

**Ministry of Natural Resources**

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**Ministère des Richesses naturelles**

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April 10, 2026

Attention: Township of The Archipelago

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Termination: Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)

I am writing to provide you with notice of termination of the municipal forest fire management agreement between the MNR and the Township of The Archipelago, which is in effect from April 1, 2022, through to March 31, 2027.

As part of the forest fire management agreement (agreement), the municipality must meet certain terms and conditions in order for the agreement to be in place, or remain in effect, for example, 5. a) requires “[the] Municipality agrees that the following Ministry Fire training programs will be taught to all staff within the Municipality’s Fire Department assigned to Fire Operations – Wildland Firefighter Training for Fire Agencies (SP103); and [...] Air Attack Safety Training Module for Municipal Fire Operations.”. These terms are in place to ensure that the Municipality responsible for the agreement has a Fire Department or similar capacity within the municipality, that can respond to wildland fires within the municipality, and where certain areas have been delegated from the Ministry, crown land on behalf of the MNR.

Unfortunately, it is our understanding that The Archipelago does not meet the terms and conditions outlined in the agreement. Due to this, we are writing to inform you that your existing municipal forest fire management agreement will be terminated 30 days from the date that this written notice is sent.

The agreements are intended to be service type contracts that allow for mutual aid and mutual responses between the Ministry and municipalities. If a municipality has a fire department or similar that meets the training requirements outlined in the agreement and has the capacity to provide aid to the Ministry, then the agreement allows the Ministry to request assistance from the municipality in responding and suppressing wildland fire on Crown land and the Ministry would compensate the Municipality based on the rates and fees provided in the agreement. In exchange, the Ministry also agrees to respond to wildland fires within the municipal boundary based on the same rates and fees provided in the agreement.

The intent of the agreement program is to leverage the capacity in the communities to support Ministry wildland fire preparedness, and in turn, to leverage Ministry capacity to support municipalities in areas where their operations may have been historically challenged to respond (e.g., remote access points). If a municipality does not have a fire department that meets the requirements of the agreement and is unable to provide mutual aid to the Ministry, then the municipality would not meet the terms and conditions for signing such agreement.

Under '13. Terms and Termination; Renewals', 13 b. outlines that "Each party may terminate the Agreement: (i) immediately upon written notice to the other party without liability if the other party commits or permits a breach of any of its obligations under this Agreement and fails to remedy such breach within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice from the party not in breach demanding such breach be remedied; or (ii) upon thirty (30) days prior written notice without liability for its convenience during the months of October to March prior to the next Fire Season.". This letter serves as notification from the Ministry that the agreement will be terminated as of May 10, 2026.

Although the agreement has been terminated, wildland fire management services (including response and suppression) can continue to be provided to the community by the Ministry on request, by the municipality, on municipal lands.

The Ministry remains responsible for managing wildland fires on Crown land, where there is not an existing mutual aid agreement or fire protection agreement between municipalities; and so, there is no expectation that the Township of The Archipelago begin to provide this service. On Crown lands, an agreement is not, and has never been, required for the Ministry to provide wildland fire management (including response and suppression services).

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Sarah Allen, Provincial Coordinator - Mitigation and Partnerships at [sarah.allen@ontario.ca](mailto:sarah.allen@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,



Chris Cuthbertson  
Director  
Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services

- c. Ryan, Petrauskas, A/Northeast Response and Operations Manager
- Mike Pistilli, A/ Integrated Services Section Manager
- Sarah Allen, Provincial Coordinator – Mitigation and Partnerships Unit
- Cassandra Campbell, Sudbury Fire Management Supervisor