

From: [Save OFC](#)
To: mono@townofmono.com; [Kelly Lush](mailto:Kelly.Lush); deputyclerk@town.ignace.on.ca; elklake@ntl.sympatico.ca; admin@jocelyn.ca; people@johnsontownship.ca; office@townshipofioly.com; harlytwp@parolink.net; info@khrtownship.ca; online@king.ca; lavalley@nwonet.net; lairdtwp@soonet.ca; contact@lakeofbays.on.ca; lakeofthewoodstwp@tbaytel.net; clerk@lanarkhighlands.ca; brendacoulter@larderlake.ca; laurentian@laurvall.on.ca; vanessa@townshipleeds.on.ca; info@township.limerick.on.ca; info@lucanbiddulph.on.ca; twpmacd@onlink.net; bpaulmachar@vianet.ca; info@madawaskavalley.ca; clerk@madoc.ca; malahide@malahide.ca; mhartling@manitouwadge.ca; reception@mapleton.ca; township@ntl.sympatico.ca; info@matticevalcote.ca; treasure@ntl.sympatico.ca; clerk@township.mckellar.on.ca; clerk@mcmurrichmonteith.com; info@mcnabbraeside.com; info@melancthontownship.ca; admin@minderhills.ca; info@township.montague.on.ca; ral@northhuron.ca; reception@ucdg.on.ca; deputyclerk@merrickville-wolford.ca
Subject: Closure of the Ontario Fire College
Date: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:57:15 PM

Dear Municipal Leaders:

We are writing to you regarding the province's announcement on January 13, 2021, of the impending closure of the Gravenhurst campus of the Ontario Fire College on March 31, 2021.

We know that at least two of the three associations quoted in the Ontario Government's press release were not informed that the government would close the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst!

The Ontario Government says its plan to modernize and regionalize fire service training will be more cost-effective and accessible to municipalities. Yet, the government has not shared a plan showing how these changes will provide training of equal value in a more cost-effective and accessible manner for municipalities across Ontario.

The province's regionalization model currently has Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with a mixed bag of 20 "Regional Training Centres" (RTCs) located in various parts of Ontario. The municipalities' cost to send one firefighter to an RTC range between \$300 and \$1,200 for the course alone. This cost does not include accommodations or meals.

The Gravenhurst campus of the Ontario Fire College has modern facilities and equipment where subject matter experts provide training in all fire service disciplines. The cost is \$65 for a municipality to send one firefighter to the college. That cost includes onsite accommodations and three meals a day. In shifting firefighter training to RTCs, the price for training our firefighters will shift to your municipality's taxpayers. If the government revives [O. Reg 379/18](#) (firefighter certification) while shuttering the college, the growth in training demand and cost will be significant.

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, as amended, requires the fire marshal to "develop training programs and evaluation systems for persons involved in the provision of fire protection services." It also stipulates the fire marshal must "provide programs to improve practices relating to fire protection services" and "maintain and operate a central fire college."

As municipal leaders, would you prefer an affordable, cost-effective training model that keeps students in one location with up-to-date, technically accurate training facilities led by subject matter experts? Or a more expensive training model in multiple facilities that cannot match what the Ontario Fire College provides?

Please stand with us against this ill-conceived closure of the Ontario Fire College and the government's undefined plan. Let's keep your firefighters and community safe by keeping the ONLY provincial fire training facility in Ontario open. As municipal councils, we ask that you send a strong letter of rejection of this plan to your local Member of Provincial Parliament and lobby the Doug Ford government to reverse its decision.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or a need for further information please let us know.

