

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

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Ministère des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts

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April 11, 2024

Attention: Fire Chief or Emergency Management Coordinator

SUBJECT: Ontario FireSmart Communities Transfer Payment Program, 2024-2026

As a municipality in Ontario's fire region, you play a vital role in the province, helping to mitigate the risk and impact of wildland forest fires.

As you know wildland fires can pose risks to public safety and community infrastructure in Ontario. Wildland fire is a natural hazard, and research shows in many cases that the risk to communities can be greatly reduced by implementing FireSmart principles such as public education, vegetation management, legislation and planning development considerations, interagency cooperation, emergency preparedness and training.

To assist communities in planning and preparing for possible wildland fire events, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has implemented the Ontario FireSmart Communities Transfer Payment Program.

The program includes an opportunity for financial assistance, over a two-year period, for municipalities located within the fire region of Ontario to develop a Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan, which includes wildland fire risk assessments, forest hazard analysis, community hazard maps, and mitigation strategies.

Application for the Ontario FireSmart Communities grant is available online through Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON), at www.ontario.ca/page/get-funding-ontario-government and <https://www.ontario.ca/page/available-funding-opportunities-ontario-government#section-18>. Prior to obtaining access, organizations must register in the TPON system. Once registered, your community can obtain the necessary application to develop your Project Plan which forms part of your application. All applications must be submitted through the TPON system, applications submitted via email will not be considered.

Please note that the approval of the above-mentioned grant is conditional on MNRF and the successful recipient municipality entering into an agreement, satisfactory to Ontario, that outlines the terms and conditions of the funding. In addition, nothing in this letter is intended to be or should be construed as a binding agreement or give rise to legal rights or liabilities, all of which shall be subject to the execution and delivery of an agreement satisfactory to Ontario. Applications which include requests for funding outside of the scope of the grant program will not be considered.

Attached to this invitation, you will also find background information on the FireSmart Communities Transfer Payment Program. If you have any further questions regarding the Program, please contact Sarah Allen, Provincial Coordinator – Communications and Mitigation, at (705) 690-0756 or by email at sarah.allen@ontario.ca.

For technical questions on registering with TPON, you may contact the Grants Ontario Customer Service team via telephone at (416) 325-6691 or 1-855-216-3090 Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or via email at TPONCC@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Chris Cuthbertson
Director
Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services

- c. Sarah Allen, Provincial Coordinator – Communications and Mitigation
Chelsea Osesky, Mitigation and Partnerships Team Lead