



The Leading Voice of Police Governance in Ontario

OAPBS Status Update - Bill 175

Greetings Members,

As you've likely heard, Bill 175 – the *Safer Ontario Act* – was amended by the Standing Committee on Justice last week and received third reading and Royal Assent on Thursday March 8th. The amended Bill is posted at [here](#).

This is an historic occasion. The *Safer Ontario Act* is the largest modernization to community safety legislation in a generation. For us, Royal Assent marks the culmination of six years of consensus-building within OAPSB, and external advocacy efforts on behalf of OAPSB.

Notwithstanding this momentous progress, there are a large number of Regulations that now need to be developed under this Act, prior to its “proclamation” (which brings the Act into effect). **Until proclamation of the *Safer Ontario Act*, the pre-existing *Police Services Act* remains in effect.**

Bill 175 is not without controversy. Opposition parties opposed it at third reading, the NDP vowed to repeal it if elected, and police labour associations (unions) have condemned it despite extraordinary lobbying efforts by them over the past couple of years, and

extraordinary attempts by the Government to appease them. A comprehensive list of media coverage of the Bill and stakeholder views is attached to this email.

There are lots of changes in Bill 175 – the *Safer Ontario Act*. Some of the highlights are:

Provincial legislation regarding community safety is extended, on a voluntary basis, to all First Nations

OPP governance is extended to 200+ more communities, through the establishment a detachment board for each detachment, or more than one board in accordance with the regulations - Section 67

Every municipality must develop a community safety and well-being plan; this plan will be the catalyst for cooperation between various human and health services, including police – Sections 195-204.

There are two types of municipal boards: police service boards and First Nations boards (the term “police service board” replaces the term “police services board”)

Municipal councils must prepare and follow diversity plans regarding their appointments to police service boards – Section 27-29

The Minister is now responsible develop, promote and provide education and training to both policing *and police governors* - Section 3(1)(j); A board member must complete training prior to acting as a board member – Section 35

Police service boards are now responsible to provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility (previously a municipal responsibility) – Sections 10, 37 – including alternate service delivery (ASD) options ensconced in legislation - Section 14(4)

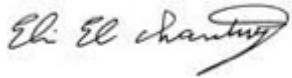
Board policies must address the provision of adequate and effective policing (Section 38 (1)(b)); the board “may establish policies respecting any other matters related to the police service or the provision of policing” (Section 38(2)), except that the board shall not make policies with respect to specific [i.e. individual] investigations, the conduct of specific [i.e. individual] operations, the management or discipline of specific [i.e. individual] police officers (Section 38(5))

Municipal boards’ strategic plans must cover a wide-range of matters – Section 39

Persons other than board members (such as lawyers) may conduct collective bargaining on behalf of a police service board, without police board members being present (confirmed by Minister’s Policy Director on 6 March 2018) - Section 171(2)

We encourage everyone to come to the Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting, May 23-26th at Blue Mountain, to learn more about the new *Safer Ontario Act*.

As always, thanks for your engagement and support!

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Eli El-Chantiry, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fred Kaustinen". The signature is more compact and stylized than the one on the left, with the first name "Fred" and last name "Kaustinen" clearly distinguishable.

Fred Kaustinen, Executive Director