



Regular Council Meeting

To:	Mayor and Council
Date:	February 22, 2022
From:	Bill Balfour, Fire Chief
Report Number:	Fire Department 2022-01
Subject:	Proposed Changes to Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)

Recommendation:

That Council Supports the comments provided as contained in Fire Department Report 2022-01 to the Province of Ontario on the proposed changes to the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA).

Overview:

The Fire Chief brought forward report 2018-02 highlighting proposed changes to the FPPA in regards to mandatory Firefighter Certification and Community Risk Assessments. On January 28th, 2022 a revision of the firefighter certification regulation which did incorporate some of the Cavan Monaghan previously requested comments and concerns as outlined in Fire Department Report 2018-02 which are summarized in (Attachment No. 1) was reintroduce by the Ontario Government (Attachment No. 2). Currently, the Province is seeking public consultation on the regulation until February 28, 2022 the concern with this short consultations period is that it hampers Council and Fire Services' ability to digest the regulations and the financial impacts in will have on rural volunteer fire departments.

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs and Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management were both consulted and provided input on the new regulation. Information sessions were held on February 1, 2022 and February 10, 2022 for Fire Chiefs and February 16th 2022 for Mayors and CAO's on the proposed regulation.

The Fire Chief has several concerns regarding the revised Mandatory certification regulation they are:

1) A funding model has not been communicated with this proposed legislation as to whether or not the Province will be providing funding with this mandated legislation.

Municipalities are to set the level of fire service this regulation will possible changes this requirement. Fire Departments develop their training programs based on their Establishing and Regulating By-law to ensure that they are in compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act for Ontario.

Unlike allied agencies such as Land Ambulance and Provincial Police which receive funding for their services from the Provincial Government, Fire Departments receive zero reoccurring funding from the Provincial Government.

In early 2021, the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management announced the closure of its Ontario Fire College (OFC) located in Gravenhurst Ontario. The Ontario Government provided Fire Departments with a onetime training grant based on population size. Cavan Monaghan share was \$6,700.00 representing 4.6 percent of the total training budget for the fire department in 2021. A continuation of this funding or and increased percent should be requested for consideration.

2) The Eastern Ontario Emergency Training Academy (EOETA) located in Norwood has been a successful training center for the Region for the past 40 years and is a recognized Regional Training Center (RTC) for the Province of Ontario. The EOETA is an independent entity and governed collaboratively with the nine municipalities within Peterborough County.

With the closure of the OFC there have been and continue to be some operational challenges created by the OFC and the EOETA course delivery models. The Board of Directors of the EOETA outlined the challenges to the OFC in a letter dated January 28th. (Attachment No. 3) At the time of the writing of this report a response has not been received from the OFC.

There needs to be a commitment from the Provincial Government to provide adequate and timely resources to this mandate. If the required resources and funding is not provided by, the province to municipalities will be put in a position that they are unable to achieve certification thereby resulting in noncompliance of the regulation.

3) Clarification is required regarding the auto extrication certification component of the regulation. Currently certification has been achieved in the Fire Fighter Level I and Level II certification process in Cavan Monaghan. It is unclear whether further certification is required for the current level of service provided by the Township. If further certification is required, there will be an increase in training costs.

4) Clarification regarding the Pumper operations requiring that pump operators require to be certified however there is no requirement for Aerial operators to be certified. It is estimated new additional costs for Cavan Monaghan for new hires after the proposed dates in the regulation would be as follows: Pumper OPS is a 40-hour Course, fee \$980. Wages (work night rate) \$723.60 for a total of \$1703.60 per student. Estimated turnover rate of 6 per year would equal and additional \$10,221.60 per year to GL Program 4406.

4) Clarification required from Peterborough County Specialized Rescue Unit (SRU) regarding additional costs. Currently Cavan Monaghan has five members, additional estimated costs of \$1000 per member for training for a total of \$5000.

5) Clarification is required on the Team Lead (Captain/supervisor) requirement for Fire Fighters that responds to a call for service and there is no Team lead. Currently, Cavan Monaghan operating guidelines allow for Senior Firefighters to assume this role and encourages them to seek out a Team Lead(captain or Chief Officer) thorough another

station or Department i.e. Mutual Aid. The regulation speaks to person's temporary filling certain roles but does not define the term "Temporary ".

6) Letters of Compliance under the Transition section (4) specify subsection b needs clarification and examples of what will be acceptable.

7) Clarification from the Province on the areas that Regulation applies too within the Province of Ontario. More specify will the areas covered by Northern Fire Protection agreements be subject to the regulations.

