



March 19th 2021

Sent via e-mail

Re: Town of Gravenhurst Resolution – Ontario Fire College

Please be advised that on March 10th 2021 the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion to support the Town of Gravenhurst – Ontario Fire College.

Motion #13 – *Moved by Netty McEwen, Seconded by Tim Wilkins that Council support item “v)” from the Town of Gravenhurst regarding the Ontario Fire College.*

Motion Carried.

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has been in operation in Gravenhurst since 1958; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus is one of the primary sources of certified training for Ontario Firefighters; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has built a reputation of integrity, credibility, and reliability in providing some of the best training to our Fire Services within the Province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has been used to train and certify both Volunteer, Part-Time and Career firefighters throughout Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Regional Training Centers are not all created equal and similar in function to the Ontario Fire College Campus; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus gives Ontario Firefighters another option other than Regional Training Centers to obtain National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certifications; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus is the most cost-effective method for municipalities to certify Firefighters to NFPA Standards in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Government enacted and revoked O. Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification in 2018; and

The Corporation of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming

P.O Box 250, 546 Niagara Street, Wyoming Ontario N0N 1T0

Tel: 519-845-3939 Ontario Toll Free: 1-877-313-3939

WHEREAS when the Ontario Government revoked O. Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification, it was made known by the Office of the Solicitor General that the act would be amended and brought back in the future; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Plympton-Wyoming requests that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College Campus in Gravenhurst as the OFC is one of the best and most cost-effective methods for municipalities to train their firefighters which assists us in protecting our residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution is forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones; Ontario Solicitor General, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Fire Marshal; Jon Pegg, and all municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,



Erin Kwarciak
Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming



Sent via Email

February 11, 2021

RE: TOWN OF GRAVENHURST RESOLUTION – ONTARIO FIRE COLLEGE

At the Town of Gravenhurst Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 9, 2021 the following resolution was passed:

**Moved by Councillor Lorenz
Seconded by Councillor Murray**

WHEREAS the site of the Ontario Fire College has been in institutional use since 1902 as the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives and the site of many heritage buildings that require protection;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Gravenhurst has been home to the Ontario Fire College since 1957, providing world-class training and camaraderie to thousands of Firefighters from across the Province in a unique setting;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College has established the reputation to certify both Volunteer and Career firefighters in a cost effective manner, offering top-tier training to all Fire Departments in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS there is concern from several municipalities and firefighters across the Province that the closure is detrimental to their training and that downloading of training is simply too expensive for municipalities and not included in their 2021 budgets;

AND WHEREAS the Fire Marshal has a duty (F.P.P.A.S 9.2(e)) to operate and maintain a central fire college and that regional training facilities are unproven and the closure of the Ontario Fire College was implemented with no stakeholder consultation;

AND WHEREAS the community of Gravenhurst has benefitted from the employment opportunities that the Ontario Fire College has provided;

AND WHEREAS the closure of the facility will result in significant job losses and would be a detriment to the broader community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario reconsider the closure of the Ontario Fire College;

AND THAT if the closure occurs, the facility and site in the Town of Gravenhurst be considered to be the location of a Regional Training Centre for Fire and Emergency Services, for all the people of Ontario;

AND THAT the Province engage the Town of Gravenhurst and community partners to use the site in a matter that fosters growth of the community in a responsible way;

AND FINALLY THAT this motion be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Ontario Solicitor General, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP Norm Miller, the Ontario Fire Marshal, Jon Pegg and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Sincerely,



Kayla Thibeault
Director of Legislative Services / Clerk
Town of Gravenhurst

DRAFT MOTION:

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has been in operation in Gravenhurst since 1958; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus is one of the primary sources of certified training for Ontario Firefighters; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has built a reputation of integrity, credibility, and reliability in providing some of the best training to our Fire Services within the Province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has been used to train and certify both Volunteer, Part-Time and Career firefighters throughout Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Regional Training Centers are not all created equal and similar in function to the Ontario Fire College Campus; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus gives Ontario Firefighters another option other than Regional Training Centers to obtain National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certifications; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus is the most cost-effective method for municipalities to certify Firefighters to NFPA Standards in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Government enacted and revoked O. Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification in 2018; and

