



Honourable Minister Gudie Hutchings
Minister of Rural Economic Development
Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Minister Hutchings

We hope you are well. The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) will be holding its annual Fire Chiefs on the Hill activities on December 5 and 6, 2023 and would love to request a meeting with you to discuss new fire safety issues of importance to your community and nationally. During the meeting, the fire chiefs, many of whom will be from rural communities and from Atlantic Canada would like to:

- present the results of the most recent Great Canadian Fire Census 2023, the largest known dataset reflecting information from Canada's Fire Departments;
- share a proposal for a national fire administration similar to what exists in other countries;
- highlight an ongoing petition to increase the volunteer firefighter tax credit
- provide an update on the state of fire and emergency preparedness equipment in communities across the country
- provide an update on the status of women and diversity in the fire service
- debrief on recommendations in advance of the next wildfire season
- ask for advice on how best to advance these requests

As climate emergencies, the healthcare crisis, and the number and severity of fires increase, there are measures that the Federal Government can take to protect public safety and emergency preparedness that are respectful of the current fiscal climate.

We recognize that your time is extremely valuable and thank you for considering our request. If your office needs further content information, the CAFC Executive Director, Dr. Tina Saryeddine can be reached at tsaryeddine@cafc.ca or at 613-324-1078. Otherwise, Ms. Meredith Logan from Summa Strategies will be in touch to see if a meeting is possible. She can be reached at mlogan@summa.ca. Finally, we will be having our annual reception on the Hill on December 5, 2023, at 5:30 pm EST at the Deta Hotel, details to follow. We would welcome you to join us.

As always, we look forward to the possibility of meeting with you and thank you for all of your generous support to date.

Sincerely,

Ken McMullen,
CAFC President
Fire Chief, Red Deer, AB