8) It is important to understand volunteer fire department are managed very differently that full time fire departments we need the Province understand the deferent level of services.

The Fire Chief is seeking Councils support on the above items and that a formal letter be sent outlining the concerns and the request for funding Fire Services and RTCs.

Financial Impact:

Further detailed analysis will be required to accurately determine and understand the financial impacts of this legislation.

Attachments:

1. Summary of 2018 Version of Mandatory Certification with 2022 revisions.
2. Ontario Regulation to be made under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 Firefighter Certification.
3. Letter to Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal John Snider from the Eastern Ontario Emergency Training Academy Board of Directors.

Submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Bill Balfour
Fire Chief

Yvette Hurley
Chief Administrative Officer

Item Number	2018 Version of Mandatory Certification	Status
1	Clear parameters be set of the internship program and criteria, and be expanded to include all applicable areas and positions. Including Fire Office I & II and Fire Inspectors	Addressed Satisfactory
2	Previously recognized course(s) under the grandfather process be provided with Provincial Certification. With courses that where there were identified gaps, provide upgrading courses to obtain certification.	Addressed Satisfactory
3	In regards to item 3(b), the 24 month program would be challenging and add costs to the current Fire Department Training program. Recognizing that Timelines would need to be established, staff feels that 48 months is achievable and reasonable to reach. Should the province hold to this timeline, there should be a funding model put into place to offset the additional costs. These costs would require further analysis to determine accurate costing. If sufficient provincial funding is not provided, the Province will be knowingly creating a new unfunded mandate on Municipalities	Addressed Satisfactory Now 48 months and 72 months for completion
4	The Mandatory Training and Certification regulation not come into force until at least January 1, 2020. This would allow council and Township fire services to make all the necessary training funding decisions. It will also enable the Provincial Government to provide the necessary funding for training and liability indemnification 12 months prior to the regulations coming into effect	Addressed Satisfactory
5	The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) must ensure timely access to free, online testing for departments. Further that the OFMEM ensure, prior to the implementation of this regulation, that there are sufficient lead evaluators available that oversee practical testing, and funds to attend the Eastern Ontario Training Academy located in Norwood Ontario.	Outstanding
6	Table 1 to be revised to be included wording that ensured future updates to NFPA standards are implemented by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) as standards are updated, published, and testing/skills are made available. This will support and complete the certification process.	Addressed Satisfactory
7	Certification for some individual chapters within NFPA 1006, that may not be available for the January 1, 2020 deadline. Therefore, additional wording should be added to the regulations, allowing the AHJ to manage the implementation of NFPA 1006 Technical Rescue as the standards are updated, published, and testing/skills are made available, in order to support and complete the certification process.	Outstanding

Caution:

This consultation draft is intended to facilitate dialogue concerning its contents. Should the decision be made to proceed with the proposal, the comments received during consultation will be considered during the final preparation of the regulation. The content, structure, form and wording of the consultation draft are subject to change as a result of the consultation process and as a result of review, editing and correction by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

CONSULTATION DRAFT

ONTARIO REGULATION
to be made under the
FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION ACT, 1997
FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION

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<u>Table 1</u>	Mandatory certification for fire protection services

Definition

1. In this Regulation,

“NFPA” means the National Fire Protection Association.

Mandatory certification

2. (1) Every municipality, and every fire department in a territory without municipal organization, must ensure that its firefighters perform a fire protection service set out in Column 1 of Table 1 only if, on or after the corresponding day specified in Column 3 of that Table,

- (a) the firefighter performing the fire protection service is certified, at a minimum, to the corresponding certification standard set out in Column 2 of that Table; or

- (b) this Regulation provides that the certification standard referred to in clause (a) does not apply with respect to the firefighter.

(2) The certification must be,

- (a) provided by the Fire Marshal; or
- (b) an accreditation from the International Fire Safety Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), or a Pro Board seal, that is recognized by the Fire Marshal as equivalent to the certification provided by the Fire Marshal.

Exceptions

3. (1) A certification standard set out in item 1 or 2 of Table 1 does not apply with respect to a firefighter who,

- (a) is performing a service that is within the scope of that item;
- (b) has been a firefighter for no more than 24 months; and
- (c) is operating under the supervision of a firefighter certified to that standard.

(2) A certification standard set out in Column 2 of Table 1 does not apply with respect to a firefighter who is,

- (a) temporarily assigned to perform a different fire protection service for which a different minimum certification is required; and
- (b) operating under the supervision of a firefighter who has obtained the certification corresponding to the fire protection service or services being delivered.

