COMMUNIQUÉ

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL
BUREAU DU COMMISSAIRE DES INCENDIES

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Public Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Ontario Fire Code to Enhance Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Safety

On October 21, 2026, the Ministry of the Solicitor General posted proposed changes to Ontario Regulation 213/07: Fire Code and Ontario Regulation 260/25: Administrative Penalties, made under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, *1997,* on the Ontario Regulatory Registry for a 27-day public consultation period. The proposed changes are intended to enhance lithium-ion battery fire safety.

Lithium-ion batteries are today's most common rechargeable batteries. They are found in many devices at home and work, including phones, laptops, power tools, wheelchairs, lawn mowers, electric bicycles and scooters and electric vehicles. While lithium-ion batteries are used across a broad range of consumer and commercial applications, many of the recently raised fire safety concerns relate to the improper use, charging, and storage of lithium-ion batteries, particularly those associated with lithium-ion battery-powered micromobility devices.

Given the limited enforcement options currently available to the fire service to address these fire safety concerns, changes to the Ontario Fire Code are being proposed that would strengthen regulatory requirements. These amendments would introduce:

- Requirements to ensure that lithium-ion batteries are used and charged in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.
- Requirements to prohibit the unauthorized modification of lithium-ion batteries.
- Requirements to ensure the safe disposal of lithium-ion batteries.
- Requirements to prohibit in residential occupancies, the charging, parking, and storing of lithium-ion battery-powered micromobility devices and their batteries in lobbies serving as an access to an exit, public corridors or exits.
- Requirements to prohibit commercial activities involving lithium-ion battery-powered micromobility devices or their batteries in residential occupancies, including charging, display, storage, parking, sale, service, recycling and disposal.
- Requirements to notify the Chief Fire Official when any of the activities noted above are taking place for commercial purposes in a building. For new activities, the Chief Fire Official would have to be notified before the activity begins. For activities

underway when the regulation comes into force, building owners would have to notify the Chief Fire Official within 15 days.

- A definition of a ‘powered micromobility device’: Powered micromobility device means a motorized bicycle, scooter, or other compact personal transportation device that is powered by a lithium-ion battery, but does not include a motorized wheelchair, a motorized medical scooter, a motorized shopping cart or a golf cart.

Fire service stakeholders and members of the public are encouraged to participate in this important public consultation by submitting their comments on the proposed changes through the Ontario Regulatory Registry.