



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Corporate Report

Report from Fire & Emergency Management Services, Administration

Date of Report: October 9, 2012

Date of Meeting: October 29, 2012

Report Number: FS-601-2012

File: 10.10.3

Subject: Attendance at Canadian Association of Fire Chief's Conference,
September 23-27, 2012, St. John's, Newfoundland

Recommendation

That Council receive the report regarding attendance at the Canadian Association of Fire Chief's Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, for information purposes.
FORTHWITH

Background

In accordance with Council direction, a report is to be filed within three months of attendance by the person who attended an out of province conference. As part of the 2012 budget, Council approved the Director of Fire & Emergency Management Services to attend this conference.

Report

The theme of this year's conference, "Ashes to Innovation", brought together not only Fire Service leaders but also subject experts from across Canada and the United States to speak on labour relations, adversity and health and safety issues affecting today's fire service.

Relevant presentations included "Twenty-Four Hour Shifts – Moral Booster or a Tragedy in Waiting" which gave an overview of diametrically opposed medical evidence regarding the 24 hour shift. There were also presentations on fiscal restraint that looked at various service delivery models and health and safety issues geared to protecting not only the firefighter physically but also how dealing with tragic and traumatic calls can build up over time and affect the mental state of firefighters.

One of the major advantages of attending this conference is the interactive nature of each of the sessions allowing various fire service perspectives to be shared from all parts of the country. This annual conference assists staff to remain current with the evolving issues faced by senior fire officials.

Financial Implications

Not applicable.

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