

CAFC PRE-BUDGET SURVEY: 2008

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance has scheduled pre-budget hearings for this autumn. Again this year, CAFC intends to file a pre-budget submission and to seek an opportunity to testify before the Standing Committee on the pre-budget concerns of the Canadian Fire Services.

This is an important opportunity for the members of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs to provide the Government of Canada with their views on the budget priorities of the Fire Services across Canada. Don't miss this chance to have your say! Please take a few moments to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to the CAFC office no later than Friday, July 25th

Fax: 613-233-9138
E-mail info@cafc.ca

1. Please indicate the following information about your Fire Department.

Name of community _____

Name of Province/Territory _____

Size of population served by
Your Department _____

2. Please indicate the type of your Fire Department. (check one).

Full-time	14.6%	Composite	43.2%	Volunteer	42.2%
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3. How many Fire Services personnel are members of your Fire Department?

Full-time (#)	16,593 (62.4%)	Volunteer (#)	10,056 (37.6%)
Total	26,649		

4. Which of the three following words best describe the community that your Fire Department serves? Check as many options as apply.

Urban	28.1%	Rural	35.4%	Remote	2.9%
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Rural/Remote	4.4%	Urban/Rural	24.8%
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Urban/Rural/Remote	4.4%
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5. Do you believe that the federal government has a financial role to play in ensuring that all Canadians have the right to a basic level of protection against fire and other perils? (check one)

Yes	90.2%	No	6.8%	Unsure	3.0%
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C) The federal tax regime should be amended to encourage owners of existing non-residential buildings and existing high-rise residential buildings to install automatic sprinkler systems. 63.2% 28.9% 6.4% 1.5%

D) The Income Tax Act should be amended to permit owners of low-rise residential structures to partially deduct from their payable taxes the costs of equipping their homes with automatic sprinkler systems. 52.3% 38.6% 6.6% 2.5%

Which of the above four items do you rank as the most important (check one)

A 59.8% B 5.4% C 18.1% D 16.7%

8. CAFC's *Statement of Policy* manual contains several items that, if implemented, would entail increases to federal program spending. They are listed below. Please rate each of them, using the following scale.

4 = Very Important 3 = Somewhat important 2 = Somewhat unimportant
1 = Unimportant

Level of Importance

POLICY

4 3 2 1

A. The Government of Canada should be financially responsible for ensuring that all rural and remote communities are able to provide basic fire protection. 54.0% 23.3% 13.6% 9.1%

B. The Government should provide four more years of funding for the purchase of CBRN equipment. 40.2% 40.2% 15.6% 4.0%

C. The annual level of funding for the purchase of CBRN equipment should be doubled to \$10 million. 40.0% 37.0% 17.0% 6.0%

D. The Government should share the cost of equipping the entire first responder community nationwide with handheld communications devices. 52.5% 31.0% 8.5% 8.0%

E. Public Safety Canada should increase its JEPP funding grants and reduce funding limitations in the JEPP process 67.2% 26.9% 4.0% 1.9%

F. The federal government should establish a National Incident Management System and provide training for such a system to first responder agencies. 45.0% 38.1% 12.4% 4.5%

G. The federal government should provide funding and support to the Canadian Fire Services preparation for, and response to, acts of terrorism. 38.1% 43.6% 15.3% 3.0%

H. The Secretariat of the Canadian Fire Advisor should be established within Public Safety Canada 53.2% 33.8% 7.5% 5.5%

NOTE: Key roles of the Canadian Fire Advisor would include: (a) national coordinator for Fire Services emergency preparedness; (b) develop strategies at the national level for fire prevention in Canada; (c) coordinate a national Fire Services response to emergencies, both domestic and international; (d) ensure national fire-related statistics are compiled and distributed in a timely and standardized manner.

Which of the above eight items do you rank as the most important (check one)

A 37.95 B 2.6% C 3.0% D 11.8%

E 14.4% F 11.3% G 4.1% H 14.9%

9. The Standing Committee has directed specifically that those organizations submitting briefs should state whether tax reductions or program spending increases are their more important priority (check one)

Tax reductions 36.6% Program spending increases 63.4%