R2MR training.

Zone 1 continues to see a number of changes in the leadership roles in departments within Zone 1. We welcome all the new members and wish those that left the association all the best in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Fire Chief Thomas Doherty
FCABC Zone 1 Director