



## Report to Council

**Report Number:** CL-14-2024

**Subject:** Negotiations with the Municipality of Casselman, Fire Services Agreement and Annexation Memorandum of Understanding

**Date of the meeting:** September 9, 2024

**Prepared by:** Aimée Roy, Clerk

**Circulated to and/or collaborated with:** Pierre Leroux, CAO

**Approval:** Pierre Leroux, CAO

*In agreement with the recommendation based on the contents of this report.*

## **Recommendation**

[Be it resolved that Council approves the Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of Casselman regarding the annexation of land as presented.

Be it also resolved that Council approves the Service Agreement with the Municipality of Casselman regarding fire services.]

## **Financial Considerations**

Financial implications have been verified with annual budget and / or approved applicable policy or by-law: YES

## **Context**

Following negotiations with the Municipality of Casselman, the Administration is presenting the following agreements for Council's consideration: the Fire Services Agreement between The Nation Municipality and the Municipality of Casselman, and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to the annexation of properties around Casselman's lagoon system.

## **Report**

### **Fire Services Agreement**

The Fire Services Agreement between The Nation Municipality and the Municipality of Casselman is established to ensure the provision of fire protection services in certain areas of The Nation Municipality. Below are the key highlights:

1. **Effective Date and Term:** The agreement is effective from January 1, 2024, and will continue until December 31, 2038. Either party may terminate the agreement with a 90-day notice.
2. **Scope of Services:** Casselman will provide fire suppression services, including structural firefighting, vehicle firefighting, rescue services, and hazardous material response, among others, to designated sectors within The Nation Municipality.
3. **Cost and Payment:** The Nation will pay Casselman for fire services based on time and materials, with an initial reduced charge for 2023. The rate for 2024 is set at \$559.86 per hour per apparatus (MTO Rate).
4. **Mutual Aid and Assistance:** The agreement allows for mutual aid between the fire departments of Casselman and The Nation. In cases where Casselman's resources are insufficient, additional assistance can be requested from The Nation's fire department.
5. **Governance and Dispute Resolution:** The agreement provides mechanisms for governance, including monthly participation of Casselman's Fire Chief in The Nation's Executive Committee meetings, and a dispute resolution process through arbitration.

## **Annexation of Properties and MOU**

The Municipality of Casselman submitted a request to annex some property around their lagoon. Key highlights include:

1. **Purpose:** The annexation is primarily aimed at incorporating lands surrounding Casselman's lagoon system into Casselman's municipal boundaries. This move is intended to facilitate better management of the lagoon infrastructure and to potentially allow for future expansion.
2. **Affected Properties:** The properties affected by the annexation include Casselman's existing lagoon site, additional land for potential lagoon expansion, and a 150-meter buffer zone around the lagoons as required by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks.
3. **Impact on Property Owners:** The annexation will have minimal immediate impact on property owners, aside from the issuance of new property tax bills from Casselman. The MOU indicates no short- or medium-term expansion plans for the lagoon system, minimizing disruption to the affected properties.
4. **Public Involvement:** The process is governed by sections 171 to 173 of the Municipal Act, 2001, which mandates public meetings and consultations, to ensure transparency and address any concerns related to the annexation.

### **Relevance to priorities**

N/A

### **Communication Plan**

A letter explaining the process will be hand delivered to affected property owners on Friday, September 6, 2024.

### **Other Option/Options to the Recommendation**

N/A

### **Attachments**

1. Proposed by-law 110-2024, Fire Services Agreement with the Municipality of Casselman
2. Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of Casselman regarding the annexation of land