



January 15, 2024

On behalf of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council (FMPFSC) and its Board of Directors, I would like to take a moment to thank those fire departments who submitted applications for Year 2 of the FMPFSC Certification Grant. This grant will be used to support firefighter training which will assist departments in meeting the requirements of O. Reg 343/22 (Firefighter Certification).

Overall, 189 applications were submitted in response to the grant. Based on the applications received, the Board of Directors understands the training and certification needs of fire departments and we thank you for the care and attention that went into providing so much information to help us inform our decision making.

Given the diverse experiences of our Board, we understood that funding was needed to support certification in Ontario. When the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs proposed this grant, we acknowledged that the greatest need was in those smaller composite and volunteer departments that are not able to staff a full-time truck. It's in these departments where funding assistance is typically most needed, as training is done on smaller budgets and with increased logistics to ensure that those who are not full-time members of the fire service are not only trained, but certified.

The FMPFSC Certification Grant is a three year program. This year's portion of the grant will allocate \$200,000 to 139 fire departments throughout the Province of Ontario who do not have a fully staffed truck in service and have 75 or less active firefighters. This will result in \$41.49 being awarded per firefighter in those departments.

I can assure you that the allocation of funds was done after careful consideration of options and discussion by the Board of Directors. All of the information submitted by departments was fact checked and verified to ensure that the allocation of funds was done based on current staffing levels and that allocations were made to those departments who need financial support to meet their certification requirements.

The FMPFSC is honoured to be able to provide this funding to the fire service in Ontario and will continue to look for opportunities to give back. As a reminder, all departments will have a chance to apply next year for our final grant year. As we continue to have conversations with key stakeholders on where there is the greatest need, the funding model for the remaining grant year may shift to best respond to training needs. More details will be shared on when those application windows open and the board will once again seek information on where there is the greatest need moving forward.

Departments who are allocated funds will soon be contacted under separate cover by Jamie Kovacs, Executive Director.

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Again, thank you for your continued dedication to fire safety in Ontario. The FMPFSC looks forward to its ongoing work with the fire service and continuing to give back to support the work of departments across Ontario.

Sincerely,

Jon Pegg

Chair