

## Bulletin #2025-28

### **MUNICIPAL and NORTHERN RELATIONS**

#### **Important Notice to All Elected Officials and/or Chief Administrative Officers**

### **Municipal Compensation for Provincial Mutual Aid**

This summer, volatile and extreme wildfire conditions led to the activation of Manitoba's provincial mutual aid system. Over 700 fire personnel and a commensurate number of fire engines and emergency vehicles were deployed from more than 100 communities and First Nations.

When the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) draws resources from outside a community's mutual aid district, those communities are eligible for reimbursement of associated deployment costs.

#### **Compensation Framework**

To ensure fair and equitable payment for all involved, a **provincial fee schedule** has been established (see **Appendix A**). This schedule outlines:

- **Wages** for deployed firefighters
- **Compensation** for the use of emergency vehicles

These wages are to be paid in full to the individuals deployed, as outlined in the schedule.

#### **Additional Eligible Costs**

Communities may incur firefighter compensation costs that exceed the provincial fee schedule due to higher local wage rates. If your community has incurred such additional costs and they were not captured in the compensation forms already submitted, please contact the OFC:

- **Email:** firecomm@gov.mb.ca
- **Phone:** (204) 945-3322

Eligible costs include:

- Actual salary costs exceeding the provincial hourly rate
- Employer-paid benefits such as:
  - Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
  - Employment Insurance (EI)
  - Vacation pay
  - Pension contributions

The OFC continues to engage with community leadership in the processing of compensation claims for this season. We appreciate the patience and understanding of communities given the nuances of each community's approach to compensating their firefighters.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Manitoba Fire Service and all those who supported this summer's deployment efforts. A unified approach helped mitigate what could have been a season of significant loss across cities, municipalities, First Nations, and communities. While the system is not without its challenges, it demonstrates the strength of collaboration and the safety it brings to Manitobans.

*Department of Municipal and Northern Relations  
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