WHEREAS when the Ontario Government revoked O. Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification, it was made known by the Office of the Solicitor General that the act would be amended and brought back in the future; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the **TOWNSHIP/MUNICIPALITY** requests that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College Campus in Gravenhurst as the OFC is one of the best and most cost-effective methods for municipalities to train their firefighters which assists us in protecting our residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution is forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Ontario Solicitor General, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Fire Marshal, Jon Pegg, and all municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

March 22, 2021

RE: Ontario Fire College Closure

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands, at its meeting held March 17, 2021, passed the following resolution:

2021-195

Moved by Aakash Desai, Seconded by Danielle Valiquette

Whereas Council received the resolution 59/21 from the Township of Howick; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario has announced that as of March 31, 2021 the Gravenhurst campus of the Ontario Fire College will be permanently closed; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario announced plans to modernize and expand access to firefighter training in Ontario; and

Whereas, there has been no clear plan communicated by the Province of Ontario on how to obtain firefighter training in the absence of the Ontario Fire College campus; and

Whereas, there has been no clear plan communicated by the Province of Ontario on how firefighter training in Ontario will be modernized and expanded; and

Whereas, there has been no clear plan communicated by the Province of Ontario regarding the costs or funding for modernized and expanded firefighter training in Ontario; and

Whereas, the Municipality of Grey Highlands is a small municipality that operates a volunteer fire department to provide fire protection;

Now therefore, be it resolved that Council respectfully request a clear plan be communicated that establishes how the Province intends to modernize and expand firefighter training ensuring equal access to all municipal fire departments in Ontario, and as well, present a plan for funding to subsidize and/or regulate the cost for firefighter training in the Province of Ontario; and

**That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Solicitor General, MPP Bill Walker, the Ontario Fire Marshal, the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario Municipalities.
CARRIED.**

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jerri-Lynn Levitt
Deputy Clerk
Council and Legislative Services
Municipality of Grey Highlands

The Municipality of Grey Highlands

206 Toronto Street South, Unit One P.O. Box 409 Markdale, Ontario N0C 1H0
☎ 519-986-2811 Toll-Free ☎ 1-888-342-4059 Fax 519-986-3643
🌐 www.greyhighlands.ca ✉ info@greyhighlands.ca



Howick
TOWNSHIP

44816 Harriston Road, RR 1, Gorrie On N0G 1X0
Tel: 519-335-3208 ext 2 Fax: 519-335-6208
www.howick.ca

March 3, 2021

Premier Doug Ford

By email only premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed at the March 2, 2021 Howick Council meeting:

Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Hargrave:

Whereas, the Province of Ontario has announced that as of March 31, 2021 the Gravenhurst campus of the Ontario Fire College will be permanently closed; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario announced plans to modernize and expand access to firefighter training in Ontario; and

Whereas, there has been no clear plan communicated by the Province of Ontario on how to obtain firefighter training in the absence of the Ontario Fire College campus; and

Whereas, there has been no clear plan communicated by the Province of Ontario on how firefighter training in Ontario will be modernized and expanded; and

Whereas, there has been no clear plan communicated by the Province of Ontario regarding the costs or funding for modernized and expanded firefighter training in Ontario; and

Whereas, the Township of Howick is a small rural municipality that operates a volunteer fire department to provide fire protection;

Now therefore, be it resolved that Council respectfully request a clear plan be communicated that establishes how the Province intends to modernize and expand firefighter training ensuring equal access to all municipal fire departments in Ontario, and as well, present a plan for funding to subsidise and or regulate the cost for firefighter training in the Province of Ontario. Carried.

Resolution No. 59/21

If you require any further information, please contact this office, thank you.

Yours truly,

Carol Watson

Carol Watson, Clerk
Township of Howick

Cc Solicitor General Sylvia Jones
Huron-Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson
Ontario Fire Marshal Jon Pegg
Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Mark McDonald
AMO President Graydon Smith
All Ontario Municipalities

The District Municipality of Muskoka

Moved By: H. Lorenz

Seconded By: P. Kelly

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has been in operation in Gravenhurst since 1958;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus is one of the primary sources of certified training for Ontario Firefighters;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has built a reputation of integrity, credibility, and reliability in providing some of the best training to our Fire Services within the Province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus has been used to train and certify both Volunteer, Part-Time and Career firefighters throughout Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Training Centers are not all created equal and similar in function to the Ontario Fire College Campus;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus gives Ontario Firefighters another option other than Regional Training Centers to obtain National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certifications;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College Campus is the most cost-effective method for municipalities to certify Firefighters to NFPA Standards in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Government enacted and revoked O. Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification in 2018;

