



Sent by e-mail to: michael.tibollo@pc.ola.org

July 25, 2018

The Honourable Michael Tibollo
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
George Drew Building, 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor Street,
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y6

Dear Minister Tibollo,

On behalf of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), I want to congratulate you on your appointment to serve the people of this province as Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services. ROMA takes pride in promoting, supporting and enhancing strong and effective rural governments. ROMA is the rural arm of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

I need to bring to your immediate attention the potential impacts of the hastily passed *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* regulations on rural Ontario. On behalf of the small, rural and northern communities, we ask you to revoke the regulations on mandatory certification and public reporting now. If you must look at creating similar regulations again, an impact analysis with a rural and northern lens is essential.

ROMA, with AMO and many of our members, raised significant concerns with the previous government that were not heard. Our concerns about funding, and impacts on people and communities are substantial. We cannot support a regulation that has standards that would so exceed the financial ability of small, rural and northern communities.

Over three quarters of fire services in Ontario depend on volunteer fire fighters. We are hearing that some volunteers or potential volunteers would leave, or not join, the fire service due to the certification requirement. This would change the ability to provide fire services throughout Ontario.

Additionally, the development of the public reporting regulation was rushed as it was wanted out the door before the election. It has many unintended consequences that were not fully considered. If the province wants a similar regulation, more work on definitions and how it would land locally is needed.

ROMA and our members look forward to working with you, and your staff, to make sure that any future FPPA regulations are doable and respectful of the good people who live and volunteer in rural Ontario.

Sincerely,



Ron Holman
Chair of ROMA

- cc. The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Tara Barry, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Ken Bednarek, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Dan Jacobs, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Matthew Torigian, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community Safety
Laurie LeBlanc, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Greg Meredith, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs