



**Elsmere/Selkirk Fire Districts  
Collaborative Planning Update  
January 2012**



The Manitou Report, commissioned by the fire districts in the Town of Bethlehem for the purpose of determining how to achieve service improvements and cost savings through collaboration, was released in November 2011. One of the priority recommendations was to implement a greater level of collaboration between the Elsmere and Selkirk Fire Districts. The Boards of Fire Commissioners and District Chiefs of both fire districts have conducted several workshops to begin to address some of the recommendations in the report.

Specifically, a closest station response policy should be adopted, particularly in the Glenmont area to provide improved response in the southern portion of the Elsmere Fire District.

In response to this recommendation, both districts have implemented an expanded mutual aid response policy which calls for an engine company response from the Selkirk #2 (Glenmont) station into the Elsmere Fire District for all areas south of the Delmar (Route 32) Bypass. This expanded response is in effect for all emergencies in these areas.

Another recommendation was that the districts should implement the use of a computer-based records management system. Ideally, the systems should be of the same provider to ensure consistency of record keeping and reporting. All districts should uniformly collect and manage the same data.

The Selkirk Fire District is in the process of implementing such a computer based records management system that is identical to the system that has been utilized in the Elsmere Fire District.

In addition, both fire districts will continue to hold workshops to address additional issues of mutual concern, including apparatus design and procurement, training and officer qualification standardization, facility utilization, joint purchasing and health and safety initiatives.

Several sub committees have been established town-wide to address issues of mutual concern involving all fire departments in the Town of Bethlehem.

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