



Vaudreuil-Dorion

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Major Changes at Vaudreuil-Dorion Fire Department**

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, August 28, 2018** – The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion is pleased to announce that as of September 2, 2018, the Fire Department will have personnel on duty 24/7, 365 days a year at the Forbes fire station, and will also offer first-responder service.

The city's first four permanent, full-time firefighters were hired in 2016 and worked during the day only. Now, with the changes made to the organizational structure, the Fire Department will have six firefighters on duty weekdays and four on duty evenings, nights and weekends, starting September 2. Beginning in January 2019, this will be increased to six firefighters for all shifts. The longer-term plan (2020) is to have eight firefighters on duty at the Forbes and Lotbinière fire stations.

“With all the risks present in our territory, not to mention a growing population, we need to have firefighters available around the clock and every day of the year so as to ensure adequate response time,” explained Fire Department director Terry Rousseau. “This will make a big difference in our interventions and enable us to achieve our objectives in terms of strike force. I'd like to point out that we'll be the first fire department in the MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges to have a full team of firefighters on duty 24/7.”

### **First responders**

In addition to 24/7 firefighting, a first-responder service will be available starting September 2. This service will consist of some 40 firefighters who have received level 2 training (PR-2) and are able to intervene in cases of anaphylactic shock (extreme allergic reaction), trauma and cardiorespiratory arrest. First responders facilitate the work of ambulance technicians by applying protocols aimed at preventing the victim's condition from deteriorating. The ambulance technicians then take charge of the victim's care as soon as they arrive on the scene.

“I'm very pleased that we'll have first-responder service in our territory,” said Mayor Guy Pilon. “Offering this service to our citizens was a firm intention of the municipal council, as a way of improving emergency medical services. It's vital that we provide our citizens services that contribute to their quality of life.”

The Vaudreuil-Dorion Fire Department also serves the municipalities of Vaudreuil-sur-le-Lac and L'Île-Cadieux.