

Township of Douro-Dummer  
894 South Street, PO Box 92  
Warsaw, ON K0L 3A0

Dear CAO Elana Arthurs and Township of Douro-Dummer Council,

Re: COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

The members of the Douro-Dummer Firefighters' Association (DDFA) met to discuss the effects of the Township's new vaccination policy on our fire service.

We appreciate the time taken by the Fire Chief and CAO to explain the position of the Township and the effort made to reduce the impact on our service and the community. We understand that the policy is a living document and there is the potential for it to change as the COVID situation changes.

As an association, we are concerned about losing fire department members as a result of this policy. Douro-Dummer Fire Services consists of an exceptional group of committed volunteers, whose experience, skill and leadership are not easily replaced. We encourage staff and Council to explore alternative options, including a longer screening and swabbing timeline, and/or allowing the department to take on the onus of completing these tasks in-house.

Council can expect a portion of the fire fighters to withhold disclosing their vaccination status, in protest against the policy, and/or in support of others. We understand that COVID recommendations are changing on a nearly daily basis and we hope that alternatives (to dismissal) for unvaccinated firefighters can be worked into the policy.

The DDFA membership would appreciate a written response regarding the concerns presented.

Thank you,

Douro-Dummer Firefighter's Association