



# TRACY MACCHARLES, MPP

Pickering-Scarborough East

December 18, 2012

## Budget Committee

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

### Re: Proposed Operating Budget Reductions for Toronto Fire Services 2013 Operating Budget

Dear Members of the Budget Committee:

It is my understanding that the 2013 proposed Base Budget for Toronto Fire Services includes \$12, 705 million in reductions required to meet the budget target of a 0% increase over the 2012 approved budget.

In speaking with Toronto Fire representatives in my riding of Pickering-Scarborough East, I am concerned that they will be unable to achieve the required savings, as outlined in the 2013 Base Budget for Toronto Fire Services, without incurring staff reductions. Moreover, I fear the removal of five fire trucks from active service could negatively impact both fire fighter and public safety, while increasing response times in Scarborough. This is particularly the case if these changes impact the fire station at Centennial and Lawrence Avenue.

It is important to consider that there is currently an automatic, mutual aid agreement between Pickering and Toronto Fire. The Centennial and Lawrence fire station often responds to incidents in Pickering Fire's coverage area because they are able to access 401 eastbound at Port Union or Whites Road a lot quicker than Pickering units. I have spoken with representatives from Pickering Fire and they are very concerned that the reduction in staffing will negatively impact the response time to citizens involved in a collision along this part of the 401 corridor. As I'm sure you will agree, accidents on the 401 are usually significant, where the difference of a few minutes in response time can be life altering.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to ensure staffing changes, as a result of the 2013 budgetary process, do not endanger our fire fighters and the communities they bravely serve.

Should you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly at: [tmaccharles.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:tmaccharles.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org) or by phone (905) 509-0336.

Sincerely,

Tracy MacCharles  
MPP, Pickering-Scarborough East

cc. Mr. Ed Kennedy, President, Toronto Professional Fire Fighters Association  
cc. Mr. Colin Arnott, President, Pickering Professional Fire Fighters Association