

Village of Merrickville Wolford

317 Brock Street W PO Box 340
Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0
T: 613-269-4791
W: Merrickville-wolford.ca

August 4, 2026

Re: Resolution of Support - Sustainable Provincial Fire Services Funding

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, at its Regular Meeting on July 27, 2026, passed the following motion regarding the Resolution of Support - Sustainable Provincial Fire Services Funding:

Resolution #: R-17-07-27-26

Moved by: Councillor Maitland

Seconded by: Councillor Ireland

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford receive for information the resolutions from the Township of Terrace Bay and the Town of Smiths Falls regarding the request for sustainable provincial grant funding for fire services;

AND FURTHER THAT Council does hereby endorse and support the request as presented and directs staff to circulate the resolution of support to the identified parties within the resolutions.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at clerk@merrickville-wolford.ca.

Thank you.



Julia McCaugherty-Jansman
Clerk



The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0

Phone: (807) 825-3315 Fax: (807) 825-9576

June 17, 2026

Premier Doug Ford

premier@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Ford,

At the Township of Terrace Bay's Regular Council Meeting held Monday June 15, 2026, the following resolution of support was passed:

RE: Resolution of Support – Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding For Fire Service

Resolution: CR142–2026

Moved by: Councillor Webb

Seconded by: Councillor Dube

WHEREAS Municipal fire services in Ontario operate under legislative authority established by the province through statutes, regulations, codes and prescribed standards governing training, equipment, certification, inspection, and operation requirements.

AND WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for implementing and maintaining compliance with these provincially mandated requirements primarily through local property taxation;

AND WHEREAS current provincial fire service grant programs are available to both full-time and volunteer fire departments across Ontario and are distributed through competitive application processes that may not fully reflect the differing financial and administrative capacities of urban and rural municipalities, highlighting the need for a more balanced approach to funding that supports all fire services equitably;

AND WHEREAS volunteer firefighters represent approximately 70-75% of firefighters in Ontario protecting the majority of communities across the province and, particularly in rural areas, are frequently the first emergency responders to arrive on scene ahead of other emergency services;

AND WHEREAS other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services, receive stable and predictable provincial funding contributions or cost-sharing arrangements;



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AND WHEREAS the absence of a comparable and stable funding model for fire services creates a structural imbalance between provincial regulatory authority and municipal financial responsibility;

AND WHEREAS reliance on competitive funding creates budget uncertainty, limits long-term financial planning, and may not reflect the actual operational needs of fire services, contributing to instability, reduced preparedness and the reduction of services within a critical emergency response sector;

AND WHEREAS stable and predictable funding is essential to maintain emergency preparedness, firefighter safety, service sustainability, and equitable protection for residents regardless of municipal size or tax base;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Terrace Bay respectfully calls upon the Province of Ontario to transition the current practice of competitive provincial fire service grant programs into a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements;

AND FURTHER THAT this funding be structured to provide equitable and predictable annual support for operational readiness and training costs associated with volunteer, composite and full-time fire departments across Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT the annual value of this funding be reviewed and adjusted to more appropriately reflect the level of provincial funding support currently provided to other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated for endorsement to:

- All municipalities
- Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
- Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
- Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighter Association
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association

AND FURTHER THAT, upon endorsement, this resolution be submitted to:

- Lise Vaugois, MPP Thunder Bay Superior North
- The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Minister of the Solicitor General
- The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario



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Sincerely,

J. Hall
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

CC:

MPP Thunder Bay Superior North, Lise Vaugeois – lvaugeois-co@ndp.on.ca

Minister of the Solicitor General – Michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org

Minister of Infrastructure – kinga.surma@pc.ola.org

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – rob.flack@pc.ola.org

AMO – resolutions@amo.on.ca

NOMA – admin@noma.on.ca

ROMA – roma@roma.on.ca

OAFC – info@oafc.on.ca

OPFFA – admin@ontariofirefighters.org

OVFFA – president@ffao.on.ca

All Northern Ontario Municipalities



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

June 17th, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Primer of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Support for Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed the following resolution at their June 15th, 2026 Council meeting:

The Council of the Town of Smiths Falls respectfully calls upon the Province of Ontario to transition the current practice of competitive provincial fire service grant programs into a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements;

AND FURTHER THAT this funding be structured to provide equitable and predictable annual support for operational readiness and training costs associated with volunteer, composite and full-time fire departments across Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT the annual value of this funding be reviewed and adjusted to more appropriately reflect the level of provincial funding support currently provided to other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to:

- Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
- Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
- Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighters Association
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association
- Scott Reid, M.P. Lanark-Frontenac
- John Jordan, M.P.P. Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
- Minister of the Solicitor General



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

- *Minister of Infrastructure*
- *Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*
- *All Ontario Municipalities*

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello
Town Clerk

cc: Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighters Association
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Scott Reid, M.P. Lanark-Frontenac
John Jordan, M.P.P. Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
Minister of the Solicitor General
Minister of Infrastructure
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
All Ontario Municipalities