



**DAVID PICCINI, MPP**  
Northumberland – Peterborough South

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October 21, 2024

Municipality of Port Hope  
56 Queen Street.  
Port Hope ON  
L1A 3Z9

Dear Mayor Hankivsky & Council,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today regarding important training for firefighters and the broader first responder community, and upcoming opportunities to collaborate to support these men and women who keep our communities safe.

There are approximately 31,000 firefighters in Ontario: including approximately 12,000 full-time and 19,000 volunteers. In our communities, we are protected largely by volunteers and a full-time compliment in the Town of Cobourg. Professional development and capacity building opportunities for these heroes are priorities of the Government of Ontario. We are incredibly blessed to be supported by remarkable volunteer and full-time firefighters in Northumberland County, and we have a responsibility to ensure they are supported.

To do our part, the Government of Ontario has funded a mobile burn trailer that travels the Province offering training for firefighters. It is important that municipalities take advantage of this free asset. In addition, Ontario also launched the Skills Development Fund (SDF), broken into two streams: Training & Capital. Cumulatively, this represents the largest skills training initiative in Ontario's history.

I recently met with Fire Chiefs and have had individual discussions with men and women who volunteer their time in our respective communities. They have all spoken to me about the value of training for firefighter capacity building and survival. You have an opportunity to work together to bring forward a funding application for a Regional Training Facility that other communities have already taken advantage of.

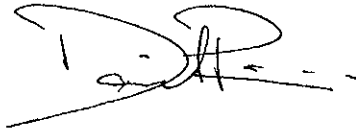
You all play pivotal roles in leading your respective municipalities, you also have a responsibility to look outside your municipal boundaries to explore shared services and collaborative initiatives that benefit the people we serve and respect taxpayer dollars.

This spirit of partnership is a hallmark of what makes our County of Northumberland, great.

It is in this spirit, that I ask you to all come together to explore a shared, regional training centre. I am aware that individually, some of you are exploring the Skills Development Fund, Capital Stream. Failure to have municipal resolutions supporting a shared regional training centre, will result in no projects receiving funding, and will let down the heroes who keep our community safe.

I look forward to your collaboration and bringing a unified project forward to the Government of Ontario. As always, if my Constituency Office can be of any support, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Piccini', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Piccini  
Member of Provincial Parliament  
Northumberland-Peterborough South