

NOTICE OF MOTION

Support for the Establishment of a National Fire Administration

Moved by: Councillor

Paul W. Ainslie

Seconded by: Councillor

Rachel Chernos Lin

SUMMARY:

There are approximately 3,200 fire departments across Canada.

The scale and complexity of emergencies to which Canadian fire services are expected to respond have increased significantly in recent years and are expected to continue growing.

All governments have responsibilities related to fire protection, emergency management, disaster response, and public safety.

Effective collaboration and strategic coordination among governments and fire services are essential to ensure preparedness for major emergencies and the efficient deployment of resources.

The increasing frequency, severity, and duration of wildfires and other climate-related emergencies across Canada demonstrate the need for a coordinated and sustained national approach to prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery.

A National Fire Administration established within Public Safety Canada and developed in collaboration with Canada's fire chiefs and fire service organizations, would provide a coordinating mechanism for policy development, information sharing, research, training, and emergency management while respecting provincial and territorial jurisdiction.

Such an initiative would support communities in maintaining and replenishing critical emergency response equipment and ensuring local fire services remain adequately prepared to respond to emergencies.

A National Fire Administration would strengthen Canada's capacity to protect residents, businesses, critical infrastructure, and the economy while modernizing and enhancing the national emergency response framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council express its support for the establishment of a National Fire Administration within Public Safety Canada, developed in collaboration with Canada's fire chiefs and fire service organizations.
2. City Council forward a copy of this motion to the Federal Minister of Public Safety Canada; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Toronto's Members of Parliament; and Ontario's Minister of the Solicitor General.

Date: July 29, 2026