



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 FOURTH AVENUE, P. O. BOX 40, LARDER LAKE, ON P0K 1L0

PH: 705-643-2158 FAX: 705-643-2311

LARDERLAKE.CA

September 10, 2025

Jon Pegg
Ontario Fire Marshal
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

Subject: Request for Extension of Certification Deadlines under Ontario Regulation 343/22

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg,

On behalf of The Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake we are writing to express our support for the firefighter certification requirements outlined in Ontario Regulation 343/22. We recognize the importance of standardized training and certification in enhancing firefighter safety, service quality, and public confidence across the province.

When firefighter certification was first introduced in 2018, many rural municipalities voiced concern, noting that they do not offer the same level of fire protection services as larger municipalities or urban centres. The Province graciously responded by introducing legislation to allow municipalities to certify firefighters only to the services they actually provide. This flexibility is greatly appreciated and reflects a thoughtful understanding of the diverse realities across Ontario.

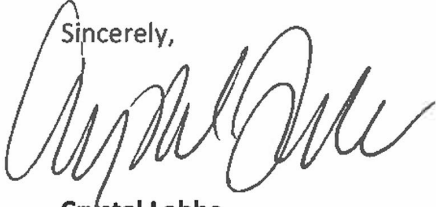
However, despite this accommodation, training programs for many of these service-specific certifications are still not available or are only in "pilot" while there remains a large demand for these programs. The Province cannot reasonably expect volunteer firefighters—many of whom work full-time jobs—to independently develop training programs that meet the standards required to pass certification exams. This places an undue burden on small municipalities and risks compromising the intent of the regulation.

We have enclosed a formal resolution passed by our Council, which outlines our concerns and respectfully requests that the province extend the certification deadline to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation to allow time for volunteer fire departments to access these training programs and achieve certification.

We also urge the Province to consider a phased adaptive approach to implementation, ensuring that all communities have equitable access to the necessary training resources.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to fire service excellence and look forward to your support in helping Ontario municipalities meet these important standards in a realistic and sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crystal Labbe', written in a cursive style.

Crystal Labbe

CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake



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September 10, 2025

To whom it May Concern:

RE: Resolution #17, September 9, 2025 – Request for Extension of Certification Deadlines under Ontario Regulation 343/22

Please be advised that at the Township of Larder Lake's Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 9th, 2025, the following resolution was adopted:

Moved by: Councillor Kelly

Seconded by: Councillor Armstrong

CARRIED

WHEREAS Ontario Regulation 343/22 mandates that firefighters performing specific fire protection services be certified to a prescribed standard by July 1, 2026, with certain technical rescue disciplines requiring certification by July 1, 2028;

AND WHEREAS the Township recognizes and supports the value of the certification requirements mandated by the Province of Ontario, acknowledging that standardized training enhances firefighter safety, service quality, and public trust;

AND WHEREAS the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) and Ontario Fire College (OFC) are actively working to provide training and certification programs, including offering over 600 courses annually, yet some certification programs and testing resources remain under development or are not yet widely accessible, particularly in the Ontario Seal Programs;

AND WHEREAS many fire departments in Ontario are staffed predominantly by volunteer firefighters who balance full-time employment with their emergency service commitments;

AND WHEREAS the certification programs are still in development and the current availability does not adequately reflect the operational realities of volunteer fire departments, especially in rural communities, where training opportunities are limited and certification demands place undue pressure on personnel and municipal resources;

AND WHEREAS when firefighter certification was first introduced in 2018, smaller/rural Municipalities raised concerns that they do not provide the same level of fire protection services as larger municipalities or urban centres. The Province responded thoughtfully by introducing new legislation to allow municipalities to certify firefighters only to the services they actually provide. This flexibility is appreciated and reflects a fair and practical approach; however, training programs for many of these service-specific certifications are still not available.

AND WHEREAS it is unreasonable to expect volunteer firefighters—who already balance full-time employment and community service—to independently develop curriculums and training programs in-house that meet provincial standards and adequately prepare them for certification exams;

AND WHEREAS smaller rural volunteer fire departments often lack the necessary resources, certified personnel, and specialized expertise to independently develop training curriculums or qualify for learning contracts with the Ontario Fire College; and

AND WHEREAS these departments have long relied on the Ontario Fire College's course offerings and have been patiently awaiting the release of the Ontario Seal Programs, having noted preliminary pilot initiatives in Northern Ontario and anticipating a broader rollout of these programs in the near future;

AND WHEREAS rural municipalities would welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Office of the Fire Marshal to address current barriers and explore collaborative solutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the **Township of Larder Lake** respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Office of the Fire Marshal, extend the compliance deadlines outlined in Ontario Regulation 343/22 to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation for all affected certification categories;

AND THAT the Province consider implementing a phased or regionally adaptive approach to certification deadlines, taking into account the availability of training programs and the unique challenges faced by volunteer fire services in Rural Ontario;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Solicitor General, the Ontario Fire Marshal, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC), **John Vanthof** and all municipalities in Ontario for support and endorsement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Crystal Labbe', written in a cursive style.

Crystal Labbe

CAO/ Clerk Treasurer

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AND WHEREAS rural municipalities would welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Office of the Fire Marshal to address current barriers and explore collaborative solutions;

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AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Solicitor General, the Ontario Fire Marshal, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC), **[insert local MPP name]**, and all municipalities in Ontario for support and endorsement.

[Your Township Letterhead]

Date: **[Insert Date]**

To:

Jon Pegg
Ontario Fire Marshal
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

Subject: Request for Extension of Certification Deadlines under Ontario Regulation 343/22

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We appreciate your leadership and commitment to fire service excellence and look forward to your support in helping Ontario municipalities meet these important standards in a realistic and sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Contact Information]

[Insert Township Name]