



# NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

## Police Service Board Report

### PUBLIC AGENDA

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**Subject:** 2026 Budget – Provincial Grant Funding Update  
**Report To:** Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board  
**Report Date:** 2025-06-06

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### Recommendation(s)

**That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) send a letter to the Ministry of Solicitor General (SOLGEN) to urge the provincial government to prioritize sustainable, predictable funding for police services and to implement improvements to existing grant programs to better support effective community safety planning and fiscal management.**

### Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is firstly to request the Board communicate with SOLGEN on the benefits of their commitment to support community safety and well-being plans from their numerous outcome-based grant programs. Secondly, to highlight the importance of implementing improvements to their existing grant programs that will result in timely notification of the funding support whereas police services can mitigate any financial risk during budget deliberations.
- Grant programs fund approximately 4.7% of the Service's operating gross expenditure budget.
- Police services have received financial support from SOLGEN to combat public safety concerns related to human trafficking, child exploitation, victim support, response to mental health calls, impaired driving, and auto theft. Grant funding is also provided for court security and prisoner transportation as well as to enhance law enforcement through information technology such as CCTVs and ALPRs.
- The continued and timely support by SOLGEN in outcome-based grant programs will enable police services to direct resources toward local initiatives that supports community safety and well-being.

### Financial Considerations

Of the Service's operating gross expenditure budget, approximately 4.7% is funded by provincial grant funding.

The following table provides a breakdown of the provincial grant programs last funding period approved for the 2025 budget deliberations:

Grant Program	Budget Assumption:	2025 Budget
Court Security and Prisoner Transport	Prior 3-year actual revenues received – 2022-2024	\$6,932,056.00
Community Safety and Policing Grant – Local and Provincial Priorities	April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2025	3,209,171.00
Internet Child Exploitation Grant	April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2025	363,320.00
Preventing Auto Theft Grant	April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2026	242,500.00
Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Grant, Operating Fund	April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	124,802.00
Reduced Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) Grant	April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2024	41,600.00
Ontario Strategy to End Human Trafficking	April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025	34,800.00
Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) – Ontario Guns, Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy, Operating Fund	April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2025	22,805.00
Total – 2025 Grant Revenue Budget		\$10,971,054.00

The resource costs covered by the grant revenue are included in the 2025 operating budget and for most of these costs form part of the base budget. Therefore, loss of grant revenue generally results in an equal increase to the general levy fund to offset shortfalls.

The following analysis will focus on those grant programs that have a material impact on the operating budget.

## Analysis

The purpose of this report is firstly to request the Board communicate with SOLGEN on the benefits of their commitment to support community safety and well-being plans from their direct funding of police resources through their numerous outcome-based grant programs. Secondly, to highlight the importance of implementing improvements to their existing grant programs that will result in timely notification of the funding support whereas police services can mitigate any financial risk during budget deliberations.

SOLGEN supports community safety plans through a number of specialized grant programs. Each grant program has different application formats, timeframes, funding formulas, and reporting requirements. Grant applications are communicated by memorandum to all police services by the SOLGEN office. Eligibility criteria is provided within the grant application outlining eligible costs and performance measurements required to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The Service considers all grant applications for eligibility and benefits of the program to fund resources within the Service or to the community for grants that require a partnership with a community agency.

Recently, the administration of the grant application, accounting for grant funding and all reporting on the grants to SOLGEN have been centralized within the Finance Unit for coordination. However, the responsibility to prepare the grant application is delegated to Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) within the Service to ensure the appropriate individuals with firsthand knowledge are preparing the grant applications. In recent years, SOLGEN's support to community safety plans has significantly increase the number of grant programs offered increasing the need for dedicated resources to administer the grant program; however, the consensus amongst staff involved in the process suggest that the benefits received have positively impacted initiatives to combat issues such as human trafficking and opioid education.

Below is a detailed description of the major grant programs supporting the operating budget that highlights the purpose of the grant, funding formulas, notification of the announcement, and other applicable information.

A schedule of the all-grant programs approved and pending application is provided in Appendix 1.

