

## For Information Only

### Fire Regulating By-Law Framework

Presented To: Community Services  
Committee

Presented: Monday, Mar 26, 2012

Report Date Thursday, Mar 15, 2012

Type: Presentations

### Recommendation

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## Background

Fire protection in Ontario is a provincially mandated municipal responsibility. It is the responsibility of municipal councils to be familiar with general fire protection requirements, practices and procedures (ie. *The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*). Whereas in the *Municipal Act 2001*, where a municipality establishes and maintains a fire department, it is required that an "Establishing and Regulating By-law" be created. As such, the City created and adopted By-law 2010-16.

Since the last by-law amendment, there has been significant change in the corporate reporting structure and the management of Fire Services as well as trends and issues that require the existing by-law to be renewed. In addition, the current by-law does not provide an accurate depiction of the core services being provided by Fire Services and therefore creates potential liability for the Corporation.

A highlight of changes under consideration includes but is not limited to the following:

1. The creation of the Emergency Services Department, incorporating the following Divisions: Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, and Fire Services, is to be reflected in the revised by-law,
2. The current services being provided, complimented by their relevant definitions will be provided as an appendix to the by-law and will become the services "approved" by Council through the adoption of a revised by-law,
3. An overview of the approved services being provided by specific fire stations will be incorporated,
4. To reflect the diversity of the geographic and topographical nature of the City of Greater Sudbury and the staffing make-up of the Fire Services Division, the definition of "limited services" will be added and the Levels of Service section will be incorporated into the by-law to reflect the provision of emergency response realities and thereby reduce potential liability for the Corporation,
5. Changes in text, definition(s), and general wording to reflect changes to current fire services affecting legislation such as amendments to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, and

#### Signed By

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6. The "Mandate", "Vision", and "Primary Goals" of the Fire Services Division will be added. "Objectives" in conjunction with current Corporate and master fire service plans, and a comprehensive listing of "Core Services" will also be included in this revised by-law.

The draft by-law will be consistent with the recommendations of the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal and will be comparable to other municipal fire department establishing and regulating by-laws. A draft of our revised by-law is now under review by the City's Legal Services. Upon completion of Legal Services' review, Emergency Services will return to the Community Services Committee with the by-law for the Committee and Council's consideration.

#### **Financial Impact**

There is no immediate financial impact with respect to this report.