(3) If a firefighter was previously certified under this Regulation for an item listed in Table 1, that certification continues to be valid even if the requirements for obtaining that certification are subsequently updated or changed.

Transition

4. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a certification standard set out in item 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 or 18 of Table 1 does not apply with respect to a firefighter if the Fire Marshal issues the firefighter a letter of compliance with the certification standard in accordance with this section.

(2) The Fire Marshal shall issue a letter of compliance with a certification standard to a firefighter if,

- (a) the firefighter has been performing the fire protection service that the standard corresponds to since at least,
 - (i) January 1, 2021, in the case of a certification standard set out in item 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 or 7,
 - (ii) January 1, 2020, in the case of a certification standard set out in item 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15, or
 - (iii) January 1, 2019, in the case of a certification standard set out in item 17 or 18;
- (b) before September 30, 2023, the firefighter's municipality, or fire department in an area without municipal organization, provides the Fire Marshal with information, such as training records, to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Fire Marshal that the firefighter, through past training and experience, has obtained the requisite knowledge and requisite skills associated with the corresponding standard; and
- (c) the Fire Marshal is satisfied with the information provided under clause (b).

Commencement

5. [Commencement]

TABLE 1
MANDATORY CERTIFICATION FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

Item	Column 1 Fire protection service	Column 2 Minimum Certification Standard	Column 3 Compliance Deadline
1.	Firefighter Exterior Attack: Fire suppression operations from the exterior of the building only.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1001, "Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications", 2019 Edition, Chapter 4 (Firefighter I) and Chapter 5 (Firefighter II):	July 1, 2026

		4.1, 4.2, 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.6, 4.3.7, 4.3.8, 4.3.10 (A1-A9, B1-B3, B4 (exterior stairway), B5-B10), 4.3.15, 4.3.16, 4.3.17, 4.3.18, 4.3.19, 4.3.20, 4.3.21, 4.5 5.1, 5.2, 5.3.1, 5.3.2 (A1-A4), 5.3.3, 5.3.4, 5.4.2, 5.5.3	
2.	Firefighter Exterior Attack and auto extrication: Fire suppression operations from the exterior of the building only and auto extrication rescue.	All job performance requirements in Item 1 and the following job performance requirements of NFPA 1001, "Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications", 2019 Edition, Chapter 5 (Firefighter II): 5.4.1	July 1, 2026
3.	Firefighter Exterior Attack and hazardous materials response: Fire suppression operations from the exterior of the building only and Operations-level hazardous materials response.	All job performance requirements in Item 1 and all job performance requirements of NFPA 1072, "Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications", 2017 Edition, Chapter 5 (Operations).	July 1, 2026
4.	Firefighter Exterior Attack, auto extrication and hazardous materials response: Fire suppression operations from the exterior of the building only, automobile extrication rescue and Operations-level hazardous materials response.	All job performance requirements in Items 1, 2 and 3.	July 1, 2026
5.	Firefighter Interior Attack: Fire suppression operations that enter the interior of the building and can perform rescue.	All job performance requirements in Item 1 and the following job performance requirements of NFPA 1001, "Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications", 2019 Edition, Chapter 4 (Firefighter I) and Chapter 5 (Firefighter II): 4.3.4, 4.3.9, 4.3.10 (A10-A11, B4 (interior stairway), B11), 4.3.11, 4.3.12, 4.3.13, 4.3.14 5.3.2 (A5-A9, B1-B6)	July 1, 2026
6.	Firefighter Interior Attack and auto extrication: Fire suppression operations that enter the interior of the building and can perform rescue and automobile extrication rescue.	All job performance requirements in Item 5 and the following job performance requirements of NFPA 1001, "Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications", 2019 Edition, Chapter 5 (Firefighter II): 5.4.1	July 1, 2026
7.	Firefighter Interior Attack and hazardous materials response: Fire suppression operations that enter the interior of the building and Operations-level hazardous materials response.	All job performance requirements in Item 5 and all job performance requirements of NFPA 1072, "Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications", Chapter 5 (Operations).	July 1, 2026
8.	Firefighter Interior Attack, auto extrication and hazardous materials response: Fire suppression operations that enter the interior of the building and can perform rescue, automobile extrication rescue and Operations-level hazardous materials response (full service firefighter).	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1001, "Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications", 2019 Edition, Chapter 5 (Firefighter II).	July 1, 2026
9.	Team Lead Exterior Attack: Supervision of firefighters that provide fire suppression operations from the exterior of the building only.	All job performance requirements in Item 1 and the following job performance requirements of NFPA 1021, "Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications", 2014 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire Officer I): 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.4.1, 4.4.2,	July 1, 2026

