



Updates on other issues

Responding to the Interface (RTI) training

In the wake of a focused advocacy effort undertaken by the IAFF and affiliates, the IAFF was awarded \$400,000 through Natural Resources Canada in 2023 to conduct Responding to the Interface (RTI) wildland-urban interface response training in Canada.

Through that initiative, 325 fire fighters received IAFF RTI training, including train-the-trainer courses, during training events held in Kamloops BC, Chilliwack BC and Grande Prairie Alta. The training was provided by IAFF instructors including Kamloops L913 Secretary Mark Brise and others from California and Texas.

With the pilot project now successfully completed, our attention now turns to securing ongoing funding for the RTI program in Canada, in the same way the IAFF has received federal contributions to conduct haz-mat and CBRNE training in Canada since 2009. The IAFF first submitted a formal proposal to the Government of Canada for ongoing RTI funding in 2021 and again prior to the February, 2024 deadline.

National Framework to Address Occupational Cancer

The enactment of Liberal MP Sherry Romanado's [Bill C-224](#) in June, 2023 initiated a National Framework to address occupational cancer in fire fighters in Canada. Work toward the development of this framework is currently ongoing, with the IAFF participating as a key stakeholder.

Following the enactment of Bill C-224, Canadian Operations staff in conjunction with staff from the Division of Occupational Health, Safety & Medicine at IAFF Headquarters attended a two-day Fire Fighter Cancer Workshop Oct.-26 and 27 in Ottawa where experts from across North America shared research and best practices for exposure reduction.

The workshop, held jointly with Health Canada and co-organized by IAFF Director of Science and Research Neil McMillan, was attended by more than 100 stakeholders in-person and virtually.

Health Minister Mark Holland and Liberal MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Emergency Preparedness Sherry Romanado, who introduced Bill C-224 in January 2022, both

attended and spoke to participants. A report and other initiatives that will support the development of a national framework to address occupational cancer in fire fighters will flow from the workshop.

Bill C-224 also proclaimed each January as national Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month in Canada. The IAFF marked the first official observance in January 2024 with a comprehensive social media campaign featuring daily posts that covered a wide range of topics surrounding occupational cancer.

National Building Code

The IAFF continues to pursue fire fighter safety in several areas within the National Building Code of Canada including the longstanding issue of a full fire fighter safety objective within the code, which was moved to an objective-based format in 2005.

A proposal titled PCF 1998 for a Fire Fighter Safety Objective OS6 was drafted prior to a structural change within the code development system, which now operates under the Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes (CBHCC). The proposal is currently under review by several code subcommittees in advance of the 2025 code revision.

The proposal followed a preliminary advance in which language differentiating fire fighters and their roles from general occupants was added to the definitions within the 2020 code:

In the definition of Objective OS1, Fire Safety, the term “person” refers to any individual in or adjacent to the building, including the occupants, the public, and emergency responders (including firefighters) when performing their duties.”

The CBHCC has held a few meetings since its inception, with a significant number of secondary committee meetings having occurred in between as work on the 2025 code cycle moves forward. The IAFF continues to participate at every level possible to ensure our voice is heard in ensuring that fire fighter safety remains a critical part of ongoing building code review and revision.

In relation to the fire sector and the 2025 Code cycle, a final report has been received on the aspect of fire performance of floor assemblies and is currently being reviewed. Technical requirements are being reviewed for Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction (EMTC), in particular to the insulation and exterior cladding.

IAFF Canada Senior Executive for Western Canada Gord Ditchburn represents the IAFF on the Advisory Council on Harmonized Construction Codes.

Vancouver Local 18 member James Johnson represents the IAFF on the following Code committees and NFPA committees:

- NRC - Joint Task Group Fire Performance of Floor Assemblies in Houses
- NRC - Joint Task Group Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction
- NFPA 703 - Standard for Fire-Retardant-Treated Wood and Fire-Retardant Coatings for Building Materials
- NFPA 5000 - Building Construction and Safety Code
- NFPA 220 - Standards on Types of Building Construction
- NFPA 221 - Standards for High Challenge Fire Walls, Fire Walls and Fire Barrier Walls

New Canadian affiliates

We're pleased to welcome some new locals to the IAFF Canada family:

- Loyalist Township, Ontario Local 5464
- Colwood BC Local 5420
- View Royal BC Local 5419
- Dieppe New Brunswick Local 5415
- Tracadie New Brunswick Local 5428
- Bathurst, New Brunswick Local 5283
- Iqaluit, Nunavut Local 5473 (associate local)

With the Iqaluit local joining, the IAFF now has affiliates in every province and territory, which is a welcome milestone. Thank you to DVPs LeBlanc, Burry and Carter who take a lead in organizing. We appreciate the faith these locals have placed in the IAFF, and the added strength they provide to our great union.

We now have 27,805 active members and an additional 1,671 active-retired members across 197 locals in Canada. The IAFF's membership across North America now stands at over 334,000.