



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

Large Urban Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs mission is to lead innovation and excellence in public and life safety. Our vision is to inspire and influence a safer Ontario.

Lake Huron Room, Niagara Falls, 6361 Fallsview Boulevard,
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 3V9
November 19, 2019

Attendees: Tim Beckett, Steve Kraft, Dave Decker, Lori Hamer, Jon Rehill, Kim Ayotte, Brian Durdin, Dave Cunliffe

Guests: Paul Hutt, Dave Matschke, Matthew Keay, Kalpana Rajgopalan, Jim Kay, Daniel Boyer, Peter Gatto, Monique Belair, Andrew Boyes, Michelle O'Hara

Phone: Steve Laforet

Regrets: Matt Pegg, Bill Boyes, Deryn Rizzi

Minute taker: Mark Tishman

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The chair welcomed everyone and thanked the deputies for joining to discuss the training pilot project.

2. Training Pilot Project - Delegation of authority piece – Chief Tim Beckett and Deputy Chiefs

- It was stated that the OFMEM supports the Large Urban Committee and OAFIC moving forward with the proposed pilot project for specific training courses.
- The goal is to restart training, starting with NFPA 1006 Ice Water Rescue Chapter 6.
- It was noted that there are four aspects to NFPA 1006 training:
 - 1) Common Curriculum;
 - 2) Training Delivery;
 - 3) Assessment; and
 - 4) Evaluation.
- The common curriculum has been developed and it is Ontario specific, and meets JPRs.
- The goal is to achieve certification and independence through self-evaluations.
- In order to self-evaluate, the courses must meet NFPA 1000 chapter 5 and OFMEM guidelines.
- To properly test and self-evaluate, there will need to be assurance of the separation between testing and evaluations as well as properly trained and qualified evaluators.
- If the pilot is successful, it will open the door for further training programs.
- It was noted that the OFMEM only has jurisdiction and authority over the 2013 standards – thus training, delivery, and testing is currently based on an outdated model.



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Large Urban Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

- The pilot and testing will use the 2017 Jones and Bartlett and current JPRs at a minimum.
- The OFMEM could eventually own/operate the training program if the pilot is successful.
- The Fire Marshal has been very clear that all testing must meet and/or exceed NFPA 1000 Chapter 5 as they maintain authority over jurisdiction on NFPA standards which includes: record keeping, document storage, segregation of duties, evaluations, policies and procedures, and testing.
- Adaptors of the pilot should expect frequent random testing from the OFMEM.
- There is a potential issue with those who continued with different training and education programs but are not certified by the province, specifically for technical rescues.
- Each department will need to ensure their own instructors' competency.
- Should the pilot prove successful with restarting training for ice water rescue, it will be expanded to the next four chapters of NFPA 1006 in the order that makes the most sense.

Deputy Chiefs left the room

- For the pilot project, the consent report would come from the chief, but they should have Council approval for liability purposes.

3. Roundtable

- The city of Hamilton has declared a climate emergency and has asked that the fire service look into becoming 'greener'.
- It was mentioned that to truly become 'greener' that manufacturers need to be on board. Specifically, for vehicles as apparatus' are sometimes in service for up to 30-40 years.
- It was thought that a 'green' focus should be led by Metro and CAFC as it will require political help and strategies for the whole sector, not just individual departments acting of their own accord.
- Rosenbauer is supposed to release an electric fire apparatus for Europe this year.
- The subject of going 'greener' was also mentioned in Mississauga and Kitchener.
- A question asking if the technology for electric fire apparatus' is ready, noting that an electric truck would need a backup generator (likely diesel) for emergencies and pumping purposes.
- Should look towards Europe rather than the USA for greening the fire service.
- To further this subject, it was proposed that someone reach out to FEMSA/FAMA.

ACTION ITEM: Tish to get Tim a contact at FEMSA/FAMA

- Markham is going into bargaining in January and there is a possibility that it will be a negotiated settlement.
- Markham has seen a decrease in overtime costs due to a purposeful overcompliment of staff.
- Ottawa's contract ends in December 2019, and an arbitrator for the next round of bargaining is expected to be chosen shortly.
- Ottawa has upped their platoon and division chiefs who are in scope. The previous arbitrator ruled that that to change the in scope to out of scope would need to be negotiated.
- Ottawa is seeking more fire prevention officers and noted they have 10 staff off due to PTSD.



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Large Urban Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

- Richmond Hill has three off due to PTSD with more applying to WSIB.
- Richmond Hill's overtime budget was around \$1M on a \$300,000 budget and noted that those off duty for WSIB still receive vacation pay.
- Windsor noted that through arbitration, vacation pay ceases to be paid out if an individual is on WSIB for more than 6 months. It restarts when they return to work.
- Mississauga noted that they have a doctor and psychiatrist on retainer and staff need to meet with one or the other. The doctor and psychiatrists can discuss a patient between themselves.
- It was mentioned that there were no changes made to municipal governance after the provinces review of the eight regional municipalities, Simcoe County, and their lower-tier municipalities.
- It was noted that fire departments are still operating in the same method they did 50 years ago, while the technology has changed, operations hasn't.
- Richmond Hill will enter negotiations at the end of the year and will discuss progressive work weeks.
- Vaughan asked how many large urban chiefs provide response times to their associations. All present said they do.
- Each municipality has different standards when trying to meet the principals of NFPA 1710. Some look at the total dispatch time instead of the individual packets, while others have agreements with the municipality to meet different standards.
- The issue of health care spending was raised asking if anyone has any language in their contracts that would restrict an individual from receiving their health benefits if they move outside of Ontario.
- A discussion occurred about what the Committee's next steps should be after the training pilot is operational. Active shooters, and what to do in those situations was mentioned.

4. Next Meeting

- TBD

5. Adjournment