



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

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

March 26, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today the Government of Ontario announces in Budget 2026 the Fire Protection Grant funding doubled

[Toronto, ON] The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) extends its appreciation to the Ontario government for doubling the funding of the **Fire Protection Grant** this year from the allocated \$10 million to \$20 million. The funding through the Fire Protection Grant will support municipal fire departments to expand cancer prevention initiatives and improve emergency response to the risk of lithium-ion battery related incidents.

Firefighters in Canada face a significantly higher risk of cancer compared to the general population. This is primarily due to occupational exposures to harmful chemicals and carcinogens during firefighting activities. Cancer is now a leading cause of job-related deaths for firefighters in Canada. This funding will ensure firefighters are kept safe, while they are keeping our communities safe.

Quote:

“The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) is deeply grateful to the provincial government for providing and increasing the Fire Protection Grant in the 2026 Ontario Budget. This grant will enable fire departments to implement cancer prevention programs, purchase equipment, and in addition mitigate risks associated with lithium-ion battery incidents.

Ontario’s fire departments and firefighters value our extremely positive relationship with the provincial government, and thank them for this important investment, and will continue to work with the government on sustainable funding opportunities for Ontario’s fire service.”

—Fire Chief Jeremy Parkin, President Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs



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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 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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