



From the office of President Roger Wilkie
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From the office of Chair Patrick Weaver
Ontario Association of Police Services Board
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December 7, 2024

The Honourable Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General of Ontario
25 Grosvenor Street
18th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y6

Re: Recent \$77 Million Funding Announcement for Municipalities Policed by the Ontario Provincial Police

Dear Minister Kerzner,

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), we are writing to make you aware of concerns expressed to us by small- and mid-sized police services and boards regarding the Government of Ontario's recent announcement of more than \$77 million in funding to assist small and rural municipalities in managing the increasing costs associated with Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) services.

We acknowledge and appreciate the Province's investments in public safety and the positive impact such funding can have for police organizations in our province. In relation to the above announcement, we recognize that mitigating the financial burden of the collective bargaining agreement reached in July 2024 between the Province and the Ontario Provincial Police Association benefits communities policed by the O.P.P. and the broader benefits these investments bring to policing partners through enhanced access to specialized services and support.

However, many small- and mid-size police services boards and municipal police services have expressed concerns about the potential unintended consequences of this announcement. Specifically, this funding may exacerbate existing challenges for these services and boards as they navigate budget planning and strive to meet the increasingly complex demands of providing adequate and effective policing services under the *Community Safety and Policing Act* (CSPA) framework.

Once our associations were made aware of the \$77 million funding announcement, we sought input from the O.P.P. and the Province and understand a number of facts:

- The O.P.P. has not received any additional funding related to this announcement.
- O.P.P.-policed municipalities have not received any additional/net new funding.
- Municipal costs for O.P.P. Policed communities are increasing.

- The proposed one-time relief funding of \$77 million is intended to offset rising costs tied to police wage increases in the four-year contract between the Province and the Ontario Provincial Police Association.
- O.P.P.-policed municipalities and boards are not part of the O.P.P. bargaining process and are unable to influence the outcomes of contractual settlements.
- The O.P.P. values its partnerships with police services across the province, including collaborating on provincially funded joint forces operations (JFO), providing assistance with policing functions, responding to temporary/emergency requests for assistance, and maintaining investigative and specialized support to assist other police services.
- In 2023, over and above JFOs, the O.P.P. undertook more than \$40 million in salary expenses providing the above-noted assistance.

The concerns we are communicating to you from small- and mid-sized services and boards are not related to the valuable public safety services delivered by our provincial police service. Rather, the concerns centre on:

- The impact on municipal budget processes
- The on-going navigation of the significant and unfunded impacts of the new *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)*
- Localized bargaining and wage increases
- Public perception of rising policing costs
- The ability for smaller municipalities to sustain a municipal policing model

In our opinion, the issues raised by this announcement underscore the need to address several systemic challenges and opportunities:

1. **Modernizing the Grant Funding Process:** Streamlining and updating the grant funding process is critical to ensure timely, equitable, and efficient allocation of resources that reflect the realities of Ontario police services, who all police within different local contexts.
2. **Securing Additional and Equitable Funding for CSPA Implementation:** The complexities of implementing the CSPA require targeted financial support from the Province of Ontario to enable police services to effectively meet evolving standards and expectations.
3. **Exploring Sustainable Funding Solutions:** Long-term, predictable funding mechanisms are essential to support the delivery of adequate and effective policing services, particularly in smaller and rural communities with limited resources.

Given the concerns raised by police services in the wake of the recent announcement, we are looking for your ministry officials to help us better understand the equitable funding models available to all police services across the province. We also believe that there is a need for clarity and greater awareness around the financial drivers, costs, and budget impacts related to delivering adequate and effective policing in today's policing environment. This awareness will allow for a meaningful examination of policing services funding opportunities and the ability to better inform the communities we serve and the boards and municipalities that approve municipal police budgets.

We greatly value the ongoing dialogue with you and your ministry officials on these matters and appreciate your personal commitment to supporting police services across Ontario. We would welcome an opportunity to delve deeper into these concerns, explore potential solutions, and ensure that this and other funding achieves its intended purpose without unintended negative consequences for other policing services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response and the opportunity to work together to strengthen policing services across the province.

Sincerely,



Deputy Chief Roger Wilkie
President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police



Patrick Weaver
Chair, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards

c.c. All Chiefs of Police and O.P.P. Commissioner
All PSB Chairs
Mr. Mario Di Tommaso, Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety
Mr. Kenneth Weatherill, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division