



TORONTO PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

14 Cosentino Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M1P 3A2
Telephone: 416-466-1167 Fax: 416-466-6632 email: mail@torontofirefighters.org

Frank Ramagnano
President

Kevin McCarthy
Vice President

James Reed
Secretary-Treasurer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 29, 2020

Toronto Fire Fighters Not Asking for Pandemic Pay Increase Union asks for donations to its charitable arm for COVID-19 relief instead

TORONTO – In response to numerous inquiries, the union that represents Toronto's 3,000 professional fire fighters says it is not asking that its members be included in the group of front-line workers who are eligible for a \$4-per-hour "pandemic pay premium" announced recently by the Ontario Government.

"We have a contract with the city and we are happy to honour that contract," said Frank Ramagnano, President of the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters Association. "We expect no more, no less. Being on the frontline responding during times of emergency is what Toronto fire fighters have always done and will continue to do on behalf of the citizens of this great city."

Ramagnano said there is strong support for the union's position from its membership who appreciate the goodwill being shown to first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic, and appreciates the public's help in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 by following the advice of local and provincial health authorities.

"But," he said, "there are many other individuals, groups and businesses in the city that are enduring real hardship as a result of the pandemic and are in greater need of help during this unprecedented emergency."

Instead of enhancements for its members, the TPFFA is asking people and organizations to support its charitable arm, [Toronto Fire Fighters Charities Inc.](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/toronto-fire-fighters-charities-inc) which uses the CanadaHelps portal as a means to collect donations and issue receipts. All donations made between March 20 and for the foreseeable future will go directly to COVID-19 related efforts within the City of Toronto. Link: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/toronto-fire-fighters-charities-inc>

"These are challenging times for everyone, but we'll get through this together by listening to our health experts and by helping each other as we always do. In the meantime, the people of Toronto can rest assured that Toronto fire fighters are on duty 24/7, as usual, and are ready to assist in any kind of emergency," Ramagnano said.

CONTACT: Frank Ramagnano, President, TPFFA. 647-224-3888

