



Township of The Archipelago

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February 19, 2021

21-036

**Moved by Councillor Andrews
Seconded by Councillor Barton**

RE: Ontario Fire College – Planned Closure

WHEREAS Council has received a request for support of a resolution enacted by the Town of Parry Sound regarding the planned closure of the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of The Archipelago supports the resolution enacted by the Town of Parry Sound, and hereby requests that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College 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

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Ontario Solicitor General; Norm Miller, Member of Parry Sound Muskoka; Jon Pegg, Ontario Fire Marshal, District of Parry Sound municipalities, ROMA, OSUM and AMO.

Carried.

CC



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