



INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

To: Chair and Members
From: Deb Reid
Dept: Niagara Police Service Board
Dept: Executive Director
Niagara Police Service Board

Date: November 18, 2024

Re: Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act, 2024 - Proposed Amendments Related to the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with notice that the Ontario Government has introduced the Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act, 2024, that, if passed, will put into place significant new measures to help protect Ontario communities. As part of the proposed Act, the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) is proposing amendments to the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA) to address specific issues related to policing in Ontario.

Background Information and Discussion:

The Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 was brought into force on April 1, 2024. This package of proposed legislative amendments would continue to advance modernization of policing in Ontario by responding to operational issues and technical requirements. At this time, the SOLGEN is requesting public and stakeholder input on proposed amendments, which include:

- Enabling the transfer of responsibility of policing in relation to prescribed areas and enabling regulations to address cost recovery in relation to such areas;
- Establishing the authority for the Solicitor General to issue awards related to policing, including awards for long service;
- Clarifying the timeline requirements within provisions that specify when certain activities related to appointments, oaths, or affirmations must occur;
- Adding a definition of "prescribed entity" to promote clarity and remove ambiguity in the use of the term throughout the Act and some regulations;
- Addressing operational issues with respect to police services assisting each other, through amendments that would shift the authority to request temporary assistance from Police Service Boards to Chiefs of Police, allowing them greater flexibility in seeking assistance from another Chief of Police to provide adequate and effective policing; and,
- Other minor amendments to various provisions are proposed to ensure clarity and consistency of specific sections of the Act.

For more detail, please see the link to the attached legislation, draft Bill and summary: [Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019](#) and [Bill 223, Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act, 2024](#)

The Chief of Police, NRPS General Counsel and Board Solicitor have reviewed the proposed amendments and identified no areas of concern. Regarding feedback, we believe the proposed amendments to Section 19, concerning temporary assistance, are positive. These changes will enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of temporary assistance requests between police services, particularly in time-sensitive situations.

Recommendation:

That the Board provide feedback as outlined in the report, which was developed in consultation with the Niagara Regional Police Service, to the Ministry of the Solicitor General.



Deb Reid
Executive Director