Regards,

Chris McConnell
President, OPSEU Local 317

(Representing the workers of the Ontario Fire College)

705-801-5774
savetheofc@gmail.com



Township of Perry

PO Box 70, 1695 Emsdale Road, Emsdale, ON POA 1J0

PHONE: (705)636-5941

FAX: (705)636-5759

www.townshipofperry.ca

February 19, 2021

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Right Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

**RE: Request that the Province of Ontario Reverse Decision to
Close the Ontario Fire College Campus in Gravenhurst**

Please be advised that at their last regular meeting on February 17, 2021, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry supported the following resolution:

"Resolution #2021-69"

Moved by: Paul Sowrey

Seconded by: Margaret Ann MacPhail

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has been in operation in Gravenhurst since 1958; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus is one of the primary sources of certified training for Ontario Firefighters; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has built a reputation of integrity, credibility, and reliability in providing some of the best training to our Fire Services within the Province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has been used to train and certify both Volunteer, Part-Time, and Career firefighters throughout Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Regional Training Centers are not all created equal and similar in function to the Ontario Fire College Campus; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus gives Ontario Firefighters another option than Regional Training Centers to obtain National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certifications; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus is the most cost-effective method for municipalities to certify Firefighters to NFPA Standards in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Government enacted and revoked O.Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification in 2018; and

WHEREAS when the Ontario Government revoked O.Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification, it was made known by the Office of the Solicitor General that the act would be amended and brought back in the future; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Perry requests that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College Campus in Gravenhurst as the OFC is one of the best and most cost-effective methods for municipalities to train their firefighters which assists us in protecting our residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution is forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Ontario Solicitor General, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Fire Marshal Jon Pegg, and all municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

Carried."

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Beth Morton
Clerk-Administrator

BM/ec

cc: Honourable Sylvia Jones, Ontario Solicitor General
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ontario Fire Marshal Jon Pegg
Ontario Fire College – Gravenhurst Campus
All Ontario Municipalities
Township of Perry Fire Chief Dan Marshall



The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0
Phone: (807) 825-3315 Fax: (807) 825-9576

February 2, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Y7

Dear Premier Doug Ford,

Please be advised that Council of The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay at the Regular Council Meeting of February 1, 2021 resolved as follows:

That the resolution received from the Town of Augusta
Re: Ontario Fire College

Resolution: 28-2021

Moved By: Councillor St.Louis
Seconded By: Councillor Malashewski

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College has been in existence since 1949; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College is one of the primary sources of certified training for Ontario Firefighters; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College has built a reputation of integrity, credibility, and reliability in providing some of the best training to our Fire Services within the Province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College has been used to train and certify both Volunteer, Part-Time and Career firefighters throughout Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College gives Ontario Firefighters another option other than Regional Training Centers to obtain National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certifications; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College is the most cost-effective method to certify Firefighters to NFPA Standards in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Government enacted and revoked O. Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification in 2018; and

WHEREAS when the Ontario Government revoked O. Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification, it was made known by the Office of the Solicitor General that the act would be amended and brought back in the future; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Terrace Bay requests that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College as the OFC is one of the best and most cost-effective methods for municipalities to train their firefighters which assists us in protecting our residents; and

CARRIED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution is forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones; Ontario Solicitor General, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Fire Marshal; Jon Pegg, and all municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Hall
CAO/Clerk

CC: Honourable Sylvia Jones, Ontario Solicitor General

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and
Housing

Jon Pegg, Ontario Fire Marshal

Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the
TOWNSHIP OF BALDWIN

P.O. Box 7095, 11 Spooner Street
MCKERROW, ONTARIO POP 1M0
TEL: (705) 869-0225 FAX: (705) 869-5049
CLERK: Karin Bates – karin@baldwin.ca

MOVED BY: JOANNE BOUCHER DATE: February 1, 2021

SECONDED BY: DAVID FURBER MOTION NO.: 21- 013

WHEREAS the province wants to mandate training levels for Fire Fighters and now wishes to close the Ontario Fire College located in Gravenhurst, Ontario which has been used for many Government agencies such as Ministry of Transportation, Ontario Provincial Police, Fire Fighters, both full time and volunteer; and

WHEREAS only a small percentage of our department has any formal training and are responsible to train junior fire fighters with the minimal training we receive; and

WHEREAS as volunteers, we are on call 24/7/365 with day jobs and families that expect us to come home safely each and every time; and

WHEREAS the Fire College makes top tier training accessible to all Fire Departments in Ontario; and

WHEREAS municipalities are mandated to have fire departments, yet there is no provincial or federal funding for volunteer fire departments for much needed equipment and training; and

WHEREAS without a plan in place it is irresponsible to close down a vital training centre that serves Ontario and it would put Municipalities at risk which is shortsighted and not acceptable.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Corporation of the Township of Baldwin requests the Province of Ontario to reconsider closing this all-important facility for dollars over lives.

