



# Atlantic Provinces Professional Fire Fighters Association

The Forces Of Those Who Unite Are Deeper Than Those Who Divide



## The Atlantic Provinces Professional Fire Fighters Association

Representing career fire fighters across the Atlantic Provinces - By Jessica Parisien



"The Atlantic Provinces Professional Fire Fighters Association is dedicated to representing professional firefighters in our region at the local, provincial and federal levels." These words mandate the Association's website and sum it its basic mandates.

However, this wasn't always the tagline for what the association strived to do. The APPFFA formed on June 16, 1962 in Moncton, New Brunswick. At the time, fire fighters from five Maritime cities had come together - Moncton, Saint John, and Fredericton, Truro and Halifax. At that time, the original mandate was to better educate their members on ways in which their workplace could be made safer.

It was only six short years ago, said Andrew Hawkes, current APPFFA Secretary Treasurer, that their mandate has grown to not only educate their members, but also to represent them on local, federal and provincial levels.

The APPFFA is part of the International Fire Fighters Association (IAFF), which is headquartered in Washington, DC. The IAFF represents more than 295,000 full-time professional firefighters and encompasses more than 3100 affiliates and their members. The IAFF has been the driving force behind nearly every advance in fire services and is heavily active on political and legislative levels. The APPFFA has brought this same momentum to the Atlantic Provinces.

"We are unique in Canada and the US," Andrew explained. "Because there are so few career fire fighters in the Atlantic Provinces, the three provinces [NB, NS, Nfld] banned together. This presents us with some unique problems because we deal with three provincial governments instead of just one."

The main topics on the APPFFA's political and legislative agendas are discussed every other year at a biannual conference.

"We can only do business that affects our organization once every two years," Andrew said. "This is basically how unions work."

The most recent victory occurred in 2009 when the New Brunswick Fire Fighters' Compensation Act received Royal Assent and therefore became law. New Brunswick Fire Fighters have presumptive Cancer Legislation and coverage for heart injury within 24 hours of attending and incident. The cancer legislation was a long battle in New Brunswick, and is still not passed in the province of Newfoundland.

"The cancer legislation is in all provinces with the exception of the Territories, PEI and Newfoundland, I believe," Andrew explained. "Basically it says that if a fire fighter contracts one of the ten types of cancer that are extremely common among fire fighters, and meets the criteria (ie, enough years of service) they are automatically recognized by workers compensation."

Because this is not yet a reality in the province of Newfoundland, that action is on the APPFFA's agenda right now.

Also at the top of the association's political agenda is to get the government to waive the three-day wait period on worker's compensation in NB. The current rule is that when a worker is injured on the job, he or she must go three days without pay before their worker's compensation will kick in. Andrew explained why it is believed that this is not acceptable for those who work as emergency responders: "In an 'ordinary' work place such as a construction site or a hospital, there is workplace safety gear in place,

people who make sure that it's a safe environment, and so on. But emergency responders don't have that option."

He continued, "We can keep our workplace safe to an extent. For example, if the walkway to the station is icy in the winter, we'll salt it, but if we respond to a fire and the driveway is icy and a fire fighter falls and breaks his leg, there was no way to prevent that."

These two topics are just a sample of issues that the APPFFA will direct over the next two years until their next conference. Their most recent conference took place in the city of Saint John at the end of July. It was here that a new President took hold of the APPFFA reins - Doug LeBlanc of Fredericton was elected as the new President.

Along with the biannual conference, the APPFFA, in keeping with the original mandate, holds education seminars in Truro, NS every other year.

As with their growing responsibilities, the APPFFA's number of members has also grown since 1962. While the association formed with just five locals on board, the APPFFA now represents 12 locals and about 845 professional fire fighters. New Brunswick members include Saint John Local 771, Moncton Local 999, Fredericton Local 1053, Oromocto Local 1576, Riverview Local 2549 and Kennebecasis Local 3591. Affiliated Locals in Nova Scotia include Truro Local 1627, Yarmouth Local 2094, and Sydney Local 2779. There are three members in Newfoundland: Cornerbrook Local 1222, Stephenville Local 1852, and St. John's Local 1075.

If you would like to learn more about the APPFFA, you can visit their website at [www.appffa.ca](http://www.appffa.ca).

### MONCTON FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION LOCAL 999



PROUD MEMBERS OF THE APPFFA

### CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE FREDERICTON FIREFIGHTERS ON HOSTING THIS YEARS 9/11 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE.

2821543



### CAFC Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs

The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs would like to commend the APPFFA on it's continued service to the communities it's members serve.

1-800-775-5189  
280 Albert St, Ottawa, ON  
[www.cafc.ca](http://www.cafc.ca)

2813230

### Friday, September 11 Memorial Parade in Fredericton, NB

This marks the third year that the September 11 Memorial Parade will take place in NB. In 2007, the parade took place in Saint John and last year the Moncton Fire Fighters hosted the annual event. September 11 has been named as the official day for mourning fire fighters lost in the line of duty.

Join the Fredericton fire fighters beginning at 6:30 p.m. The parade will start at the corner of Queen and Carleton Streets and will proceed up Queen Street to Smythe Street and will conclude at the site of the fire fighter memorial. There will be a reception to follow at the Royal Canadian Legion.

All are welcome.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT THE CITY OF SAINT JOHN SERVICE D'INCENDIE THE CITY OF SAINT JOHN



Saving lives and property since 1786



Fire & Safety Supplies

### PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE MARITIME FIRE SERVICE FOR OVER 22 YEARS.

1-800-561-1995 ~ [www.safetysource.com](http://www.safetysource.com)

2813247

### PinkLarkin LAWYERS • AVOCATS

Joël Michaud  
[jmichaud@pinklarkin.com](mailto:jmichaud@pinklarkin.com)

David Mombourquette, MIR  
[dmombourquette@pinklarkin.com](mailto:dmombourquette@pinklarkin.com)

Marie-Claude Desrosiers  
[mcdesrosiers@pinklarkin.com](mailto:mcdesrosiers@pinklarkin.com)

E. Anne MacLean  
[amaclean@pinklarkin.com](mailto:amaclean@pinklarkin.com)

Suite 210  
1133 Regent Street  
Fredericton, NB E3B 3Z2  
Tel: 506.458.1989  
Fax: 506.458.1127  
Toll Free: 1.888.280.2777

[WWW.PINKLARKIN.COM](http://WWW.PINKLARKIN.COM)  
2816626

### WE KNOW YOU WANT REAL SERVICE FROM REAL PEOPLE.



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR STATE FARM IS THERE.™

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

That's State Farm®.  
Rob Scott 657-0007

P026155CN 11/02  
statefarm.ca • State Farm Insurance Companies • Canadian Head Offices: Aurora, Ontario

### Together we will build a stronger community

The Saint John Fire Department has been serving Saint John since 1786. On behalf of Common Council and the citizens of Saint John, thank you for the long tradition of Fire Fighting and Emergency Response Service that you have provided us throughout many years of service.

### Ensemble, nous bâtissons une communauté plus forte

La brigade des incendies de Saint John dessert la population de Saint John depuis 1786. Au nom du conseil municipal et de tous les citoyens de Saint John, tous nos remerciements. Vous avez depuis longtemps une excellente tradition de lutte contre les incendies et de réaction aux urgences dans notre cité.

Mayor Ivan Court, maire

[www.saintjohn.ca](http://www.saintjohn.ca)



# FREDERICTON FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Proudly Serving Our Community Since 1817!



(506) 476-1060 • [www.frederictonfirefighters.ca](http://www.frederictonfirefighters.ca)  
PO Box 3272, Station B, Fredericton, NB

2813172