



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

Leading innovation and excellence in public and life safety

February 5, 2024

RE: 2024 O AFC Board of Directors Mandate

Dear O AFC Members,

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) represents the Chief Fire Officers from the 437 Fire Departments across the province in leading innovation and excellence in Public and Life Safety.

Our mission is to provide leadership and support to the Ontario fire service through advocacy in service delivery, public and firefighter safety. We are the trusted leader in the fire service by inspiring and influencing a safer Ontario.

The purpose of this letter is to outline the O AFC's priorities and expectations for the upcoming year, and to provide an open, transparent and formal mandate to the 2024 Board of Directors, each of whom has been provided with their own individual mandate letter specific to their portfolios.

For the 2024 term, the O AFC has the following priorities that Directors are tasked with supporting and achieving:

- Improving member engagement & communication, including re-imagining the Provincial Advisory Committees and how to engage and represent members from all fire departments.
- Ensuring the continued success of O AFC events, and modernizing the Conference and Trade Show to ensure that it provides value to all members.
- Re-evaluating and improving member services and Chief Officer support, including completion of a "Chief Officer 101" program and implementation of a Chief Officer Peer Support Program.
- Strengthening our government relations & advocacy, including hosting another Queens Park Advocacy Day, having an increased presence at the AMO conference, maintaining regular engagement with key Ministries and providing all members with government relations speaking points to ensure consistent messaging.
- Ensuring effective business operations for the O AFC & OFAI, including ensuring staff are supported, diversification of revenue, and improvements to the Candidate Testing Services program.
- Conducting a comprehensive governance review, including constitution, code of conduct, election process and resolution process; and ensure adherence to the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA).



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For the 2024 term, our committees and working groups are embarking on a number of projects and initiatives including:

- Engaging and improving communication with industry partners to ensure that they are receiving value from their relationship with the OAFChiefs
- Developing a repository of tiered response agreements and information that can be utilized by members to make informed decisions
- Developing measurable and comparable data and analytics that can be used by fire departments to make evidence-based decisions
- Continuing the work to engage and recognize retirees and keep them involved in the Association
- Developing a new member orientation program that introduces new OAFChiefs members to the Association and how we can serve them
- Developing a Chief Officer 101 manual and training program that assists newly promoted/appointed Chief Officers with their role
- Providing stakeholder feedback on proposed changes to the Ontario Building Code and/or Ontario Fire Code
- Being a key stakeholder to the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) on all items related to fire prevention, code enforcement and public fire safety education
- Developing a Chief Officer Peer Support Program
- Advocating for firefighter health & safety initiatives, including cancer and PTSD prevention initiatives
- Working with the OFM for the purpose of providing the Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment & Retention Working Group with feedback and strategies that can be shared with all Ontario fire departments
- Working directly with the Office of the Fire Marshal to provide stakeholder feedback related to their training modernization and mandatory certification programs
- Working with the OFM and other key stakeholders to ensure that training on electric vehicle emergencies and lithium ion battery fires is produced and available to Ontario fire services
- Being a key stakeholder to the Solicitor General, Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) and other partners on all items related to Next Generation 911, Simultaneous Notification, Public Safety Broadband Network and Public Safety Radio Network

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Board of Directors, thank you for your confidence in us to lead this organization, and the work that you do each and every day to make the Ontario Fire Service better and safer. I commit to you that the Board of Directors will work tirelessly to fulfill the above mandate, serve you as our members and work to improve public and life safety throughout the province.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Grimwood'.

Deputy Chief Rob Grimwood
President