



March 11, 2018

Honourable Marie-France Lalonde  
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services  
George Drew Building, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
25 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6  
SENT VIA EMAIL:  
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registryfeedback@ontario.ca

**Re: Proposed regulations under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997**

Dear Minister Lalonde,

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed regulations under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA). As an association that represents the voices of 110 municipal governments across Northeastern Ontario, we have a vested interest in any change that will impact fire services in our communities.

While we support modernizing the FPPA, we have significant concerns with the proposed regulations as they are currently written. Making firefighter certification and the development of Community Risk Assessments mandatory is beyond the capability and affordability of many of our members, particularly rural communities that depend on a volunteer fire department.

FONOM shares Ontario's vision to keep communities safe through public and firefighter safety measures, however, these proposed changes arguably will not result in a safer or improved fire service.

Requiring mandatory certification requirements for new and existing firefighters currently employed will put volunteer fire departments at risk of closure. Requiring volunteers give up their personal time or take time off from work to undertake training and examination may demand too much of their time and commitment for little in return. Many rural communities see a limited number of fire service calls. Ultimately, volunteers may cease volunteering and the struggle to obtain volunteers may become even more challenging.


# FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

Most importantly, any new mandates forced onto municipalities must be accompanied with adequate funding supports and resources.

As sole funders of fire services, we believe municipal concerns should be taken into consideration. We look forward to working with your Ministry to ensure fire services remain responsive to the needs of our communities while also being financially sustainable for the long-term.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek  
President