		4.4.4, 4.4.5, 4.5.3, 4.6, 4.7.1, 4.7.3	
10.	Team Lead Exterior Attack and auto extrication: Supervision of firefighters that provide fire suppression operations from the exterior of the building only or that provide auto extrication rescue.	All job performance requirements in Item 2 and the following job performance requirements of NFPA 1021, "Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications", 2014 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire Officer I): 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.4, 4.4.5, 4.5.3, 4.6, 4.7.1, 4.7.3	July 1, 2026
11.	Team Lead Exterior Attack and hazardous materials response: Supervision of firefighters that provide fire suppression operations from the exterior of the building only or that provide Operations-level hazardous materials response.	All job performance requirements in Item 3 and the following job performance requirements of NFPA 1021, "Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications", 2014 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire Officer I): 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.4, 4.4.5, 4.5.3, 4.6, 4.7.1, 4.7.3	July 1, 2026
12.	Team Lead Exterior Attack, auto extrication and hazardous materials: Supervision of firefighters that provide fire suppression operations from the exterior of the building only or that provide automobile extrication rescue or Operations-level hazardous materials response.	All job performance requirements in Item 4, and the following job performance requirements of NFPA 1021, "Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications", 2014 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire Officer I): 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.4, 4.4.5, 4.5.3, 4.6, 4.7.1, 4.7.3	July 1, 2026
13.	Team Lead Interior Attack: Supervision of firefighters that provide fire suppression operations from the interior of the building and can perform rescue.	All job performance requirements in Item 5 and the following job performance requirements of NFPA 1021, "Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications", 2014 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire Officer I): 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.4, 4.4.5, 4.5.3, 4.6, 4.7.1, 4.7.3	July 1, 2026
14.	Team Lead Interior Attack and auto extrication: Supervision of firefighters that provide fire suppression operations from the interior of the building and can perform rescue or that provide automobile extrication rescue.	All job performance requirements in Item 6 and the following job performance requirements of NFPA 1021, "Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications", 2014 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire Officer I): 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.4, 4.4.5, 4.5.3, 4.6, 4.7.1, 4.7.3	July 1, 2026
15.	Team Lead Interior Attack and hazardous materials response: Supervision of firefighters that provide fire suppression operations from the interior of the building and can perform rescue or that provide Operations-level hazardous materials response.	All job performance requirements in Item 7 and the following job performance requirements of NFPA 1021, "Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications", 2014 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire Officer I): 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.4, 4.4.5, 4.5.3, 4.6, 4.7.1, 4.7.3	July 1, 2026
16.	Team Lead Interior Attack, auto extrication and hazardous materials response: Supervision of firefighters that provide fire suppression operations from the interior of the building and can perform rescue or that provide automobile extrication rescue or Operations-level hazardous materials response (full service fire officer).	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1021 "Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications", 2014 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire Officer I).	July 1, 2026
17.	Pump Operations: Operation of a pumper apparatus without driving the apparatus, or where the apparatus does not require a class D licence.	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1002, "Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications", 2017 Edition, Chapter 5 (Apparatus Equipped with Fire Pump), without pre-requisites in Chapter 4.	July 1, 2026

