



INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

To: Chair and Members

From: Deb Reid

Dept: Niagara Police Service Board

Dept: Executive Director
Niagara Police Service Board

Date: May 1, 2025

Re: Police Service Board – Suspension of U.S. Conference Travel

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to formally advise the Board that the Chair and Vice-Chair have suspended all United States (U.S.) conference travel for Board Members and Board staff for the 2025 calendar year.

Background Information and Discussion:

The Police Service Board received invitations to attend two upcoming U.S. based conferences in 2025. The first is the “Safety of Our Cities Conference” hosted by the Albuquerque Police Department in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from August 27-29, 2025. The second is the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference being held in Denver, Colorado from October 18-25, 2025.

In light of the recent motion by Regional Council restricting U.S. conference attendance at the Regional level, and considering the broader political and economic climate, including heightened political instability and the ongoing impacts from tariffs, the Chair and Vice-Chair have suspended Board participation in U.S. conferences for 2025. This decision is aligned with public expectations and the current realities facing public institutions. In addition, the Executive Director consulted with the “Big 12” Police Service Boards (representing the 12 largest Police Service Boards in Ontario), and the response was consistent: 10 of the 12 Boards have indicated they will not attend these U.S. conferences.

While the Chair and Vice-Chair acknowledge the value of cross-border collaboration, information sharing and relationship-building, the current economic uncertainty outweighs the benefits of attending these conferences. Board Members are encouraged to pursue learning and development opportunities related to governance and policing; however, it is essential that such decisions reflect the Board’s commitment to accountability, fiscal responsibility, and public trust.

This action underscores the Board’s dedication to aligning with public expectations and navigating the current environment, without diminishing the importance of such conferences under more stable circumstances.

Recommendation:

That the information be received.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deb Reid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Reid
Executive Director