

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Signing of the collective agreement between the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion and its firefighters**

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, February 24, 2023** – The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion and the *Association des pompiers de Vaudreuil-Dorion* signed a new five-year collective agreement today. This constitutes the first agreement to be made since the implementation of major organizational changes within the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's Fire Department, namely the maintenance of operations by full-time fire crews, 24-hour on-call duty and first responder services.

One of the issues at stake in this new collective agreement involved the wages paid to firefighters. "We were aware that a catch-up raise was required. The results of a study performed by an external firm on overall remuneration showed that adjustments needed to be made. The exercise took into account the City's ability to pay while maintaining sound management of public funds," said Director General, Olivier Van Neste. "In a context where staff retention is more important than ever, this point was a key aspect of the new agreement," he added.

"This agreement was concluded thanks to the work and efforts of both parties, and a spirit of healthy cooperation and respect at the negotiating table. We hope to maintain this collaborative work in the future," said Stéphane Massicotte, Acting Director of the Fire Department.

"Salary rates and working conditions were major issues, and this new collective agreement increases the attractiveness of the Vaudreuil-Dorion Fire Department. Respect and teamwork were shared values at the negotiating table, and they are what made this settlement possible. I would also like to thank my members for the continued professionalism they showed in the performance of their duties throughout these negotiations," said Maxime Gendron, President of the *Association des pompiers de Vaudreuil-Dorion*.

Every year, over 2,000 operations - including those requiring the presence of first responders - are carried out by the Vaudreuil-Dorion Fire Department, which also serves the municipalities of Vaudreuil-sur-le-Lac, L'Île-Cadieux and Pointe-des-Cascades. The Vaudreuil-Dorion Fire Department also specializes in operations requiring a hazardous materials response (HAZMAT) and, in this capacity, offers its services to other cities in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges RCM.