



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

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

August 13, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today the Government of Ontario announces doubling the Fire Protection Grant to protect more firefighters

[Toronto, ON] The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Ontario government for doubling the funding of the **Fire Protection Grant** this year from \$10 million to \$20 million. The funding through the Fire Protection Grant will support municipal fire departments to expand cancer prevention initiatives and improve emergency response to the emerging risk of lithium-ion battery related incidents.

Firefighters in Canada face a significantly higher risk of cancer compared to the general population. This is primarily due to occupational exposures to harmful chemicals and carcinogens during firefighting activities. The risks are so substantial that cancer is now the leading cause of job-related deaths for firefighters in Canada. 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 deeply grateful to the provincial government for providing and increasing the Fire Protection Grant. Occupational cancers continue to be a leading cause of death, and this grant will enable fire departments to implement cancer prevention programs that reduce that risk. In addition, responses to lithium-ion battery incidents present new and emerging challenges, for which this grant will allow fire departments to invest in training and equipment to help mitigate the risks. Ontario's fire departments and firefighters greatly value our extremely positive relationship with the provincial government and thank them for this very important investment. "

—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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