

Public Safety Division

Division des services internes
de la police

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March 16, 2007

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



Dear Mayor Barrow:

The threat of communicable diseases has been prominent in recent years, especially given the 2003 SARS outbreak and on-going concerns over avian and pandemic flu. Police members, as first responders, are at significant risk of exposure to communicable diseases because of their contact with the general public.

Given these factors, the ministry intends to conduct a review of 25 municipal police services to assess the overall state of readiness in relation to communicable diseases. This is consistent with the ministry's overall responsibility for community safety, and the Minister's specific responsibility for conducting a system of inspection and review of police forces across Ontario.

Taking into consideration factors such as population density and the potential for exposure to a communicable disease, your police service has been selected as one of the on-site review candidates. This review will focus on:

- The existence of police services board policies and police service procedures on communicable diseases;
- What training has been provided to members on communicable diseases; and,
- The availability and deployment of personal protective equipment specific to communicable diseases.

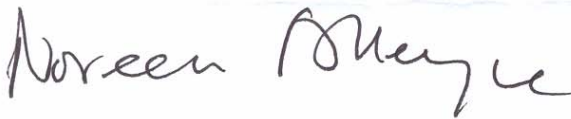
In the coming weeks, the Police Services Advisor for your zone will be contacting both you and the Chief to arrange potential dates for the review. The review should be completed in one day and I suggest that your Service make available content experts in the area of communicable diseases.

Ministry staff will analyze the findings and prepare a final report to be shared with police services/boards for the overall benefit of community safety in Ontario.

If you have any questions about this review, please contact the Police Services Advisor for your zone or Drazen Manojlovic, Police Services Advisor, at 416-314-3082, or by email Drazen.Manojlovic@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Noreen Alleyne
Director
Police Support Services Branch

c. Chief Armand La Barge
York Regional Police Service

Phil Duffield
Police Services Advisor