The Council of the Township of Woolwich passed the following resolution on July 11, 2006:

THAT the Council of the Township of Woolwich adopt the resolution attached to report P07-2006 as schedule A, relating to Bill 111 an Act to amend the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997 with respect to occupational disease and injuries of firefighters.

Schedule A to Report P07-2006:

WHEREAS Bill 111 an Act to amend the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997 with respect to occupational disease and injuries of firefighters has received first reading on May 4, 2006 by the Legislature of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS this Bill is amending the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act to create two presumptions relating to health conditions affecting firefighters including volunteer firefighters;

AND WHEREAS Bill 111 Subsections 15.1 (3) states that if a firefighter develops a certain type of cancer or a degenerative neurological disease, the cancer or disease is presumed to be an occupational disease that occurred due to employment as a firefighter;

AND WHEREAS Subsection 15.1 (7) of Bill 111 states that if a firefighter suffers heart damage while attending at a fire or emergency, or within 24 hours after attending at a fire or emergency, the heart damage is presumed to be a personal injury by accident that occurred due to employment as a firefighter;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Firefighters Association (OPFFA) has formed a strong movement to exclude the volunteer firefighters from the benefits of this Bill;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Woolwich employs 115 Volunteer Firefighters that dedicate their time and training to protect the residents of Woolwich;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Woolwich only supports Bill 111, an amendment to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997 with respect to occupational disease and injuries of firefighters if it includes volunteer firefighters;

AND THAT the inclusion of volunteer firefighters within Bill 111 recognizes the importance and risk our volunteer firefighters demonstrate for Woolwich residents every day;

AND THAT the Council of the Township of Woolwich requests that all municipalities in the Province of Ontario support Bill 111 with the inclusion of volunteer firefighters;

AND THAT this resolution is circulated to all Ontario municipalities, the Volunteer Firefighters of Ontario Association (FFAO) and the local MP and MPP.

Yours truly,
TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH

Christine Broughton
Clerk/Director of Council and Information Services