AND WHEREAS when the Ontario Government revoked O. Reg. 379/18: Firefighter Certification, it was made known by the Office of the Solicitor General that the act would be amended and brought back in the future;

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED THAT The District Municipality of Muskoka requests that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College Campus in Gravenhurst as the OFC is one of the best and most cost-effective methods for municipalities to train their firefighters which assists us in protecting our residents; and

AND THAT this Resolution is forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones; Ontario Solicitor General, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Fire Marshal; Jon Pegg, and all municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

Carried ✓

Defeated


District Clerk

March 31, 2021

Sent via E-Mail: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

RE: ONTARIO FIRE COLLEGE CLOSURE

I am writing to advise that at the Town Council meeting held on March 30, 2021, Council adopted a resolution to support the request made by the Township Augusta for the Province of Ontario to reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College.

The resolution reads as follows:

That the Province be requested to consider recognizing the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC) as the principle stakeholder to guide, direct, develop and deliver the long-term 'Modernization of Fire Services Training in Ontario';

That staff be directed to explore the opportunity for the Town of Caledon to become a Regional Training Centre to be able to deliver fire services training that is accessible, affordable and attainable; and

That a copy of this motion be provided to The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General and MPP, Dufferin-Caledon, the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC), and municipalities in Ontario.

For more information regarding this request, please contact Darryl Bailey, Director, Fire and Emergency Services / Fire Chief by email to darryl.bailey@caledon.ca or by phone at 905.584.2272 ext. 4330.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Allan Thompson
Mayor

cc: Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General / MPP Dufferin-Caledon, sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org
Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC), richard.boyes@oafc.on.ca
Jon Pegg, Ontario Fire Marshal, ofm@ontario.ca
Darryl Bailey, Director, Fire and Emergency Services / Fire Chief, Town of Caledon, darryl.bailey@caledon.ca
All Ontario Municipalities

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

March 22, 2021

Resolution Number: 2021-

100

Moved By:

Seconded By:

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College has been in operation since 1949, where its primary responsibility is to develop and delivery academically sound educational and hands on training programs to meet the needs of both today's and tomorrow's fire services; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College's main objective is to assist the students to become the best trained and most professional members of the Ontario fire service; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College is one of the primary sources of certified training for Ontario and Municipal Firefighters; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College has built a reputation of integrity, credibility, and reliability in providing some of the best training for our fire services within the Province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College has been utilized by the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal for numerous years to train and certify our volunteer fire fighters; and

WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal Volunteer Fire Department is on call 24/7 for 365 days a year, with regular jobs and families that expect them to come home safely each and every time; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College provides fire fighters with another option other than Regional Training Centres to obtain their National Fire Protection Association certification; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire College is the most cost effective method to certify fire fighters to National Fire Protection Association standards in Ontario; and

WHEREAS when the Government of Ontario enacted and revoked Ontario Regulation 379/18: Firefighter Certification, it was made known by the Office of the Solicitor General that the Act would be amended and brought back in the future; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Fire Service stakeholders were not consulted regarding the closure of the Ontario Fire College training facility in Gravenhurst; and

☒ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Unanimous

Mayor:

RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY:

NAME	YEA	NAY
Councillor H. Cameron		
Councillor S. Dillabough		
Councillor J. Hunter		
Deputy Mayor T. Deschamps		
Mayor P. Sayeau		
TOTAL		

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

March 22, 2021

Resolution Number: 2021- _____

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

WHEREAS municipalities in the Province of Ontario are mandated to establish a program including public education and fire prevention, and provide fire protection services as it deems may be necessary with its needs and circumstance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVES THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal hereby strongly requests that the Government of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College as it is one of the best and most cost effective methods for municipalities to educate and train their firefighters which assists in protecting all residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if the Government of Ontario chooses to not reverse its decision to close the Ontario Fire College, the Province should provide direct financial support to municipalities to offset the increased training costs of providing Provincially mandated firefighting services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones; Ontario Solicitor General, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and House, the Ontario Fire Marshal, and all municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

☐ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Unanimous

Mayor: _____

RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY: _____

NAME	YEA	NAY
Councillor H. Cameron		
Councillor S. Dillabough		
Councillor J. Hunter		
Deputy Mayor T. Deschamps		
Mayor P. Sayeau		
TOTAL		