

Ministry of Community Safety
and Correctional Services

Ministère de la Sécurité communautaire
et des Services correctionnels



Office of the Deputy Minister

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March 2, 2007

Mr. David Barrow
Chair
Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 4W5



Dear Mr. Barrow:

I am writing in light of the 2006 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario, which was tabled on December 5, 2006, and whose value for money audits highlighted irregularities in some practices adopted in broader public sector organizations that receive transfer payments from the province. The report noted that improved compliance was needed for corporate policies, monitoring, procurement practices, travel, employee recognition, motor vehicle fleet management, and documented support for credit card expenditures.

Although the report was limited in scope, the issues it identified are ones of which all transfer payment organizations should be made aware. It is in that spirit that I am writing to all Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services transfer payment organizations, reminding them of their obligation to have in place appropriate governance, accountability standards, and compliance measures that will withstand public scrutiny in the management of public funds.

As a recipient of public funds from the ministry, your organization is to ensure that public funds provide value for money and that they are spent prudently, in a manner consistent with your funding agreement with the ministry.

Based on the details of your particular agreement, you have a responsibility to ensure that a suitable level of accountability standards and administrative controls are in place. These standards should reflect best practices in public sector spending in order to ensure measurable compliance.

By receipt of this letter, I trust that you will ensure your organization meets the appropriate requirements as they relate to the use of public funds. If you have any concerns, please advise your ministry contact Ms. Eve Roknic at (416) 314-3074 or by e-mail eve.roknic@ontario.ca. Your contact will work with you to ensure we have a common focus and purpose with respect to the Auditor General's report on value for money.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah Newman".

Deborah Newman
Deputy Minister of Community Safety
and Correctional Services

c: Mr. Tony Dean
Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council

Ms. Michelle DiEmanuele, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Government Services

Ms. Eve Roknic, Acting Manager
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services