#### **Court Security and Prisoner Transport Grant Program:**

**Funding \$6,244,540.00 for period January to December 31, 2025**

**Funding Announcement: March 21, 2025**

The Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (CSPT) Program provides a maximum total of \$125 million to assist municipalities in offsetting their CSPT costs. The agreement is between the Regional Municipality of Niagara (Region) and SOLGEN. Each municipalities allocation is determined using an expenditure-based model. This grant covers eligible costs related to CSPT such as facility perimeter and courtroom security during regular and non-regular hours including weekends and statutory holidays, screening stations, and monitoring the movement of people in custody including virtual proceedings and transporting to court locations.

There is no grant application process to receive the funds from this grant as it allocates funds to all police services that provide CSPT services.

The funding formula uses eligible expenditures filed by each agency in their annual reporting relative share of the total eligible expenditures filed by all agencies. For example, the 2025 funding was based on the 2023 annual report filed in April 2024.

There is an annual report prepared by the Finance Unit and filed by the Region that includes both gross eligible expenditures, supporting documentation such as payroll records and invoices as well as performance indicators. For the 2022 grant program, SOLGEN introduced the reporting of performance indicators such as number of in-person court appearances, virtual appearances, number of individual prisoners transported, and number of kilometers travelled.

This grant funds approximately 69% of the total eligible expenditures and this grant funds approximately 3.0% of the Service's gross expenditure budget.

**Community, Safety and Policing (CSP) Grant:**

**Funding \$9,614,791.14 for grant cycle April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2025**

**Funding Announcement: April 14, 2022**

**Pending grant application for period April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026**

**Grant Application announcement: March 26, 2025**

The CSP grant program was introduced in 2019-2020 to support police services in combating crime and keeping Ontario communities safe. This outcome-based 3-year grant provides eligible police services with greater flexibility to implement initiatives that address local policing needs, as well as provincial priorities under two funding streams – local and provincial. The objectives of the grant will be reviewed every grant cycle to ensure that they continue to meet local and provincial needs. There is a call for application grant process where Services are required to submit detailed costs and performance metrics for each initiative.

The funding formula is based on the eligible costs submitted in the grant application to a maximum funding amount per police service. The grant reimburses for actual expenditures incurred to the maximum grant funding therefore any unused funds are returned to SOLGEN pending the filing of the annual report.

There are two reporting requirements for this grant - interim and final report. The interim reports details on the progress of the grant program from April to September that includes actual expenditures, performance metrics and a report on the summary of activities completed in the reporting period. The final report includes similar information but for the period April to March. These reports are prepared by the Finance Unit and SMEs.

From the CSP grant program, the Service receives \$3,209,171.00 annually to fund five programs (four local priorities and one provincial priority). It partially covers the salary and benefits of ten constable positions, five detective constable positions and nine civilian positions. Except for one human trafficking detective, these positions are approved authorized strength in the Service base budget. This grant funds approximately 85% of the total eligible expenditures and this grant funds approximately 1.4% of the Service's gross expenditure budget

**Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Grant:**

**Funding \$871,070.00 for grant cycle April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2025.**

**Funding Announcement: May 5, 2021, and amended December 5, 2024**

This grant is part of the provincial strategy to protect sexual abuse and exploitation on the internet; which funds staffing, computer software, hardware, travel, and training.

There is a grant application process for this provincial strategy, which is submitted at the beginning of each fiscal year.

The funding formula is based on the eligible costs submitted in the grant application to a maximum funding amount per police service. The grant reimburses for actual expenditures incurred to the maximum grant funding therefore any unused funds are returned to SOLGEN pending the filing of the annual report.

There is a requirement to file monthly statistical and financial reports with one final report at the end of the fiscal period. All reporting is the responsibility of the ICE Unit. The Service has received this funding for the past 7 years to offset the cost of 1.2 detective constables within the ICE and Technological Crimes Unit that form part of the base budget of \$169,250.00. For the 2024/2025 grant cycle, the Service received additional funding of \$194,070.00 to fund 1-time technological equipment.

This grant funds .07% of the Service's gross expenditure budget.

#### **Preventing Auto Theft Grant:**

**Funding \$726,659.39 for grant cycle April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026**  
**Funding Announcement: November 24, 2023**

This new grant program commencing April 1, 2023, to support police services in combatting and preventing vehicle thefts and associated violent crimes across the province but where the funding would address local initiatives to their needs was approved November 2023 for the period of April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026.

