



Meeting Statement

Firefighters serve their communities to the best of their ability and daily put their lives on the line. Firefighters around the world feel a great bond and affinity with each other, regardless of differences in language or culture. It is in that spirit that the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF, representing the United States and Canada), the New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union (NZPFU), the United Firefighters Union of

Australia (UFUA) and the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) of the United Kingdom met between 25 and 27 July, 2006.

At this historic meeting the IAFF, NZPFU, UFUA and FBU explored a range of organizational, membership, industry and political issues. This discussion has resulted in a deeper understanding of each others history, organization and challenges. This formal dialogue has generated substantial goodwill, together with a desire by all parties to formalize the relationship so that members can benefit from information sharing and initiatives that can be developed and implemented collectively.

Our organizations recognize the following principles.

- In a globalizing world, the labour movement must cooperate and organize more effectively at the international level, as well as within national boundaries*
- This cooperation is necessary for firefighting industry unions as our employers increasingly communicate and strategize on a regional and global basis.*
- We face enormous challenges from political opponents and corporate-minded managers as moves to cost cutting, risk management and privatization threaten both firefighter safety and community protection*
- Firefighters and their unions in North America, the UK, Australia and New Zealand share common language, culture and customs*
- Our member's needs are best met if we learn from the experiences and struggles of other genuine firefighter unions and adapt those lessons to our own circumstances*

We have agreed to pursue a partnership/alliance [umbrella organization] between the IAFF, NZPFU, FBU and UFUA based on the above principles which commits the organizations to develop a formal and strategic relationship, including information sharing, standard development, campaign assistance and formulating a united response to changes in the fire service industry. It is our intention to invite other like-minded firefighter unions to join this partnership/alliance.

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The partnership/alliance is based on mutual respect in which we:

- *Recognize the independence of each organization and the need for accountability to our respective memberships*
- *Respect the past successes of each organization, achieved in different national contexts and circumstances*
- *Acknowledge that decisions will be by consensus, with information provided in an open and transparent manner*
- *Acknowledge that we can all learn from each other and that learning organizations are successful organizations*
- *Recognize the necessity of political engagement, the form of which is best determined by the individual unions*

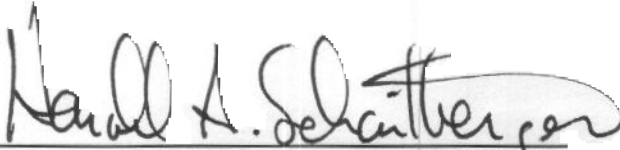
In the long-term, the partnership/alliance will build a new working relationship but in the short to medium term will aim to:

- *Establish an annual face to face meeting to discuss priorities for moving forward on key issues and policies*
- *Extend invitations to the respective unions to send representatives to attend each national conference or convention*
- *Provide formalized access to research and information that would assist partner organizations to meet the needs of members (especially in the areas of organizing, benefits, emergency response system design, emergency scene operations, data collection, performance measurement, standards development and occupational health and safety)*
- *Share information and skills in campaigning. This may include periodic hosting of each others delegates and activists to learn or impart new campaigning skills*
- *Provide opportunities to regionalize already successful conferences*
- *Undertake other initiatives as agreed between our organizations*

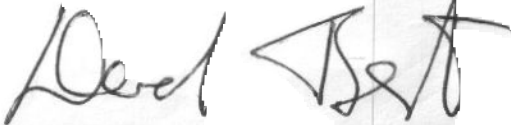
In addition, we recognize that many sectors and occupations have established links through Global Union Federations or sub-sector union networks. Our aim will be to work together to establish a global firefighter's network

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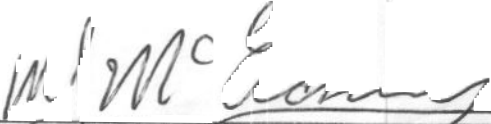
*This partnership/alliance will be administered jointly by the General President IAFF, National President and National Secretary UFU, the National President and National Secretary NZPFU and General Secretary FBU with the **assistance** of their respective national offices, consistent with the **decisions** of the **relevant** committees of those trade unions.*



Harold A. Schaitberger, General President
International Association of Fire Fighters



Derek Best, National Secretary
New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union



Michael McEnaney, National President
New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union



Peter Marshall, National Secretary
United Firefighters Union of Australia



Ron Hanna, National President
United Firefighters Union of Australia



Andy Dark, Assistant General Secretary
The Fire Brigades Union of the United Kingdom

Date