18.	Pump Operations: driver: Driving and operating a pumper apparatus that requires a class D licence.	All job performance requirements in NFPA 1002 “Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications”, 2017 Edition, Chapter 5 (Apparatus Equipped with Fire Pump).	July 1, 2026
19.	Fire Prevention/Inspection: conducting fire and life safety inspections.	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1031, “Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner”, 2014 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire Inspector I).	July 1, 2026
20.	Fire Investigator: conducting fire cause and origin investigations.	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1033, “Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator”, 2014 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire Investigator).	July 1, 2026
21.	Fire and Life Safety Educator: providing fire and life safety education.	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1035, “Standard on Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist, and Youth Firesetter Program Manager Professional Qualifications”, 2015 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire and Life Safety Educator).	July 1, 2026
22.	Training Officer: providing training and education to other fire personnel.	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1041, “Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Professional Qualifications”, 2019 Edition, Chapter 4 (Fire and Emergency Services Instructor I).	July 1, 2026
23.	Emergency Communicators: taking emergency calls.	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1061, “Standard for Public Safety Telecommunications Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2018 Edition, Chapter 4 (Public Safety Telecommunicator I).	July 1, 2026
24.	Incident Safety Officers: undertaking the primary role of incident safety officer at emergency calls.	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1521, “Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications”, 2020 Edition, Chapter 5 (Incident Safety Officer).	July 1, 2026
25.	Hazardous Materials Response — Operations Mission Specific Level: responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials at the Operations Mission Specific Level.	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1072, “Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications”, Chapter 6 (Operations Mission Specific)	July 1, 2026
26.	Hazardous Materials Response — Technician Level: responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials at the Technician Level.	All job performance requirements of NFPA 1072, “Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications” Chapter 7 (Hazardous Materials Technician).	July 1, 2026
27.	Rope Rescue — Operations: rope rescue at the Operations Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 5 (Rope Rescue) (Operations): 5.2	July 1, 2028
28.	Rope Rescue — Technician: rope rescue at the Technician Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 5 (Rope Rescue) (Technician): 5.3	July 1, 2028
29.	Structural Collapse — Operations: structural collapse rescue at the Operations Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021	July 1, 2028

		Edition, Chapter 6 (Structural Collapse Rescue) (Operations): 6.2	
30.	Structural Collapse — Technician: structural collapse rescue at the Technician Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 6 (Structural Collapse Rescue) (Technician): 6.3	July 1, 2028
31.	Confined Space — Operations: confined space rescue at the Operations Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 7 (Confined Space Rescue) (Operations): 7.2	July 1, 2028
32.	Confined Space — Technician: confined space rescue at the Technician Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 7 (Confined Space Rescue) (Technician): 7.3	July 1, 2028
33.	Vehicle Rescue — Operations: rescue involving passenger vehicles at the Operations Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 8 (Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue) (Operations): 8.2	July 1, 2028
34.	Vehicle Rescue — Technician: rescue involving passenger vehicles at the Technician Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 8 (Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue) (Technician): All of 8.3	July 1, 2028
35.	Heavy Vehicle Rescue — Operations: rescue involving heavy vehicles at the Operations Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 9 (Heavy Vehicle Rescue) (Operations): 9.2	July 1, 2028
36.	Heavy Vehicle Rescue — Technician: rescue involving heavy vehicles at the Technician Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 9 (Heavy Vehicle Rescue) (Technician): 9.3	July 1, 2028
37.	Trench Rescue — Operations: trench rescue at the Operations Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 12 (Trench Rescue) (Operations): 12.2	July 1, 2028
38.	Trench Rescue — Technician: trench rescue at the Technician Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021	July 1, 2028

		Edition, Chapter 12 (Trench Rescue) (Technician): 12.3	
39.	Surface Water Rescue — Operations: surface water rescue at the Operations Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 17 (Surface Water Rescue) (Operations): 17.2	July 1, 2028
40.	Surface Water Rescue — Technician: surface water rescue at the Technician Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 17 (Surface Water Rescue) (Technician): 17.3	July 1, 2028
41.	Swift Water Rescue — Operations: swift water rescue at the Operations Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 18 (Swiftwater Rescue) (Operations): 18.2	July 1, 2028
42.	Swift Water Rescue — Technician: swift water rescue at the Technician Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 18 (Swiftwater Rescue) (Technician): 18.3	July 1, 2028
43.	Ice Water Rescue — Operations: ice water rescue at the Operations Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 20 (Ice Rescue) (Operations): 20.2	July 1, 2028
44.	Ice Water Rescue — Technician: ice water rescue at the Technician Level.	The following job performance requirements of NFPA 1006, “Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications”, 2021 Edition, Chapter 20 (Ice Rescue) (Technician): 20.3	July 1, 2028



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January 28, 2022

Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal John Snider
Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management

Dear Mr. Snider:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Ontario Emergency Training Academy (EOETA). The EOETA is a no share capital and charitable organization formed by Municipalities from the Counties of Peterborough and Northumberland. The organization has existed formally for almost 40 years and is one of the best examples of municipal collaboration in the province. The EOETA is self-funded through earned revenue. It serves its local fire services, businesses and institutions to satisfy their needs for training courses and facilities. For these services, the users pay nominal fees to support the growth, maintenance and operations of the EOETA. Our customers were satisfied with the facility, its instructors and its administration. It has the flexibility to operate nimbly and make quick business decisions to remain viable in the market. It is not over-burdened by bureaucracy that can be too onerous in a business setting. Without its users, our customers, the EOETA ceases to exist.

