



## ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

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

December 19, 2024

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Today the Government of Ontario announces inaugural funding of Fire Protection Grant in support of firefighter's cancer prevention.**

**[AJAX, ON]** The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Ontario government for the inaugural funding of the **Fire Protection Grant**. The Ontario government is investing \$30 million over three years to provide fire departments with funding to support cancer prevention initiatives. The funding through the Fire Protection Grant will be used to purchase equipment and make infrastructure upgrades to help reduce the long-term effects of exposure to fire-related contaminants and chemicals.

Firefighters are more likely to experience health problems because of exposure to hazardous chemicals. In Canada, 50 to 60 firefighters die of cancer every year and half of those are from Ontario. 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 thankful for the strong partnership we have with this government and their support for the Ontario Fire Service.*

*The Fire Protection Grant will assist Ontario's fire departments with ensuring public and firefighter safety during challenging economic times.*

*The 437 Fire Departments in Ontario, be it career or volunteer, operate 24/7 to keep Ontarians safe; the commitment of this funding is instrumental to that success. "*

**—Deputy Fire Chief Rob Grimwood, 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 ultimately 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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