



# OPFFA

ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

**OFFICE**  
292 Plains Road East  
Burlington, ON, L7T 2C6  
Ph: (905) 681-7111  
Fax: (905) 681-1489

October 19, 2009

**PRESIDENT**

Fred LeBlanc  
Ph: (613) 328-2195  
Fax: (905) 681-1489  
Email: fleblanc@opffa.org

**EXECUTIVE V/P**

Mark McKinnon  
Ph: (905) 242-2460  
Fax: (905) 681-1489  
Email: mmckinnon@opffa.org

**SECRETARY TREASURER**

Barry Quinn  
Ph: (613) 612-8909  
Fax: (905) 681-1489  
Email: bquinn@opffa.org

All Correspondence to OPFFA Office

**PRESIDENT EMERITUS**

Patrick DeFazio  
136 Darlington Priv., Apt 701  
Ph: (613) 791-6623  
Email: pdefazio@opffa.org

**DISTRICT V/P's**

Ernie Thorne, District 1  
15 Fieldstone Road  
Etobicoke, ON, M9C 2J5  
Ph: (416) 571-7753  
Email: ethorne@opffa.org

Chris Francescone, District 2  
562 Aikins Road  
Belleville, ON, K8N 4Z2  
Ph: (613) 968-2576  
Email: cfrancescone@opffa.org

Mike Pauze, District 3  
368 Kribs Street  
Cambridge, ON, N3C 3L6  
Ph: (519) 276-0819  
Email: mpauze@opffa.org

Terry Colburn, District 4  
160 Lakeshore Road  
St. Catharines, ON, L2N 2V1  
Ph: (905) 687-6173  
Email: tcolburn@opffa.org

Warren Scott, District 5  
41 Parkside Drive, Apt. 302  
St. Thomas, ON, N5R 3V1  
Ph: (519) 282-1187  
Email: wscott@opffa.org

Randy Richards, District 6  
21 Victoria Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6A 3J6  
Ph: (705) 941-0234  
Email: rrichards@opffa.org

Eric Nordlund, District 7  
43 Prospect Avenue  
Thunder Bay, ON, P7A 5K9  
Ph: (807) 627-1709  
Email: enordlund@opffa.org

The Hon. Rick Bartolucci, Minister  
Community Safety & Correctional Services  
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1Y6

Dear Minister Bartolucci:

I read with interest the attached article in the *Globe and Mail* on Tuesday October 13, 2009 respecting residential sprinklers, specifically in homes for seniors.

Within this article it was noted that Ontario's Fire Marshal, Mr. Pat Burke, is formulating a report for the government to review the requirements and impact of such a regulation.

This article also referenced the recent situation in Orillia, to which the Fire Marshal's office has conducted an investigation.

The Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA) has been on the record with our support for mandatory sprinklers (see attached submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing). However, increasing public and fire fighter safety through technology is only part of the solution.

The OPFFA has long lobbied at all levels of government for adequate staffing standards. With the continued focus on one side of this issue we are concerned that there will be too much emphasis in technology resulting in a false sense of security.

Fire suppression is and always will be labour intensive. The ability to arrive on scene quickly with the resources necessary to conduct interior rescue is a critical factor in the survivability in any structure fire, and especially one on a seniors' home. The OPFFA supports sprinklers but they are not a magic bullet; they are only one of the many tools required to adequately protect the public in the event of a structure fire.

It is our understanding that the initial response to the recent seniors' home fire which resulted in four tragic deaths was two full-time fire fighters in one truck followed shortly by four fire full-time fighters in a second truck. Other fire fighters responded to this call but we cannot confirm their response time, vehicle types, and personnel type (i.e. volunteer, full-time, fire fighters or officers, arriving on pumpers, ladders etc.).

..1/2



Therefore we are requesting that you also call for the Fire Marshal to produce their findings regarding the Orillia situation for consideration before the government takes further action. Further, we would request an all-stakeholder meeting after the release of the Fire Marshal's report and investigation.

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred LeBlanc".

Fred LeBlanc,  
President

Cc: Mr. Pat Burke, Ontario Fire Marshal