

Clarington



November 2, 2016

Minister Kevin Flynn
Ontario Ministry of Labour
400 University Avenue,
14th Floor, Toronto ON
M7A 1T7
ptsdprevention@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Flynn:

Re: Reply to Notice of Direction Made Pursuant to Subsection 9.1(1) of the Ministry of Labour Act: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on April 14, 2016

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) has developed a "Road 2 Mental Readiness" (R2MR) program — a PTSD awareness model — for delivery to all Ontario Fire Services personnel as they are defined in the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997, Section 14.

Clarington Fire and Emergency Services (CEFS) are pleased to provide you with the following information as it relates to our plans to prevent posttraumatic stress disorder arising out of and in the course of our employees' duties and workplace.

Staff in our Fire Training Division have contacted the O AFC offices requesting securement of multiple dates and times for in-house sessions whereby a certified R2MR instructor will attend and teach both the Supervisor and Peer segments of this training.

Two supervisory sessions, requested to commence as soon as practical, will facilitate training, during 2 eight-hour sessions for our 24 career and 25 volunteer front-line emergency scene supervisory staff.

Subsequent, multiple four-hour peer sessions, requested to commence as soon as practical, will facilitate training for our department's task-oriented firefighters, which currently numbers more than 125.

It is hoped that several sessions will have been completed by year's end 2016 and that remaining sessions will have been completed by the fall of 2017.

Corporation of the Municipality of Clarington

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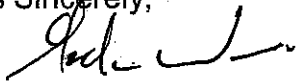
Further, CEFS has reached out to the seven additional Fire Services in the Region of Durham and offered availability to their potential participants, should we not be able to fill class seats given works schedules or personal commitments of the participants. CEFS has asked that similar, reciprocal arrangements be made by these departments whereby we may attend and benefit from their sessions as well.

In addition, CEFS has and will continue to deliver components of an ongoing PTSD workplace prevention plan. Bi-annually, staff are trained on causes and symptoms of the disability and have been directed to the free services available through the Durham Region Critical Incident Stress Support Team (DRCISST) to deal with any afflictions. Over the years, DRCISST councilors have attended several of our training sessions and have delivered content to the participants directly.

CEFS was honoured to host a film team from Brand Health at our Fire Station #5 in 2015 where a powerful PTSD short film was produced and disseminated across the Province of Ontario and internationally through <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCXWuBYTwl0>.

I hope our past and future training plans, designed to effectively deal with the dangers of PTSD, meet with your approval. We at CEFS thank you for your time and service to the residents of Ontario.

Yours Sincerely,



Gord Weir, A.M.C.T, C.M.M. III, C.E.M.C
Director of Emergency and Fire Services/Fire Chief

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