

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK  
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

23 APRIL 2008

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**Extension of the Safer Communities  
– 1,000 Officer Policing Partnership Grant**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Board approve the 2 year extension of the Provincial Safer Communities – 1,000 Officer Policing Partnership (SC-TOPP) Grant Program from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services; and
2. That the Chairman be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board, subject to approval of the Region's Legal Services as to form and content; and
3. That the Board forward the agreement to The Regional Municipality of York requesting a resolution of Council authorizing the Region of York to enter into this agreement with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

**SYNOPSIS**

York Regional Police is currently being funded for 100 officers under the Provincial Safer Communities – 1,000 Officer Policing Partnership (SC-TOPP) Grant Program. This funding commenced May 18, 2005. The funding covers 50 per cent of salary, related overtime and benefit costs to a maximum annual amount of \$35,000 per officer.

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services is proposing a two year extension of this agreement to March 31, 2010. The same 30 day termination provisions remain in the new agreement.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Grant funding for the full 2008 fiscal year of \$3,500,000 has been included in the 2008 Operating Budget for 100 officers at the maximum amount of \$35,000 per annum.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Policing Partnerships (SC-TOPP) grant provides permanent funding for 1,000 additional officers allocated across the Province. Fifty per cent of the officers were allocated to community policing and the remainder were allocated to justice efficiency and the 6 target areas of youth crime, guns and gangs, organized crime, dangerous offenders, domestic violence and protecting children.

This program is a 50-50 cost-sharing partnership between the Province and the Municipalities. It covers salary, benefits and overtime costs to a maximum of \$35,000 per annum per new officer and is reimbursed bi-annually in arrears to the Municipality.

York Regional Police received approval for funding of 10 officers for community policing and 90 officers for the justice efficiency and the 6 targeted areas. Funding for 35 officers was retroactive to October 23, 2003, with the remaining 65 officers effective April 1, 2006.

The original agreement was reviewed by York Region Legal Services and was executed by the Board and the Region. The new agreement is a renewal of the existing SC-TOPP Program agreement as signed in 2006. At that time, the Ministry added a number of key provisions. Most notably, the Ministry will not provide any funding to the Board or the Municipality without a resolution by Regional Council authorizing council to enter into this agreement. The agreement still provides that the Ministry may, in its sole discretion, adjust the amount of grant funding to be provided to the Municipality in any fiscal year during the agreement based upon the Ministry's assessment of the current year's final audited statement.

The new agreement will commence on April 1, 2008, and will expire on March 31, 2010, although the funding will not be provided until all of the requirements of the agreement have been satisfied. The Ministry will reimburse the Board bi-annually, subject to receipt and approval of interim and annual SC-TOPP Program reports, outlining the officers hired, date of hire, salary paid and reimbursement request.

The agreement contains the same termination provisions. The Ministry may, in its sole discretion, terminate the agreement upon 30 days notice to the Board and the Municipality, and allow the Board and the Municipality to wind-down the SC-TOPP program during the notice period. In addition, the Ministry may, in its sole discretion, terminate the agreement without notice for a number of reasons, including the failure of the Municipality or the Board to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreement and/or if the Municipality or Board is unable to carry out SC-TOPP activities.

In the event of termination of the agreement, the Ministry may cancel all further grant funding installments and demand the repayment of any grant funds remaining in the possession or under the control of the Municipality and the Board that are not required by those parties to pay the cost of winding down the SC-TOPP activities.

Any funds that have not been used or accounted for by the Municipality or the Board by the end of each fiscal year during the term of the agreement are to be returned to the Ministry. Similarly, any funds not used or accounted for at the expiration or termination of the agreement must be returned to the Ministry.

The Municipality and the Board must satisfy the insurance requirements set out in the agreement as a prerequisite to receipt of any funds. Region of York Risk Management staff have confirmed that the Board and the Region meet the requirements established by the Ministry.

In conclusion, it is recommended that the Board approve the 2 year extension of the Provincial Safer Communities – 1,000 Officer Policing Partnership (SC-TOPP) Grant Program from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

Armand P. La Barge, O.O.M.  
Chief of Police

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