



# COMMUNIQUÉ

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL  
BUREAU DU COMMISSAIRE DES INCENDIES

September 6, 2023

No. 2023-09

## Interpretation of s. 6(3) of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has received a number of enquiries from the fire service about fire chiefs' roles and responsibilities with respect to reporting to municipal council. In light of these enquiries, the Fire Marshal has determined that it is appropriate to provide an interpretation of Section 6(3) of the [Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997](#) (FPPA).

Section 6(1) of the FPPA stipulates that if a fire department is established for the whole or a part of a municipality or for more than one municipality, the council of the municipality or the councils of the municipalities shall appoint a fire chief for the fire department.

Section 6(3) of the FPPA then specifies the relationship between the fire chief and council as follows:

### *Responsibility to council*

*6(3) A fire chief is the person who is ultimately responsible to the council of a municipality that appointed him or her for the delivery of fire protection services.*

While a municipality may choose to have the fire chief report through an administrative organizational structure, the fire chief remains accountable directly and individually to council for all aspects of fire safety and the delivery of fire protection services within the municipality.

It is also important that any consideration of these matters be risk-based, as communities are required under [O. Reg. 378/18: Community Risk Assessments](#) to use their community risk assessments to inform decisions about the provision of fire protection services by no later than July 1, 2024.

If you have any questions, please speak with your Fire Protection Adviser.