

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

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MEMORANDUM TO: Heads of Council / Chief Administrative Officers

FROM: Tim Beckett
Acting Ontario Fire Marshal

DATE: April 14, 2022

SUBJECT: O. Reg. 343/22: Firefighter Certification

Dear Heads of Council and Chief Administrative Officers,

I am writing to provide an update on the work that we have been doing on firefighter certification under the [Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997](#).

I am pleased to let you know that O. Reg. 343/22: Firefighter Certification has been filed under the Act. It is available on e-Laws [here](#).

Throughout the consultation period, we received tremendous feedback and support from municipalities, fire chiefs, and partner associations including the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association and the Fire Fighters Association of Ontario. The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has been working collaboratively with all partners to understand the regulation and how the OFM can best support departments at the local level throughout the implementation period.

The final regulation reflects changes related to exceptions, transition, and certification standards in response to feedback received during the Regulatory Registry posting period and during the municipal technical briefings. This feedback assisted in finalizing the firefighter certification regulation, which provides flexibility for local municipalities, while supporting firefighter and public safety.

With this regulation, we are not asking that firefighters train to higher levels than they already are. Certification is a process of verification, ensuring that a firefighter is trained to the standard they are required to perform, as set out in the level of service determined by a municipal council or territory without municipal organization.

Mandatory certification in Ontario will validate the training that firefighters receive and, in turn, will create safer communities.

Many of the comments received with respect to implementation have also been or will be addressed in the coming months. For instance, to address capacity pressures within the OFM, we are already increasing the staff complement for both the Ontario Fire College (OFC) and our Academic Standards and Evaluation Unit. This will ensure that we can respond to the current and ongoing demand for training and certification across Ontario.

We also continue to refine and enhance both our Adjunct Instructor and Regional Training Centre models to meet provincial demand. Learning Contract accessibility has been expanded allowing fire departments that already train together to continue to do so in order to achieve certification. The OFC will also be working with fire departments to increase their own internal training capacity and will be exploring opportunities to provide additional training for senior officers through upcoming seminars, conferences and webinars.

At the same time, we heard from many departments that purchasing textbooks and other training essentials is challenging. We have therefore explored options with the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council (FMPFSC) to look at supports that they can provide on the procurement of textbooks and other materials. The FMPFSC is supportive of the certification file and will be finalizing options that will be communicated to fire departments shortly.

I am pleased that we have been able to work so collaboratively with municipalities, fire departments, and other partners to have this regulation finalized. With a long implementation window, we are confident that certification is achievable and look forward to working with firefighters across Ontario as this regulation is operationalized.

Sincerely,

Tim Beckett
Acting Fire Marshal

c: Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M.
Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety