

This Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “Agreement”) made in duplicate this 1 day of **April, 2024** .

BETWEEN:

His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (hereinafter referred to as the “Ministry” or “MNR”) (“MNR”)

AND

The Corporation of **Municipality of St. Charles** (hereinafter referred to as the “Municipality”)

WHEREAS the Municipality, being located in a fire region, is responsible to extinguish at its expense Fires (defined below) within its limits pursuant to Section 21(1) of the *Forest Fires Prevention Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. F-24, and its regulations (hereinafter referred to as “FFPA”), as amended or replaced from time to time; and

WHEREAS the parties wish to enter into this Agreement pursuant to Section 19 of the FFPA with respect to the prevention, control and extinguishment of Fires within the limits of the Municipality and the Unincorporated Territory (defined below), if applicable;

THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual promises and agreements set out below and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. In this Agreement the following terms have the following meanings:
 - a) “Apparatus” means a Fire service vehicle that carries firefighting personnel and/or equipment, including without limitation pumpers, tankers and boats, and a Fire response vehicle that carries portable firefighting equipment to suppress Fires;
 - b) “Border Fire” means a Fire that straddles any part of a boundary between the Crown Protection Area and the Municipal Protection Area;

- c) “Comprehensive Protection Charge” and “CPC” mean either the annual rate for each hectare of Patented Land within the Crown Protection Area payable by the Municipality to the Ministry or the annual rate for each hectare of unalienated Crown land owned by the Crown in right of Ontario within the Municipal Protection Area payable by the Ministry to the Municipality (set out in Appendix “A” attached hereto and forming part hereof which will be annually adjusted prior to the start of the Fire Season annually to reflect the annual rate per hectare as set out in Appendix “C”), is charged with respect to land protected by one party for the other party and comprises all costs for prevention, management, and suppression of Fires;
- d) “Consumer Price Index” and “CPI” mean the index published by Statistics Canada for September of one year to August of the next year for the Province of Ontario in the All - Items category as defined by Statistics Canada;
- e) “Crown Protection Area” and “CPA” mean the area(s) within the limits of the Municipality designated in Appendix “B” attached hereto and forming part hereof which the Ministry has prime responsibility, as between the parties, for responding to Incidents and suppressing Fires subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement;
- f) “Fire” means any type of outdoor fire, including without limitation a campfire, grass, brush or forest fire, a fire in a charcoal barbecue, an outside wood burning furnace or a stove;
- g) “Fire Season” means the period from April 1 to October 31 in each year (as set out in Section 10 of the FFPA);
- h) “Incident” means a report of smoke or Fire to either party which is required to be investigated by the applicable party to determine if a Fire is occurring or an infraction of the FFPA or a municipal bylaw may be occurring;
- i) “Municipal Protection Area” and “MPA” mean the area(s) within the limits of the Municipality designated in Appendix “B” and any area(s) within an area of Unincorporated Territory deemed to be included in the MPA with the written agreement of the parties pursuant to paragraph 4 b) which the Municipality has prime responsibility, as between the parties, for responding to Incidents and suppressing Fires subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement;
- j) “Officer” means an officer as defined in or those persons deemed to be officers for the purposes of the FFPA;
- k) “Patented Land” means all privately owned land and patented land acquired and owned by the Crown in right of Ontario; and
- l) “Unincorporated Territory” means an area(s) which may be represented by a local services board where Fire protection services may be provided by the adjacent Municipality under the terms within their Municipal agreement. This area will be deemed to be included as part of the MPA area with the written agreement of the parties pursuant to paragraph 4 b).

FIRE PREVENTION AND COMPLIANCE

2. a) The Municipality at its expense shall:
 - i) when implementing a Fire prevention plan for all areas of the Municipality, design a Fire prevention/education program based on the principles of the Ministry's FireSmart program;
 - ii) control open air burning in a coordinated fashion in the Municipality through bylaws or a municipal Fire permit system consistent with the FFPA and applicable Ministry of Environment guidelines, as may be amended or replaced from time to time; and
 - iii) be responsible for the management and enforcement of any municipal Fire permit system enacted by it under authority of a bylaw.
- b) The Ministry at its expense shall be responsible for Fire prevention activities for areas of Unincorporated Territory when included under the terms of this agreement.

ANNUAL FIRE SUMMARY

3. Each party shall provide a written summary of all Fires (Appendix "G") which it actioned under the Agreement during the most recent Fire Season to the other party on or before November 30th of each year that this Agreement is in effect.

