



## Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Large Urban Committee Meeting Minutes

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*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.*

Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93574641532?pwd=T0s2aXZoUGlOcHU3dnN3VU1RRm5pUT09>

Meeting ID: 935 7464 1532

Tuesday April 13, 2021, 2pm

**Attendees:** Mark MacDonald, Paul Hutt, Bill Boyes, Jim Jessop, Steve Kraft, Deryn Rizzi, Lori Hammer, Mike Doyle, Dave Cunliffe, Kim Ayotte, Bob Gilmore, Adam Grant, Paul Boissonneault, Michelle O'Hara

**Regrets:** Stephen Laforet

**Guests:** None

**Minute Taker:** Mark Tishman

**1. Welcome – Committee Chair**

- The chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

**2. Additions to the Agenda**

- None

**3. Declaration of Conflict of Interests**

- None

**4. Meeting Minutes from February 9, 2021 and March 18, 2021.**

- Minutes were approved. No motion.

**5. Action Item Updates:**

- Joint labour management event with OPFFA – deferred to later in the meeting.
- PPE Equipment and potential cancer causing agents (see article in link: [https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/26/climate/pfas-firefighter-safety.html?campaign\\_id=57&emc=edit\\_ne\\_20210126&instance\\_id=26443&nl=evening-briefing&regi\\_id=93548386&segment\\_id=50334&te=1&user\\_id=053c4b346897f43fc71b48b9cf958618](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/26/climate/pfas-firefighter-safety.html?campaign_id=57&emc=edit_ne_20210126&instance_id=26443&nl=evening-briefing&regi_id=93548386&segment_id=50334&te=1&user_id=053c4b346897f43fc71b48b9cf958618))
- This was put on the agenda as a FYI. Most manufacturers state they do not use these potentially cancer-causing agents in their PPE; however many unions are looking into this issue and it may be raised during negotiations.



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### 6. NFPA 1006

- Toronto Fire has recently restructure and reordered most of their training and are willing to share resources. Toronto is looking to finalize 1006 sooner rather than later.
- Paul Hutt went over the 1006 course status.

**Action Item: Staff to share the 1006 course update provided by Paul Hutt.**

- Paul has requested additional members to help finalizing the 1006 course.
- The 1006 OAFB group must work in conjunction with the OFMEM to prevent any holdups.
- Toronto Fire offered Geoff Boisseau to chair the 1006 group.

**Action Item: If your department is able to provide assistance and help finalize the 1006 course, send the individuals contact information to Paul Hutt and copy OAFB staff.**

- The OFMEM is aware that LU has been working on the 1006 and should be aware that it is nearing completion. The OFMEM would like to finalize this course as well.
- It was pointed out that the 1006 course affects more than just the Large Urban departments, but all departments in Ontario, and smaller department needs also need to be considered. Furthermore, if expanding the 1006 working group, people need to pay attention to the new members and potentially competing agendas that may not be in the best interests of all Ontarians.

**Action Item: Jim Jessop to connect Paul Hutt with Geoff Boisseau**

### 7. Status of OFMEM MOU with US National Fire Academy – Mississauga

- The OFMEM has access to the US National Fire Academy through a MOU. It is a great source for information.
- Some chiefs seem to recall a partnership of sorts with the centre in Maryland, and the acceptance of some of their training programs, such as Hazmat certificates.

**Action Item: Staff to speak to the OFMEM to see if fire departments can access some of the US National Fire Academy information through the OFMEM's MOU.**

### 8. Internal Audit Recommendations

- It was suggested to the Chiefs at the table to share internal audit practices.
- The OAFB can post and share this information while also limiting it to specific members based upon log in credentials. OAFB staff posting the information would also have access to the information.



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- The O AFC is currently trying to focus on better data collection to create master databases and collect relevant information for the fire service including but not limited to: CBAs SOGs/SOPs/salary structure/benefits/etc. to post and make searchable on the website.
- A smaller database specifically for internal audit processes can also be created with limited member access. Staff would require content and how the group would like it organized.

**Action Item: Staff to put together a short FAQ on how this type of information could be posted on the O AFC website but with limited access to specific people.**

- It was mentioned that the O AFC should investigate creating a searchable app or make the website more phone/app friendly.

### 9. Joint Labour/Management Event

- Chief Boyes spoke to Carmen Santoro about the event who is interested and supports the idea. They would like to have it as an in-person meeting. There were questions of who to invite, what level of chiefs to invite (O AFC President, O AFC Board, chief, deputy, platoon, etc.) and how many people?
- It was pointed out that not all unionized departments are part of the OPFFA, and they may not be as inclined to attend.
- It was suggested for succession planning purposes to include the deputies in this meeting for the learning experience.
- The agenda should lead the discussions as well as who and the number of people invited.
- The more people involved, the less intimate the discussion.

**Action Item: Chief Boyes to continue to work on the event.**

### 10. COVID Discussion

- General discussion on restrictions: Humidifiers, HVAC filtration, CPAP
- Departments who implement Plymovent vs. Nederman exhaust systems
- Most are still not allowing CPAP machines in the department due to COVID.
- One department has blocked off two separate rooms for those to use CPAP machines. Those rooms have specialized air filters and can accommodate up to 8 people.
- Toronto Fire does not allow CPAP machines currently and will likely not allow them back. Since COVID began, Toronto changed their CPAP allowances so that if an individual wants a CPAP machine in the department, they must go through the medical officer. Since this policy change the number of CPAP users went from 50 to 0.
- Paul was asking if anyone has any experiences or preferences between the Plymovent vs. Nederman exhaust systems. They're supposed to be interoperable, but the station is having difficulties. If anyone has any experience with either system to reach out to Paul Boissonneault.



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**Action Item:** If anyone has any experiences with the Plymovent vs Nederman systems to share their experiences with Paul.

### 11. Round Table

- Toronto Fire is heavily involved in the vaccination rollout in the city. They do logistical support, management, and now providing vaccinations under the discretion of Sunnybrook.
- Peel paramedics are fighting to ensure that firefighters cannot provide vaccinations in their region.
- Trillium Health has offered to train 80 Mississauga Firefighters for a pilot for vaccinations.
- Oakville has recently changed their ENR bylaw and now going to technical levels for everything. Certifying in ice water rescue.
- A question was asked about how Chiefs inform candidates for captain promotions and if they provide full marks in between each component testing vs. telling candidates if they just passed/failed the component. There is no general agreement on the best practice, and no one held any strong feelings or opinions. What works best locally was recommended.
- All departments received the full amount of the provinces recent funding announcement of \$5M.

### 12. Adjournment

Kim Ayotte adjourned the meeting at 3:21pm.  
Seconded by Adam Grant