

**Mississippi Mills  
Community Policing Advisory  
Committee**

## **MEMORANDUM**

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**To:** Council  
**From:** Denzil Ferguson, Councillor and CPAC Chair  
**Date:** March 3, 2020  
**Re:** **Annual Community Policing Advisory Committee Report**

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The Government of Ontario started a process of reviewing the 1990 legislation, Police Services Act (PSA), that established the framework for our current Police Services several years ago. Since the process started there has been a change in government and as such the direction of the review process has changed and so has well as the timelines for the completion of the review.

In February of 2019 the current government repealed the changes that were made by the previous government.

The Ford Government has passed Bill 68, the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019 which received Royal Assent on March 26, 2019. This Act has not been proclaimed which means that the PSA of 1990 legislation is still in force.

The Act creates the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA) and the Special Investigations Unit Act, 2019; it also amends the Mandatory Blood Testing Act, 2006 and the Coroners Act.

The amendments to the Police Services Act (1990) that added new community safety and well-being (CSWB) planning provisions, came into force on January 1, 2019. They will continue to be in force with a new provision requiring the participation of local police services in developing the plan. Municipalities have until January 1, 2021 to create a CSWB plan.

Duties under the PSA include: Determining Police Objectives / Priorities and establishing local policies in consultation with the Detachment Commander. The CSPA empowers Police Service Boards to determine local objectives, priorities and policies, however the objectives and priorities must not be inconsistent with the strategic plan prepared by the Solicitor General for the OPP. In addition the direction of Solicitor General has been that the Police Service Boards objectives and priorities:

- Must not relate to specific investigations / conduct of specific operations
- Must not require a member of the OPP to provide any policies not required as a component of adequate and effective policing.
- Support government's commitment to strengthen public confidence in policing.
- Demonstrate respect for front line policing.
- Deliver quality and effective policing while also realizing better value for money.

Currently the Province is engaging stakeholders to consult on the development of regulations that will allow the Act to be implemented.

The Province is now working under identified time frames with scheduled meetings etc. to address / discuss the proposed regulations. To provide an example of the magnitude of these changes the development of the new Act contains 50 – 70 matters to be addressed in the regulations in comparison to the existing Act having 13 regulations.

Generally, the new regulations are being developed in 3 phases spring 2020, fall 2020 and spring 2021 with an expected process time of another year and a half. Topics under review are diverse and include such items as: Special Constable Framework, First Nations Policing, Delivery of Policing, OPP Billing, Training, Equipment / Weapons and the most significant to Mississippi Mills is the composition and boundaries of OPP Detachment Boards.

Lanark County municipalities have individual PSB's however, the new governance regulations will define a Police Service Board per OPP Detachment which identifies one Board for Lanark County. The composition, terms of office, remuneration etc. are to be determined through the regulations.

With few exceptions and cost savings, Mississippi Mills has functioned as a CPAC quite well with dedicated members of the public and council, however, it could now fall under the jurisdiction of a Lanark County Police Services Board.

Membership is within the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards which hold an annual Conference. There are also scheduled meetings, within Zone 2 (Eastern Ontario), Lanark County PSB's and our own CPAC.

Attached for your information is a sample of the statistics / public information that is provided by OPP on a weekly basis and although not specific to Mississippi Mills do provide an overview of County activity and capture Mississippi Mills issues where applicable.

A regional roundtable was held in Brockville under sponsorship of the Ministry of Solicitor General on February 20<sup>th</sup> attended by Mayor Lowry, Councillor Dalgity and

myself, together with representation from across eastern Ontario police service boards.

Discussion at the roundtable included but not restricted to:

- Sequencing Regulatory Development,
- Engagement Overview,
- OPP related Changes, PSA – CSPA (2019),
- OPP Governance,
- OPP Detachment Board Member Governance,
- Principles of the OPP Framework,
- OPP Matter for Regulation – Detachment Boards, OPP Governance Advisory Council, Transition of OPP Billing.

There is a lot of information moving forward, however, these consultations provided significant discussion on how diverse and fragmented the issues are for the various Police Boards functions across the province, including training and board appointments.

Two takeaways:

- Change is coming.
- Now is the time to initiate / meet with local existing boards (Lanark County) and be proactive to change, propose (if applicable) changes to size / composition / governance of OPP Detachment Board structure rather than be told how.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denzil Ferguson, Councillor