



## CENTRAL YORK FIRE SERVICES

### Impact Of The Ontario Fire College Closure Fire Services Report

Report Number: JCC-2021-02  
To: Joint Council Committee  
Author: Central York Fire Services – Assistant Deputy Claude Duval  
Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021

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#### Recommendations

1. That Fire Services Report JCC-2021-02, Impact of the Ontario Fire College Closure dated May 4, 2021 be received

#### Purpose

For information purposes

#### Background

The Ontario Fire College (OFC) was created to formalize and centralize fire training and education in the Province of Ontario. For 60 years, the OFC has provided training in the fields of fire prevention, fire suppression, rescue operations and officer development.

Earlier this year, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) announced the closing of the OFC. Twenty Regional Training Centers (RTC) have been created throughout the Province to replace the OFC single location in Gravenhurst.

Following the announcement, several municipalities expressed concerns.

#### Impact on Ontario Fire Service

There are over 400 Fire Departments in Ontario. A large number of those departments operate with part time members and are experiencing challenges with delivery of training. Those departments are very concerned with the OFC's closure and some have expressed those concerns on social and traditional media.

The main concern is financial in nature. Courses at the OFC used to cost \$65.00, including accommodation and meals, regardless of the duration of the course. The

Ontario Fire Marshal Office was heavily subsidizing the courses. Training through an RTC is currently not subsidized. However, a plan to subsidize training delivered through RTCs is currently being developed.

### **Impact on Central York Fire Services**

CYFS operates with full time personnel and a full time training division. Many of the training requirements for our personnel are met by a combination of in person training with our Training Division and the use of on shift training instructors (STI).

CYFS has faced challenges in sending staff to the OFC. About a third of the applications were being approved. The low cost of the course was offset by overtime cost to cover for the individual while on course as well as an away-from-home per diem and transportation allowance, all of which are collective agreement items. To fix those issues, CYFS has developed its own certification programs and submitted them for approval by the OFM Academic Standards and Evaluation Unit. This step ensured our firefighters receive certification from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. The programs are delivered in house, while on duty. This eliminates the aforementioned costs and allows the certification of more personnel per year.

### **Financial Impact**

Minimal financial impact

### **Conclusion**

CYFS has been very proactive in adapting to its increasing personnel training requirements. The Training Division has developed programs that has allowed the department to become self-sufficient without relying on the OFC for training, education and certification. As a result, the closing of the Ontario Fire College is not expected to have a significant financial impact for Newmarket and Aurora.

### **Consultation**

N/A

### **Impact On The Master Fire Plan**

No impact on the Master Fire Plan

### **Attachments**

None

## **Contact**

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