CHANGES TO CROWN PROTECTION AREA AND MUNICIPAL PROTECTION AREA

4. a) The CPA and MPA may be amended at any time upon terms satisfactory to both parties from November 1 to March 31 of any year during the Agreement with Appendix "A and B" being revised to reflect such changes agreed upon by the parties. All proposed changes must be implemented before April 1. However, when any of the following occur within the limits of the Municipality, the parties shall review as soon as possible the affected land area to determine which designation (CPA or MPA) applies to the area in question:
 - Annexation of land area;
 - Adjustment of the Municipality's boundaries; or
 - Large areas of recent storm/insect damage.

Implementation of the applicable designation to the area in question shall occur as soon as possible so that Incident response and Fire suppression services are provided.

- b) An area(s) of Unincorporated Territory may be deemed to be included in the MPA with Appendix "A" and Appendix "B" being revised to reflect such changes agreed upon by the parties. In such circumstances, the Municipality shall pass such by-laws as may be required to allow its Fire Department to leave the Municipality to respond to Incidents and to suppress Fires in the Unincorporated Territory.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

5. a) 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:
 - Municipal Fire Department Forest Fire Training (SP103); and
 - Air Attack Safety Training Module for Municipal Fire Operations.
- b) Following execution of the Agreement by both parties, the Ministry shall provide the Municipality free of charge the instructor training kit for each course listed in paragraph 5 a). The kits are designed to be utilized by local Fire Department training programs. The Ministry will provide technical advice if required to assist Municipality instructors to understand the training material as presented in the kits.
- c) The Municipality shall ensure that all Municipality staff responsible to respond to Incidents and suppress Fires are trained by the programs described in paragraph 5 a) and shall create training records and keep them up to date.

INCIDENTAL RESPONSE AND SUPPRESSION ACTIONS

6. a) In consideration of the applicable CPC to be paid by the Municipality under paragraph 10 a) for a Fire Season, the Ministry at its expense shall respond to Incidents and suppress Fires within the Crown Protection Area. However, where on the request of the Ministry, the Municipality responds to an Incident or suppresses a Fire in the CPA, the Ministry shall pay the Municipality in accordance with paragraph 11 b) for providing such assistance according to the applicable suppression rate(s) and fee(s) set out in Appendix "C" attached to and forming part of this Agreement.
- b) In consideration of the applicable CPC to be paid by the Ministry under paragraph 10 a) for a Fire Season, the Municipality at its expense shall respond to Incidents and suppress Fires within the Municipal Protection Area. However, where on the request of the Municipality, the Ministry responds to an Incident or suppresses a Fire in the MPA, the Municipality shall pay the Ministry in accordance with paragraph 11 b) for providing such assistance according to the applicable suppression rate(s) and fee(s) set out in Appendix "C".

At the request of the Municipality, the Ministry may assist in the investigation of any Fires which are of a contentious nature and undertake prosecutions for contravention of the FPPA.

- c) Regardless of responsibilities set out in paragraphs 6 a) and b) to the contrary, each party following receipt of an Incident within the limits of the Municipality shall immediately notify the other party of the Incident. The party with primary responsibility to do so shall investigate and determine if a Fire is occurring and if so, suppress the Fire and determine if an infraction of the FPPA or a municipal bylaw may be occurring.

- d) The Municipality shall ensure that its Fire resources when responding to an Incident or suppressing a Fire shall monitor the Fire Marshal High Band radio frequency of 154.070 in the event that Ministry aircraft arrive to support the Fire suppression operations.
- e) Regardless of responsibilities set out in paragraphs 6 a) and b) to the contrary, the party which first arrives on the scene of a Fire shall begin suppression of the Fire whether in the CPA or MPA. Compensation according to the applicable suppression rate(s) and fee(s) set out in Appendix “C” associated with such action will not be paid to that party if the other party is responsible for suppressing Fires in the area in question unless and until the latter is notified of the Fire and approves continued action by that party.
- f) The Ministry shall exercise its powers under section 21.(1) of the FPPA and assume control of Fire suppression activities when it is determined in the opinion of an Officer that present suppression activities by the Municipality have the potential to result in one or more of the following conditions:
 - Loss of life;
 - Significant loss of private property; or
 - Significant loss of public property.
- g) Where the Ministry assumes control of Fire suppression activities under paragraph 6 f), the Municipality shall pay the Ministry in accordance with paragraph 11 b) for such activities according to the applicable rate(s) and fee(s) set out in Appendix “C”.
- h) Where the Ministry and Municipality work together to suppress a Fire, both parties will follow the procedures set out in the Inter-Agency Fire Response Operating Guidelines, a copy of which is contained in Appendix “D” attached hereto and forming part hereof, as may be amended or replaced from time to time.

BORDER FIRES

- 7. a) Where the Municipality and the Ministry, separately or together, suppress a Border Fire, each party shall pay its applicable percentage of the total suppression cost incurred by both parties calculated according to the applicable rate(s) and fee(s) set out in Appendix “C” in doing so as follows: for the Municipality, the percentage of area burned that is contained within the MPA and for the Ministry, the percentage of area burned that is contained within the CPA.
- b) Where the amount payable by a party under paragraph 7 a) exceeds the amount payable to that party for suppressing the Border Fire, that party shall pay the other party the excess amount in accordance with paragraph 11 b).

DISPUTES

8. In the event a response to a Fire under the Agreement results in a dispute between the parties or where the Ministry assumes control of Fire suppression activities under paragraph 6 f), either party may request the other party to conduct with it a joint review of the management of the Fire, where the dispute, including cost sharing, may be resolved. The review panel will consist of an equal number of members representing each party.

CONCURRENT CALLS

9. When a party is taking action to suppress a Fire and a higher priority emergency occurs that requires that party to leave the Fire, the parties agree that, unless the Fire is threatening human life, the new emergency takes precedence over the Fire.

Prior to leaving the Fire, the party which first took action to suppress the Fire shall notify and make arrangements for the other party to suppress the Fire and where possible, have one of its staff remain at the scene of the Fire to provide a briefing on the Fire to the other party taking over suppression of the Fire.

PAYMENTS

10. a) The applicable CPC's payable by the parties are set out in Appendix "A" and the CPC rates are outlined in Appendix "C". The Ministry shall provide the Municipality at the time of renewal an updated copy of Appendix "A" indicating the applicable CPC fees for the Agreement term. Where discussions are ongoing to make modifications to the existing MPA or CPA fire management zones, the applicable changes to the CPC fee will be processed once the final MPA/CPA zone modifications are completed.
- b) The Ministry will provide notification to the municipality prior to February 28 each year of the agreement, changes to the CPC rate to be used in Appendix "A" for CPC calculations.
- c) Each party shall pay the other party within thirty (30) days of receipt of an invoice from the other party for the applicable CPC for each hectare of Patented Land within the CPA or each hectare of unalienated Crown land owned by the Crown in right of Ontario within the MPA, as applicable, for the forthcoming Fire Season.
- d) The Fire suppression rates and fees for ground and aerial Fire suppression services payable by the parties for the first year of the initial term of the Agreement are set out in Appendix "C". Such rates and fees payable for each subsequent year that the Agreement exists shall be such rates and fees payable in the previous year increased prior to the start of the Fire Season by the Ministry by the percentage change in the most current CPI (as compared to the previous year's CPI). The Ministry shall provide the Municipality an

updated version Appendix “C” to reflect any changes in such rates and fees by March 31 of each year.

Each party shall pay the other party any suppression rates and fees in accordance with paragraph 11 b).

- e) If applicable, the Ministry shall also pay to the Municipality, CPC fees as set out in Appendix “A” for all land, whether private or Crown land, in an Unincorporated Territory area deemed to be included in the MPA according to the terms of this agreement pursuant to sub paragraph 4 b).
11. a) To qualify for payment according to the applicable rate(s) and fee(s) in Appendix “C” for services provided under the Agreement, a party must provide the other party with a completed Municipal Fire Information and Cost Report (Form 210), a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix “E” and forms part hereof, within 30 days of the end of the suppression activity on each Fire actioned.
- b) Amounts payable by the Municipality to the Ministry based on applicable rates and fees in Appendix “C” will be offset against amounts payable by the Ministry to the Municipality based on applicable rates and fees in Appendix “C” for each Fire Season. Any balance owing to either party on November 30 of each year that this Agreement is in effect will be an amount due to that party as of that date and shall be payable within thirty (30) days of receipt of an invoice from that party.

INDEMNITY

- 12.a)) The municipality or Crown is responsible for its own insurance and shall carry all the necessary and appropriate insurance that a prudent person in the business of the municipality or crown would maintain, including but not limited to commercial general liability insurance.
- b) The municipality is not covered by the Province of Ontario’s insurance program and no protection will be afforded to the municipality by the Government of Ontario for any claim that may arise out of the Agreement.
- c) The Crown is not covered by the municipalities’ insurance program and no protection will be afforded to the crown by the municipality for any claim that may arise out of the Agreement.
- d) Regardless of any other provisions of this Agreement to the contrary, neither party shall be liable for any consequential, indirect, incidental, special or punitive damages, including without limitation lost revenues, savings or profit, suffered by the other party or any third party with respect to any Claims arising out of or otherwise in connection with the Agreement even if the party in question has been advised of the possibility thereof.

- e) Fire fighters employed by or volunteering for a party are deemed to be employees of that party for the purposes of benefits under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act whether working on Crown land or private land in the CPA, the MPA or the Unincorporated Territory.
- f) Each party shall be responsible for all damage to or loss of any Apparatus or other equipment which it supplies for use in suppressing Fires under this Agreement. The Fire suppression rates described in Appendix "C" include recovery of costs for normal wear and tear on Apparatus and such other equipment as well as the cost of repair of periodic breakage or accidental damage.

TERM AND TERMINATION; RENEWALS

- 13.a)) This Agreement shall commence April 1, 2024 and must be reviewed every 4 year(s), unless terminated by either party in accordance with paragraph 13 b).
- b) 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.
- c) An Agreement review must be completed within sixty (60) days prior to April 1 of the renewal year, using the Agreement Review Checklist, Appendix "F", unless either party has provided written notice to the other party at least sixty (60) days prior to April 1 or earlier, of the scheduled review year under paragraph 13 a) that it wants to terminate the Agreement.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 14.a) This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the parties regarding Fire prevention, control and extinguishment and supersedes any prior understanding or agreement, collateral, oral or otherwise, with respect to such subject matter existing between the parties at the date this Agreement comes into effect.

This Agreement consists of the terms and conditions in the main body of this Agreement and its Appendices and any amendments executed in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between provisions of any of the documents which form part of this Agreement, the provision in the first mentioned document below shall govern:

- (i) any amendment to this Agreement;
 - (ii) terms and conditions in the main body of this Agreement; and
 - (iii) Appendices to this Agreement.
- b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs 10 a) and 10 d) with respect to changes to rates and fees, any change to this Agreement shall be by written amendment signed by the parties.
- c) Notwithstanding anything else in this Agreement to the contrary, any express or implied reference to the Ministry providing an indemnity or any other form of indebtedness or contingent liability that would directly or indirectly increase the indebtedness or contingent liabilities of Ontario, whether at the time of execution of this Agreement or at any time during the term of this Agreement, shall be void and of no legal effect.
- d) Any failure by a party to insist in one or more instances upon strict performance by the other party of any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver by the first party of its right to require strict performance of any such terms or conditions and the obligations of the other party with respect to such performance shall continue in full force and effect.
- e) Neither party shall have any power or authority to bind the other party or to assume or create any obligation or responsibility, express or implied, on the other party's behalf. Neither party shall hold itself out as an agent, partner or employee of the other party.
- f) Nothing in this Agreement shall have the effect of creating an employment, partnership or agency relationship between the parties or constitute an appointment under the *Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006*, S.O. 2006, c.35, as amended or replaced from time to time.

- g) In this Agreement, words in the singular include the plural and vice-versa and words in one gender include all genders. The headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and in no manner modify, interpret or construe this Agreement.

SURVIVING PROVISIONS

15. Paragraphs 10 a), 10 d) (second paragraph only), 11 a), 11 b), 12 a), 12 b), 12 c), 12 d) 12 f), 14 and this paragraph of the Agreement shall survive its termination or expiry and continue to bind the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Agreement has been executed by the parties by their duly authorized representatives.

His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as
represented by the Minister of
Natural Resources
and Forestry

Date: _____

By: _____

Director, Aviation, Forest Fires and Emergency
Services
Provincial Services Division
Name
(pursuant to delegated authority)

The Corporation of **Municipality of St.
Charles**

Date: _____

By: _____

Position: **Paul Branconnier**

Name: **Mayor**

By:

Position: **Tammy Godden**

Name: **Clerk**

Appendix “B”

Municipality Map

(illustrating the Crown Protection Area and Municipal Protection Area)

[NTD. client to insert]

Appendix C

Municipal Fire Agreement Rates to / from Municipalities

[NTD. client to insert]

Appendix “D”

Inter-Agency Fire Response Operating Guidelines

[NTD. client to insert]

Appendix “E”

Municipal Fire Information and Cost Report (Form 210)

[NTD. client to insert]

Appendix “F”

Agreement Review Checklist

[NTD. client to insert]

Appendix “G”

Annual Fire Summary

[NTD. client to insert]