

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario introduced Bill 160, the *Strengthening Quality and Accountability for Patients Act* on September 27, 2017 which includes amendments to the *Ambulance Act*;

AND WHEREAS the legislation would modernize paramedic services by allowing paramedics to transport patients to non-hospital settings, including mental health facilities and allow paramedics to “treat and release” or “treat and refer” patients as deemed appropriate;

AND WHEREAS such changes will improve patient care and alleviate delays caused by overcrowding in emergency departments;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care also proposes changes to enable two pilot projects hosted by willing municipalities to allow fire fighters, certified as paramedics, to treat low-acuity patients while on duty with a fire department;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario is committed to proceeding with the pilots and enabling the fire-medical model despite the absence of objective evidence to show that it would improve patient outcomes or response times

AND WHEREAS the current interest arbitration model, particularly in the fire services sector, allows arbitrators to impose awards on unwilling employers that directly impact the employer’s ability to determine how it will deploy its workforce, as evidenced by the experience of many municipalities in regards to the 24-hour shift;

AND WHEREAS in the absence of a guaranteed protection, unwilling municipalities may be forced to enter into a pilot or adopt a fire-medical model as a result of interest arbitration;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Emergency Services Steering Committee have called on the Government of Ontario to introduce legislative amendments to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997* and the *Ambulance Services Collective Bargaining Act* to preclude arbitrators from expanding the scope of work for fire fighters and paramedics respectively through interest arbitration awards;

AND WHEREAS there is precedent for a restriction on the scope of jurisdiction of arbitrators in section 126 of the *Police Services Act* which precludes arbitrators from amending the core duties of police officers.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that:

1. The [insert municipality name] calls on the Government of Ontario to amend the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997* and the *Ambulance Services Collective Bargaining Act* to preclude arbitrators from expanding the scope of work for fire firefighters and paramedics respectively, including requiring an employer to adopt a fire-medical model in the manner set out in Attachment 1; and to update the definition of paramedic in the *Ambulance Act* and related regulations.

2. A copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Standing Committee on General Government before November 23, 2017; Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long Term Care; Hon. Marie-France Lalonde, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services; Hon. Kevin Flynn, Minister of Labour, Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Office of the Premier, Hon. Kathleen Wynne; [local members of provincial parliament]; and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

1. Amend the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 in the following manner:

Duty of board

Section 50.5 (2.1) In making a decision, the board of arbitration shall not expand the work jurisdiction of the firefighters to include duties and responsibilities of a “paramedic”, as defined in section 1(1) of the *Ambulance Act*, beyond those paramedic duties and responsibilities which are currently performed by firefighters, Acting as firefighters, for the employer.

2. Amend the Ambulance Services Collective Bargaining Act, 2001 in the following manner:

Criteria

Section 21 (2.1) In making a decision, the arbitrator shall not expand the work jurisdiction of the ambulance workers to include duties and responsibilities of a “firefighter”, as defined in section 1(1) of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, beyond those firefighter duties and responsibilities which are currently performed by ambulance workers, Acting as ambulance workers, for the employer.