

Resolution No. 19

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Resolutions

Re: Naming of the IAFF Biennial Canadian Policy Conference

1 WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire
2 Fighters (IAFF) is the leading labour organization
3 representing professional fire fighters and emergency
4 medical personnel in Canada and the United States;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, our union has a long and proud
7 history of advancing the health and safety, working
8 conditions and legislative interests of its members in
9 the spirit of solidarity and through the strength of its
10 leadership and its membership; and

11 WHEREAS, the IAFF has always had a strong
12 and vibrant membership in Canada and has included
13 Canadian locals since its founding in 1918; and

14 WHEREAS, for more than 50 years, the IAFF has
15 had an established presence in Canada through the
16 IAFF Canadian Office in Ottawa, Ontario, whose
17 staff work in close conjunction with IAFF
18 Headquarters and who facilitate the delivery of IAFF
19 services to Canadian members; and

20 WHEREAS, the IAFF as an organization has
21 always strongly benefited from the leadership and
22 guidance of members from among our ranks who
23 have been elected or appointed to positions of
24 importance based on their experience and their
25 dedication and commitment to their brother and sister
26 IAFF members; and

27 WHEREAS, fire fighter John “Jack” Jessop of the
28 former Toronto, Ontario Local 113 exhibited these

29 qualities and was chosen by IAFF General President
30 W.H. “Howie” McClennan to be the IAFF’s first
31 Canadian Director; and

32 WHEREAS, Jack Jessop was tasked with opening
33 the IAFF Canadian Office, doing so in June 1969,
34 and quickly establishing it as an important fixture in
35 our union and laying the foundation for a thriving
36 operation that continues to facilitate the delivery of
37 services to more than 27,000 Canadian IAFF
38 members to this day in all 10 provinces and two
39 territories; and

40 WHEREAS, while serving as IAFF Canadian
41 Director, Jack Jessop pioneered our union’s lobby of
42 the Canadian government, which has evolved into
43 one of the most highly respected grassroots lobbies
44 on Parliament Hill; and

45 WHEREAS, during his tenure as IAFF Canadian
46 Director, the health and safety, wages and working
47 conditions of Canada’s professional fire fighters
48 advanced significantly; and

49 WHEREAS, Jack Jessop’s leadership and his
50 respectability reflected well on the International and
51 helped raise the profile and the influence of the IAFF
52 in Canada during a critical time in the history of
53 workers’ rights and the working conditions of fire
54 fighters; and

55 WHEREAS, his diplomatic style of leadership
56 was a critical asset at a time when the IAFF faced
57 many challenges to the unity of its Canadian
58 membership; and

59 WHEREAS, he served dutifully in the role as
60 IAFF Canadian Director for 21 years before retiring
61 in January 1990; and

62 WHEREAS, Jack Jessop passed away peacefully
63 in 2011 at the age of 89 following a long and active
64 retirement; and

65 WHEREAS, it is desirable to recognize Jack
66 Jessop and his contributions to the IAFF and its
67 Canadian members in a meaningful and lasting
68 manner; therefore be it

69 RESOLVED, That starting with the 2021 edition,
70 the IAFF Biennial Canadian Policy Conference be
71 named the Jack Jessop IAFF Biennial Canadian
72 Policy Conference.

Submitted by: IAFF Local 3888, Toronto Professional Fire
Fighters

Mike Carter, 6th District Vice President

Fred LeBlanc, 13th District Vice President

David Burry, 15th District Vice President

Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters
Association, C-1

Atlantic Provinces Professional Fire Fighters
Association, C-2

Alberta Fire Fighters Association, C-3

Manitoba Professional Fire Fighters Association,
C-4

British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters
Association, C-5

Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association,
C-6

Terry Ritchie, 6th District Vice President
Emeritus

Lorne West, 6th District Vice President Emeritus

Elliott Hastings, 13th District Vice President
Emeritus

Bruce Carpenter, 13th District Vice President
Emeritus

James Fennell, 15th District Vice President
Emeritus

Dennis Lloyd, Canadian Trustee Emeritus

Mike Hurley, Retired 6th District Vice President,
Burnaby Local 323 Active-Retired Member,
Mayor of Burnaby

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: