



— OBCM —
Ontario's Big City Mayors



Motion to Request a Review of Provincial Funding for Wildfire Prevention and Response in Ontario

Moved by Mayor Dorothy McCabe, Seconded by Mayor Ken Boshcoff

August 16, 2026

WHEREAS Ontario Big City Mayors and the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario appreciates the significant work being undertaken by the Province of Ontario, provincial wildfire personnel, emergency management officials, municipal partners, Indigenous communities, and other response partners to prevent, manage, and respond to wildfires across Ontario; and

WHEREAS Ontario is facing a growing and evolving wildfire risk as a result of climate change, droughts, extreme heat, changing forest conditions, and expanding impacts on communities, infrastructure, air quality, public health, and emergency services; and

WHEREAS wildfires have significant local, regional, and provincial consequences, including threats to life and property, evacuations, impacts to natural areas and critical infrastructure, economic disruption, and increased costs for municipalities and emergency response partners; and

WHEREAS municipalities, including urban municipalities outside immediate wildfire zones, are increasingly affected by wildfire-related impacts such as smoke events, air quality warnings, public health risks, emergency preparedness demands, and the potential need to support evacuees from affected communities; and

WHEREAS these impacts reflect a new reality for communities across Ontario in particular in the Near North and the North, requiring governments and partners to adapt current practices, policies, legislation, funding tools, and emergency management approaches to respond to changing wildfire risks; and

WHEREAS effective wildfire prevention and response requires sustained and proactive provincial leadership and investment in forest management, fuel-load reduction, public education, fire detection, training, equipment, emergency coordination, Indigenous and northern community supports, and adequate staffing for frontline wildfire response; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has primary responsibility for wildfire management on Crown lands and plays a central role in coordinating wildfire prevention, preparedness, suppression, and recovery across the province; and

WHEREAS Ontario Big City Mayors and Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario appreciates the current funding and support the Province of Ontario provides for wildfire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, given the changing needs of wildfire management and the increasing number of communities at risk, a review of current provincial practices, policies, legislation, and funding arrangements would help ensure Ontario has the resources, staffing, equipment, coordination, and long-term planning capacity required to address current and future wildfire risks;



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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Ontario Big City Mayors and Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario respectfully requests that the Premier of Ontario instruct the Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, in collaboration with relevant ministries, to undertake a comprehensive review of current practices, policies, legislation, and provincial funding related to the proactive prevention, preparedness, detection, suppression, response, and recovery of wildfires in Ontario; and

THAT the review consider the adequacy, sustainability, and predictability of current funding and programs, including whether additional or updated investments are needed in staffing, training, aircraft and equipment, forest and land management, emergency preparedness, public health impacts, evacuation support, municipal supports, and climate adaptation; and

THAT the Province consult with municipalities particularly in the Near North and North Ontario, Indigenous communities, conservation authorities, emergency management partners, public health agencies, frontline wildfire personnel, and other affected stakeholders as part of this review; and

THAT the Province report publicly on the findings of the review and identify any funding, policy, legislative, staffing, or program changes that may be required to strengthen Ontario's wildfire resilience and prevention; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.