



OFFICE of the MAYOR
CITY of BURLINGTON

Tracy Robinson
President & CEO of CN
Via email: Tracy.Robinson@cn.ca

Re: Wildfires in Burlington on CN Railway – June 23, 2025

July 3, 2025

Dear Ms. Robinson,

On Monday, June 23, multiple grass fires on CN property in Burlington broke out in flame and spread quickly.

These wildfires caused the closure of the 407 in Burlington in both directions. Orchard Park Public School was evacuated by Halton Regional Police Services. Three local firefighter units (Burlington, Oakville and Milton) were deployed to extinguish the flames. One firefighter from Burlington was taken to Oakville Trafalgar Hospital for heat-stroke.

These wildfires began on CN property. They had far-reaching implications, involved multiple regional resources, affected thousands of lives, and caused distress to the community. The Burlington Fire Department has determined that the likely cause of the wildfires was sparks from passing trains igniting overgrown vegetation adjacent to the tracks.

I am requesting immediate preventative action by CN to ensure this does not happen again. Please advise on what steps CN will take to maintain the rail corridor in Burlington and prevent the spread of fire. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward
City of Burlington

C.c. Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Transport & Internal Trade