



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MCGARRY

P.O. BOX 99

VIRGINIATOWN, ON. P0K 1X0

705-634-2145, Fax 705-634-2700

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR:

☐ Louanne Caza
☐ Elaine Fic
☒ Annie Keft
☐ Francine Plante
☐ Mayor Culhane

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR:

☒ Louanne Caza
☐ Elaine Fic
☐ Annie Keft
☐ Francine Plante
☐ Mayor Culhane

RESOLUTION # 284/2025

DATE October 14, 2025

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 McGarry 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), MPP John Vanthof, and all municipalities in Ontario for support and endorsement.

Recorded vote requested by _____

	For	Against
Councillor Louanne Caza		
Councillor Elaine Fic		
Councillor Annie Keft		
Councillor Francine Plante		
Mayor Bonita Culhane		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest *

I declare this motion

☒ Carried
☐ Lost / Defeated
☐ Deferred to: _____ (enter date) Because:
☐ Referred to: _____ (enter body) Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Signature of Chair:



**Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.*