

**Ministry of the Solicitor General
Office of the Fire Marshal**

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**Ministère du Solliciteur général
Bureau du commissaire des incendies**

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MEMORANDUM TO: All Ontario Fire Chiefs

FROM: John McBeth
Acting Ontario Fire Marshal

DATE: April 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Ontario Immediate Family Wellness Program

To support the mental health and well-being of families of Ontario public safety personnel (PSP), the Ministry of the Solicitor General is implementing the Ontario Immediate Family Wellness Program (the “Family Wellness Program”). As part of this program, access to services is available to those employed in fire (inclusive of the Office of the Fire Marshal, First Nations and municipal fire departments).

This program will provide mental health services to the immediate family (partner, parent, child, or sibling) of PSP who die in the line of duty or have died by suicide. The program’s goal is to ensure access to immediate wraparound services through grief and bereavement counselling. The program aims to complement short-term victim services and immediate crisis supports by extending mental health services to identified family members for up to two years.

Family members who have lost a loved one because of a death in the line of duty on or after January 1, 2020, or because of a death by suicide on or after January 1, 2023, may access the wellness program. Services provided include:

- Access to wellness navigators providing crisis and care planning 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.
- Access to wraparound services that connect families to necessary supports whenever they are needed, including rapid access to counselling.
- Individualized care plans that support families no matter where they are on the mental health continuum.

For more information or to inquire about how to access the program, please visit:

www.ONfamilywellness.ca or contact the program coordinators at info@onfamilywellness.ca or 1 866 643 9247.

Please share this information broadly across your respective senior management teams.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John McBeth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John McBeth

Acting Ontario Fire Marshal

c: Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M.

Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety

Erin Hannah, Associate Deputy Minister, Modernization

Melanie Mayoh, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Services

Creed Atkinson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Solicitor General