

Press release

For immediate release

The towns of Rosemère and Blainville conclude a fire protection agreement

Rosemère, March 7, 2016 – The towns of Rosemère and Blainville ratified a 20-year fire protection agreement according to which Rosemère now becomes part of the territory served by the Blainville Fire Department. Effective immediately, this agreement complies with all standards and laws applicable to fire protection, including the Fire Safety Cover Plan. Should an emergency arise, citizens are to continue calling 911 for help from firefighters.

This agreement between the two municipalities ensures the presence of firefighters at the fire station 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As a result, firefighters' response time is improved and the safety of citizens is enhanced. It should be noted that the Rosemère Fire Department operated on a part-time basis, which is to say that 50% of the time, firefighters were on call but not present at the fire station.

The services provided by Blainville fire stations are accessible to Rosemère residents immediately. This holds true for every facet of fire safety: intervention in the event of a disaster, prevention and public education, inspection, etc.

"With this agreement, Rosemerites benefit from full-time services at a much better cost. During the period covered by this agreement, citizens will enjoy significant savings. In taking this decision, we had the best interests of the taxpayers at heart, in terms of both safety and cost efficiency. This is a highly beneficial agreement," stated Rosemère Mayor Madeleine Leduc.

Over the 20-year period covered by this agreement, Rosemerites will save some \$30 million. In fact, Rosemère's financial contribution will be in the order of \$525,500 in 2016, \$675,250 in 2017, and \$798,775 in 2018. As of 2019 and until the final year of this agreement, Rosemère's financial contribution will amount to that of the previous year plus a 3.5% increase. It should be noted that the Rosemère Fire Department's operating budget for 2016 was approximately \$2.1 million.

Closing of the Fire Department

With the signing of this agreement with Blainville, the Town of Rosemère immediately brings the activities of its fire department to an end. Termination of employment terms for all firefighters have been established. "This decision was not taken lightly. I wish to thank all the firefighters who have ensured the safety of Rosemerites over the years and salute their fine work. This difficult decision was necessary, since Rosemère no longer had the financial means to operate its own fire department," stated Rosemère's mayor.

This measure echoes the analysis conducted in 2015 by the strategic working committee established by the Town to study the costs and performance of all municipal departments with an eye to optimizing the budget. This working committee was mentioned in the speech on the 2015 budget.

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