APPENDIX 1
Legislation and policy related to wildland fire and municipal planning

Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act

The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act requires each municipality to develop, implement and maintain an emergency management program to improve public safety through a coordinated and pre-identified process for responding to critical situations. An effective emergency management program will assist in protecting lives, infrastructure and property; protect the environment; promote economic stability; and help ensure the continuance of critical assets and government. One requirement under the Act is that each municipality must designate a community emergency management coordinator who coordinates the development, implementation and maintenance of the community’s emergency management program. Section 2 of the Act deals with hazard and risk assessment, and requires that, “In developing its emergency management program, every municipality shall identify and assess the various hazards and risks to public safety that could give rise to emergencies and identify the facilities and other elements of the infrastructure that are at risk of being affected by emergencies.”

Forest Fires Protection Act

Authority relative to wildland fire management comes from the Forest Fires Prevention Act, which applies to the fire region as set out in regulation (see Figure A1-1). The Act establishes the fire season; where and when fire permits are required; penalties for contravention of the Act and regulations; provision for implementing restricted fire zones where outdoor burning can be restricted; declaration of emergency areas and orders for fire suppression and the safety and evacuation of persons; and the responsibilities of planning authorities with respect to the suppression of wildland fires within their jurisdiction. Fire protection outside the fire region is also regulated by the Forest Fires Prevention Act.