



United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

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March 29, 2021

Mayor and Council
Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal
P.O. Box 129
18 Centre Street
Spencerville, Ontario K0E 1X0

Dear Mayor and Council:

In 2019, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, along with the City of Brockville and the Towns of Prescott and Gananoque, established a Modernization / Shared Services Task Force ("Modernization Task Force") to look at modernization and shared services across the municipalities in Leeds and Grenville. We have been considering various regional opportunities and projects over the past two years.

In late 2019, the Counties applied for funding through the province's Municipal Modernization Program – Intake 1 to undertake a review of regional fire services. Our applications were successful and a consultant (Pomax Consulting Inc.) was engaged to undertake the review starting in April 2020. Though we were in the midst of the pandemic, much of the work could be performed remotely, though visits were made to various fire stations during the months of June and July. The consultants worked through a steering committee comprised of four CAOs, and every other week beginning in July, the consultant met with the fire chiefs.

On March 10, 2021, the final report was presented to the Modernization Task Force. All thirteen mayors were in attendance and many questions were posed to the consultants regarding the final report. The final report is a large document and is available on the Counties website at:

https://www.leedsgrenville.com/en/services/resources/Emergency-Services/Regional_Fire_Services_Review_Final_Report_-_March_2021.pdf

I would encourage you to take the time to read this report.

Though the Modernization Task Force has not met since the presentation earlier this month, the report recommends (Recommendation #23 on Page 31) the establishment of a task force to further pursue and examine the recommendations in the report. The composition of this new

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Fire Services Task Force is anticipated to include several CAOs and fire chiefs, along with some finance people and other potential stakeholders.

When the Modernization Task Force meets again to determine next steps, I will share its decision with you. Again, I highly encourage everyone to read the report in the meantime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brant Burrow".

Brant Burrow
Chair, Leeds Grenville Modernization/Shared Services Task Force and
Mayor of the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley

c.c. CAO and Fire Chief