

# Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

---

**Subject:** Renewal of Forest Fire Management Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources

**Memo No:** 2025-M-022

**Date:** February 13, 2025

**Attachment:** None

**Prepared By:** Jim Sanderson - TFD Fire & Chief Laala Jahanshahloo - CAO/ Treasurer

## Recommendation

Be IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-022 as presented;

## Contents

Recommendation .....	1
Executive Summary .....	2
Background.....	2
Key Details of the Agreement.....	2
Municipal Duties Under FFMA Persist.....	3
Fire Departments Support.....	3
Conclusion.....	3

## Executive Summary

The Municipality has maintained a Forest Fire Management Agreement (FFMA) with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) since the late 1990s to coordinate emergency response to forest fires. This agreement divides the Municipality into Crown Protection Areas (CPA) and Municipal Protection Areas (MPA), focusing exclusively on forest fire suppression, as MNR does not provide structure fire suppression services. The MPA boundaries have been reviewed and slightly adjusted for improved access. The Municipality remains responsible for fire prevention, education, open-air burning permits, enforcement, and firefighter training. Both the Temagami and Marten River Fire Chiefs support the renewal of this agreement.

## Background

Since the late 1990s, the Municipality has maintained an FFMA with MNR to establish a structured framework for forest fire emergency response. Under this agreement, the Municipality is divided into CPA and MPA to define jurisdictional responsibilities. This agreement strictly applies to forest fire suppression, as MNR does not provide structure fire suppression services. The agreement aligns with Section 21(1) of the Forest Fires Prevention Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F-24.

## Key Details of the Agreement

- The MPA has been reviewed and approved by the Temagami and Marten River Fire Chiefs to ensure alignment with their operational capabilities regarding equipment, staffing, and response.
- A minor boundary adjustment has been made to the MPA around the Town and Temagami North to improve accessibility, now including the area between O'Connor Drive and Caribou Lake.
- The agreement does not modify the Municipality's existing responsibilities regarding fire prevention, education, firefighter training, open-air burning permits, or enforcement.

## **Municipal Duties Under FFMA Persist**

- Develop and implement a fire prevention and education program based on the principles of the Ministry’s FireSmart initiative.
- Regulate open-air burning through municipal by-laws or a Fire Permit system for patent lands, ensuring compliance with the Forest Fires Prevention Act.
- Administer and enforce the municipal Fire Permit system established under by-law authority.
- Train firefighters in wildland fire response using MNR-approved training programs:
  - Wildland Firefighter Training for Fire Agencies (SP103)
  - Air Attack Safety Training Module for Municipal Fire Operations
- The Ministry will provide instructor training kits at no cost and offer technical guidance as required.

## **Fire Departments Support**

The Temagami Fire Chief has led the renewal process in collaboration with North Bay Fire Operations personnel. Both the Temagami and Marten River Fire Chiefs fully endorse the agreement renewal. This agreement complies with the guidelines outlined in the Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement and fulfills all statutory responsibilities.

## **Conclusion**

Renewing the FFMA with MNR is essential for maintaining an effective and coordinated response to forest fires within the Municipality. The agreement ensures the Temagami and Marten River Fire Departments operate within their capacities while upholding municipal responsibilities in fire prevention, training, and enforcement. With strong support from both Fire Chiefs, proceeding with the renewal is in the Municipality’s best interest to enhance public safety and wildfire preparedness.