For many years, the EOETA has operated as a fire training centre and has satisfied the training needs of its users. The centre operated independently without the assistance of the province. In recent years, the EOETA was approached to become a Regional Training Centre (RTC). The early assumptions included one where there would be limited number of strategically located centres. The OFC would build a support network to assist the centres to be successful. Many of the early promises never came to fruition and the EOETA continued to operate successful without provincial assistance.

In early 2021, the Province decided to close the Ontario Fire College (OFC) as of March 31, 2021. Someone in government has determined that there must be better alternatives for fire service training. With this decision, the Province transferred the responsibility for training centres to the municipalities. The municipalities now needed to find ways/places to train their firefighters.

Like some others, our geographical region absorbed this provincial change without a hiccup. It was ready and very capable of continuing its business as it had for many years.

In the early days since the closing of the OFC, it seems that the Province is trying to push its OFC model into the RTCs. Our board is questioning why? The OFC model has already proven that it has gaps and the Province is very aware that one solution does not work across this vast Province of Ontario.

The EOETA is the model that is accepted and works for our users. Recently, our Board had a lengthy discussion about the EOETA. As any wise organization does, it reviews itself to ensure that it is on track. The Board discussed some changes that it could make to improve. Most of the discussion circled around the attempts to integrate the RTC requirements into its business.

The Board agreed that our facility continues to advance its development as cash flow allows. The EOETA has a complement of instructors that are credentialled, experienced and could compete with any on the provincial stage. It has a payroll system to quickly and efficiently pay instructors with minimum paperwork. The EOETA is adequately insured so its instructors and students are covered while at its location. The EOETA with its relationship with Sir Sanford Fleming College is an e-testing centre. The EOETA can do its own student registration. It can build its own calendar of courses that can be shared on the provincial platform. The EOETA has the facility to deliver a wide array of courses but most importantly, it can deliver the courses needed in the geographical area.

In continuing to work as a RTC, the Board believes the assistance it needs from the OFC boils down to this:

1. It requires curriculum that is current and relevant to the evaluation process and the NFPA standards for at least the core subjects.
2. It requires access to instructors for subjects that it does not currently have instructors ready to deliver.
3. It requires the OFMEM to maintain and keep accessible the ProBoard and IFSAC evaluation processes.

The Board has many questions but to smooth the current transition, it would like these few questions answered:

1. Why does the OFC require an eight week cancellation period when redemption codes are not released until a few days before the course? Why are these not shared with our Executive Director who we engage to operate this aspect of our training for us? Our ED has our delegated authority.
2. Why is our Executive Director not contacted by the OFC to coordinate the delivery of courses at our facility?
3. Why is there not a document clearly delineating the responsibilities of course delivery between the OFC and the RTC?

4. Why does the OFC think that it has any ability to determine what the EOETA needs to charge for courses at its facility?
5. Why is the OFC concerned about the delivery of courses? It chose to close its facility. Provide RTCs with relevant curriculum and let the RTCs exercise their flexibility to deliver courses using their expertise so they can look after their departments. Some RTCs have flexibility for how a course is delivered and know best how their audience learns. Let them be free and measure the success through the provincial evaluation systems.

The Board has other issues that will require attention in the future but the resolution of these few will be solid advancements.

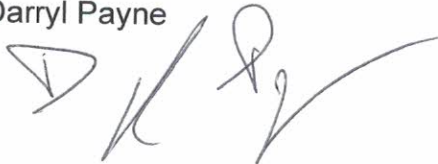
Our Board is committed to participating as a RTC. As a RTC, it is a partner not a subordinate in the training of firefighters in the Province of Ontario. As a partner we expect opportunities to come to a table and actively provide input and be a part of decisions that impact us.

To date, it seems to be a one-sided table and it is limiting the EOETA.

Our Board thanks you for taking the time to consider this letter. Our Board through our Executive Director is available to meet with you if you wish. Our Board does encourage you to engage our Executive Director in active discussion to positively impact this shift.

Kindest Regards

Fire Chief Darryl Payne
President



Copy to:

Fire Chief Chuck Pedersen, Past President
Fire Chief Bill Balfour, Treasurer
Fire Chief Ted Bryan/ Chuck Parsons
Fire Chief Steve Brockbank, Secretary
Fire Chief Gord Jopling
Fire Chief Jesse Lambe
Fire Chief Ray Haines
Fire Chief Tim Blake
Fire Chief David Dawson
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