



# ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

*We are the trusted leader in fire services  
by inspiring and influencing a safer Ontario.*

April 17, 2024

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **The O AFC applauds the Federal Government Support for Volunteer Firefighters in Budget 2024**

**[AJAX, ON]** The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) applauds the Federal Government in today's 2024 Federal Budget.

The Government of Canada to increase tax credits for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers by doubling the credit from \$3,000 to \$6,000 for the 2024 tax year and subsequent tax years.

This increase will particularly benefit rural communities where firefighters are most often volunteers and are confronting increasingly more frequent wildfires as well as recruitment and retention issues. These investments will help ensure that essential first responders are better supported in the work they do to keep Ontarians safe.

Ontario is home to 437 fire departments, both career and volunteer, that operate around the clock to keep over 15 million Ontarians safe.

The O AFC is confident that these measures will significantly contribute to the safety and effectiveness of fire services across Ontario and a great step forward for volunteer recruitment and retention.

The O AFC which is a standing member of the National Advisory Council (NAC) with the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) also applauds the Government of Canada's investment in Indigenous Communities. First Nations Emergency Management and Preparedness among many facets like \$20.9 million over three years distributing fire alarms and fire extinguishers to homes, as well as fire related education.

The O AFC is very thankful for all the hard work the CAFC has been doing to advocate for fire at the Federal level. The O AFC will continue to work with all partners to ensure fire and life safety to all Ontarians. A great start and more work to do, together.



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### **Quote:**

*The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) is very pleased that the Federal budget included an increase in the Volunteer Firefighter tax credit. In Ontario, 405 of the 437 departments rely on Volunteer Firefighters, and they make up approximately 18,000 of the approximate 30,000 firefighters in the province. Volunteer Firefighters play a critical role in keeping our communities safe, and this initiative serves to recognize that, and will undoubtedly contribute positively to the efforts to recruit and retain Volunteer Firefighters to continue the tremendous public services that they perform.*

**—Deputy Chief Rob Grimwood, President, O AFC**

### **About us:**

**Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC):** The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) is a non-partisan, non-profit association that represents the Chief Fire Officers of the 437 fire departments in the Province of Ontario. The 437 fire departments are divided into 32 career fire departments, 43 composite fire departments and 362 volunteer fire departments. There are approximately 30,716 firefighters in Ontario including about 18,281 volunteer firefighters, 11,971 career firefighters and 464 part-time firefighters.

These Chief Fire Officers are ultimately responsible, by statute, for the management and delivery of fire, rescue, and emergency response to the 15 million residents of Ontario. We are the trusted advisor to government when it comes to public and firefighter safety. The O AFC supports initiatives designed to improve the fire and life safety of our members and all who reside in Ontario.

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