



**CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON**

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

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Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

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June 17, 2025

Via email: [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Premier's Office  
Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

**Re: Exemption to O. Reg. 343/22 - Firefighter Certification Requirements**

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their June 16, 2025 Regular Council Meeting:

**Motion:** 265-2025

**Moved:** A. Neeb

**Seconded:** T. Oke

**That South Huron Council supports the Township of Black-River Matheson's June 10, 2025 correspondence and resolution regarding Exemption to O. Reg. 343/22 - Firefighter Certification Requirements; and  
That this supporting resolution and originating documentation be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Solicitor General, MPP Thompson, Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, Township of Black River-Matheson and all Ontario municipalities.**

**Result:** Carried

The originating correspondence is also attached for your reference.

Sincerely,

Sue Johnson  
Administrative Assistant  
Municipality of South Huron  
[sjohnson@southhuron.ca](mailto:sjohnson@southhuron.ca)  
519-235-0310 x225

Encls

cc: The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General – [michael.kerzner@ontario.ca](mailto:michael.kerzner@ontario.ca)  
MPP Lisa Thompson - [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org);  
Jon Pegg, Fire Marshal of Ontario – [Jon.Pegg@Ontario.ca](mailto:Jon.Pegg@Ontario.ca)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario; [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)  
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities – [admin@fonom.org](mailto:admin@fonom.org)  
Township of Black River-Matheson - Hong Ji Lei [hlei@twpbrm.ca](mailto:hlei@twpbrm.ca)  
All Ontario municipalities



CORPORATION OF THE  
**TOWNSHIP OF BLACK RIVER – MATHESON**  
367 FOURTH AVE, P.O. BOX 601, MATHESON, ON P0K 1N0  
TELEPHONE (705) 273-2313 EMAIL : [brm@twpbrm.ca](mailto:brm@twpbrm.ca) WEBSITE: [www.twpbrm.ca](http://www.twpbrm.ca)

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**Jon Pegg**  
**Fire Marshal of Ontario**  
**Office of the Fire Marshal**  
**25 Morton Shulman Avenue**  
**Toronto, ON M3M 0B1**

**June 10, 2025**

Via Email: [Jon.Pegg@ontario.ca](mailto:Jon.Pegg@ontario.ca)

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg:

**Subject: Request for Exemption to Proposed Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements (O. Reg. 343/22)**

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the mandatory firefighter certification requirements under Ontario Regulation 343/22.

At its meeting held on June 10<sup>th</sup>, Council passed the attached resolution formally opposing the implementation of these requirements. While we recognize and support the importance of firefighter training and safety, the regulation as it stands does not adequately reflect the operational realities of small, rural, and northern municipalities.

Communities such as ours rely heavily on volunteer and composite fire departments that already face critical challenges in recruitment, training accessibility, and financial capacity.

Specifically, we are burdened by:

- Geographic barriers and long travel distances to accredited training centres,
- Inconsistent access to instructors and scheduling options,
- Limited budgets and competing capital demands,
- Difficulty in retaining and replacing volunteers due to increased regulatory pressures.

Without additional support, flexibility, or exemption mechanisms, the implementation of O. Reg. 343/22 will severely compromise our ability to provide consistent, timely, and effective fire protection to our residents.

Accordingly, the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson respectfully requests that the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ministry of the Solicitor General:

1. Defer full implementation of the certification regulation for rural and northern municipalities,
2. Provide exemptions or alternative compliance pathways tailored to the needs and limitations of small, remote fire services,
3. Increase funding and training supports for municipalities outside major urban centres.

We believe that a one-size-fits-all regulatory model will disproportionately and unfairly affect communities like ours. A more flexible, consultative approach is urgently needed. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We would welcome further discussion and are open to participating in any future consultations or working groups aimed at resolving these challenges collaboratively.

**Sincerely,**

**Dave Dymont, Mayor**

/hjl

On behalf of the Council of Black River-Matheson

**Encl.:** Resolution No.2025-214 – Council Opposition to O. Reg. 343/22

**CC:**

The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General – michael.kerzner@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario – premier@ontario.ca

John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming—Cochrane – jvanthof-co@ndp.on.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – amo@amo.on.ca

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) – admin@fonom.org

All Ontario Municipalities



**Corporation of the Township of Black River - Matheson**  
 367 Fourth Avenue  
 P.O. Box 601  
 Matheson, Ontario  
 P0K 1N0

**ITEM # 2025-10.b)  
 RESOLUTION**

DATE: June 10, 2025

2025-214

Moved by Councillor Steve Campsall  
 Seconded by Councillor Alain Bouchard

WHEREAS the Ontario government has enacted O. Reg. 343/22, establishing mandatory certification requirements for firefighters under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Township of Black River-Matheson acknowledges the importance of standardized firefighter training and safety;

AND WHEREAS these mandatory certification requirements pose significant challenges for small, rural, and northern municipalities due to limited financial and training resources, geographic barriers, and reliance on volunteer fire departments;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of these requirements without additional flexibility or support may negatively impact the Township's ability to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and provide adequate fire protection to its residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Black River-Matheson formally opposes the mandatory firefighter certification requirements as currently outlined in O. Reg. 343/22;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Solicitor General, Premier of Ontario, MPP John Vanthof, the Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, and all Ontario municipalities

CARRIED       DEFEATED

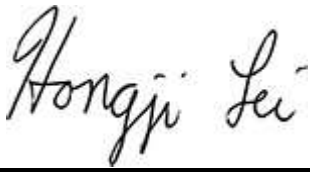
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**CHAIR SIGNATURE**

Original     Amendment     Refer     Defer     Reconsider     Withdrawn

**Recorded Vote-TO BE COMPLETED BY CLERK ONLY**

	YEAS	NAYS
Mayor Dave Dymont		
Councillor Allen		
Councillor Charbonneau		
Councillor Campsall		

Councillor McCutcheon		
Councillor Gadoury		
Councillor Bouchard		



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Hong Ji Lei  
Town Manager/Clerk