Carried ✓ Defeated _____ Mayor PK

February 19, 2021

Mr. Graydon Smith, President
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
200 University Ave., Suite 801
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6

Dear Mr. Smith:

Re: Closure of the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst

The Township of Tiny Council recently reviewed correspondence dated January 14, 2021, from the Office of the Fire Marshal regarding the pending closure of the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst, Ontario.

The Ontario Fire College provided fire service training to hundreds of municipal fire departments, like ours, who do not have the capacity or resources to provide their own in-house training for specialized programs.

Should the Office of the Fire Marshal continue to develop fire fighter training curriculum, municipalities will now bear the cost for its use and delivery. The alternative use of Regional Training Centres, for specialized training, will be at a significant cost to municipal fire departments, including room and boarding expenses.

With the closure of the Ontario Fire College and the lack of provincial or federal funding for volunteer fire departments for much needed training, it puts municipalities at risk.

We ask that reconsideration be given to the closure of the Ontario Fire College, at the very least, until a plan is in place to support municipalities with the resources and funding that is required to adequately train and support its fire fighters.

The Corporation of the Township of Tiny



George Cornell
Mayor

cc. The Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Ontario Municipalities
Jill Dunlop, MPP, Simcoe North

TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA

Moved By: TANYA HEURCY

Date: January 25, 2021

Seconded By: JEFF SHAWLEN

Resolution No: 4

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College has been in existence since 1949; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College is one of the primary sources of certified training for Ontario Firefighters; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College has built a reputation of integrity, credibility, and reliability in providing some of the best training to our Fire Services within the Province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College has been used to train and certify both Volunteer, Part-Time and Career firefighters throughout Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College gives Ontario Firefighters another option other than Regional Training Centers to obtain National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certifications; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College is the most cost-effective method to certify Firefighters to NFPA Standards in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Government enacted and revoked O. Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification in 2018; and

WHEREAS when the Ontario Government revoked O. Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification, it was made known by the Office of the Solicitor General that the act would be amended and brought back in the future; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Augusta requests that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College as the OFC is one of the best and most cost-effective methods for municipalities to train their firefighters which assists us in protecting our residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution is forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones; Ontario Solicitor General, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Fire Marshal; Jon Pegg, and all municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

RECORDED VOTE:

| | FOR | AGAINST |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Councillor Bowman | _____ | _____ |
| Councillor Henry | _____ | _____ |
| Mayor Malanka | _____ | _____ |
| Councillor Schapelhouman | _____ | _____ |
| Deputy Mayor Shaver | _____ | _____ |

CARRIED: Donald
MAYOR

DEFEATED: _____
MAYOR

Declaration of pecuniary interest by: _____

Nature of interest: _____

- Disclosed His/Her/Their Interest
- Vacated His/Her/Their Seat
- Abstained from discussion and did not vote on the question

February 19, 2021

Mr. Graydon Smith, President
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
200 University Ave., Suite 801
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6

Dear Mr. Smith:

Re: Closure of the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst

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Should the Office of the Fire Marshal continue to develop fire fighter training curriculum, municipalities will now bear the cost for its use and delivery. The alternative use of Regional Training Centres, for specialized training, will be at a significant cost to municipal fire departments, including room and boarding expenses.

With the closure of the Ontario Fire College and the lack of provincial or federal funding for volunteer fire departments for much needed training, it puts municipalities at risk.

We ask that reconsideration be given to the closure of the Ontario Fire College, at the very least, until a plan is in place to support municipalities with the resources and funding that is required to adequately train and support its fire fighters.

The Corporation of the Township of Tiny



George Cornell
Mayor

cc. The Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Ontario Municipalities
Jill Dunlop, MPP, Simcoe North