There is a call for application grant process where services are required to submit detailed costs and performance metrics.

The funding formula is based on the eligible costs submitted in the grant application to a maximum funding amount of \$300,000.00 per police service. The grant reimburses for actual expenditures incurred to the maximum grant funding therefore any unused funds are returned to SOLGEN pending the filing of the annual report.

There are two reporting requirements for this grant - interim and final report. The interim reports details on the progress of the grant program from April to September that includes actual expenditures, performance metrics, and a report on the summary of activities completed in the reporting period. The final report includes similar information but for the period April to March. These reports are prepared by the Finance Unit and SMEs.

This grant funds a temporary position of one detective constable, salaries and benefits, training, and costs associated for community education and awareness.

This grant funds .10% of the Service's gross expenditure budget.

In summary, the Service depends on grant programs to fund 4.7% of its total gross expenditures and therefore timely information regarding the awarding of grants in alignment with police service budget cycles would significantly reduce the financial risk applied during budget deliberations. In recent years, police services have received financial support from SOLGEN to combat public safety concerns related to human trafficking, child exploitation, victim support, response to mental health calls, impaired driving, and auto theft. Grant funding is also provided for court security and prisoner transportation as well as to enhance law enforcement through information technology such as CCTVs and ALPRs. The continued and timely support by SOLGEN in outcome-based grant programs will enable police services to direct resources towards local initiatives that supports community safety and well-being.

### **Alternatives Reviewed**

Not applicable.

### **Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities**

The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure adequate funding is available to resource the Service to combat and reduce crime-related activity in the community including advocating for financial support to the upper tier governments.

### **Relevant Policy Considerations**

By-Law 412-2024 Financial Reporting, Control and Procurement of Goods and Services in the Niagara Regional Police Service

### **Other Pertinent Reports**

Not applicable.

*This report was prepared by Laura Rullo, Director, Finance and Asset Management.  
Recommended by Luigi Greco, Deputy Chief, Support Services.*



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#### **Submitted by:**

Bill Fordy, O.O.M. #9615  
Chief of Police

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Grant Program Status and Schedule

## Appendix 1: Grant Program Status Schedule

Grant Program	Term	Funding Period	Amount	Status	Reporting
Court Security and Prisoner Transportation	1 year	January 1 to December 31 2025	\$6,244,540.00	Approved - March 2025	Report per annum April
Community Safety & Policing -local priorities	3 years	April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2025	\$8,264,791.14	Approved –April 2022	Interim - October Final - April
Community Safety & Policing - provincial priorities	3 years	April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2025	\$1,350,000.00	Approved –April 2022	Interim - October Final - April
Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet (ICE)	4 years	April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2025	\$864,461.13	Approved – May 2021	Monthly Reporting, Final Report - April
Reduced Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE)	1 year	April 1, 2024, to March 31 2025	\$56,090.00	Approved – April 2025	Final Report - March
Preventing Auto Theft Grant (PAT)	3 years	April 1, 2023, to March 31 2026	\$726,659.39	Approved – November 23, 2023	Interim - October Final - April
Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCCRT)	1 year	April 1, 2024, to March 31 2025	\$71,926.00	Approved – February 2025	Final - April
Victim Support Grant	1 year	April 1, 2024, to March 31 2025	\$200,000.00	Denied – April 11, 2025	NA
CCTV Camera Grant	2 years	April 1, 2023, to March 31 2025	\$192,275.73	Approved	Final - April
CCTV Camera Grant	1 year	April 1, 2024, to March 31 2025	\$71,000.00	Denied - April 11, 2025	NA
Automated Licence Plate Reader (ALPR)	1 year	April 1, 2022 to March 31 2023	\$1,956,419.00	Approved – November 1 2022	Final - April

As of May 30, 2025

## Appendix 1: Grant Program Status Schedule

### Provincial Grant Applications Pending:

Grant Program	Term	Funding Period	Amount	Application Status
Community Safety & Policing -local priorities	1 year	April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026	\$2,759,170.57	Application submitted on May 7, 2025
Community Safety & Policing - provincial priorities	1 year	April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026	\$1,979,000.00	Application submitted on May 7, 2025
Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT)	2 year	April 1, 2025, to March 31 2027	\$240,000.00	Application submitted in January 2025

As of May 30, 2025