

Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Subject: Ontario FireSmart Communities Grant Program (2025–2027)

Memo No: 2025-M-135

Date: June 12, 2025

Attachment: None

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Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-135 as presented.

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1. Executive Summary

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has announced the 2025–2027 Ontario FireSmart Communities Grant Program. This initiative provides up to \$15,000 over a two-year period to eligible municipalities within Ontario’s fire region to support the development of a Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan. Funded activities may include risk assessments, fire hazard mapping, and mitigation strategies.

The Municipality of Temagami is eligible to apply for this program. This report is provided for Council’s information regarding the funding opportunity and its potential alignment with the Municipality’s emergency preparedness efforts.

2. Background

On June 2, 2025, the MNRF invited eligible municipalities to apply for the FireSmart Communities Grant Program. The program supports the development of Community Wildland Fire Protection Plans aimed at reducing the risk and impact of wildland fires through:

- Wildland fire hazard identification and risk assessment
- Forest hazard analysis and fire hazard mapping
- Development of mitigation strategies and community protection measures

These actions align with FireSmart principles and reflect best practices in emergency preparedness, public education, vegetation management, land-use planning, and interagency coordination.

3. Program Details

- Total Grant Amount: Up to \$15,000 over two years
- Disbursement:
- 50% upon approval of the project plan
- 50% upon completion and submission of the final plan and hazard maps

- Eligibility: Municipalities located within Ontario's fire region
- Ineligible Costs: Capital equipment or infrastructure purchases
- Application Portal: Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON)
- Requirement: Registration with TPON is mandatory
- Deadline: Rolling intake – early submission is recommended to avoid processing delays

4. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a Provincial Review Committee based on:

- Demonstrated financial need
- Municipal commitment to wildland/urban interface planning
- Community support for FireSmart principles
- Historical wildland fire activity in the area
- Fire risk rating (based on MNRF forest hazard mapping)
- Commitment to implementing mitigation strategies

5. Considerations for Temagami

Temagami's location within Ontario's fire region, coupled with its forested and low-density development pattern, highlights the relevance of proactive wildland fire planning. Participation in the program may provide a cost-effective opportunity to:

- Conduct a localized wildland fire risk assessment
- Develop a hazard map for municipal lands and infrastructure
- Identify and prioritize fire mitigation and response strategies

Deliverables from the project could also support broader emergency planning initiatives. While the funding amount is limited, the outcomes may strengthen the Municipality's capacity to prepare for and respond to wildland fire risks.

6. Conclusion

The Ontario FireSmart Communities Grant Program represents a potential opportunity to advance local wildfire risk planning and mitigation efforts. This report is provided for Council's information regarding the program's objectives, structure, and relevance to the Municipality of Temagami.