

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK POLICE SERVICES BOARD
BILL 206, AN ACT TO REVISE THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT SYSTEM ACT

Approved: November 23, 2005

WHEREAS the provincial Standing Committee on General Government is currently debating Bill 206, An Act to revise the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Act; and

WHEREAS the OMERS pension fund is currently equal to approximately 8% of Ontario's annual GDP; and

WHEREAS the OMERS pension fund serves approximately 900 employers and 355,000 diverse employee groups including: current and former employees of municipal governments; school boards; libraries; police services and fire departments; children's aid societies; and, electricity distribution companies; and

WHEREAS Ontario's municipalities and their employees depend on the prudent management of the \$36 Billion plan and to ensure that employees and employers are paying for benefits they can afford; and

WHEREAS OMERS employer and employee members are facing an increase in OMERS contributions in 2006 of approximately 9% as a result of a significant deficit in the OMERS fund; and

WHEREAS the Bill includes significant, potentially costly and unnecessary changes to the governance structure of OMERS including a Sponsors Corporation structured to be governed by arbitration; and

WHEREAS the Bill would permit the creation of expensive supplemental plans to provide optional enhanced benefits that will impose new collective bargaining obligations on municipalities, the operating costs of which cannot yet be fully assessed; and

WHEREAS the Province has a responsibility to study and fully disclose the potential impact of the changes it is proposing and to share the results with employers and employee groups; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and others have urged the government to consider the potential implications of Bill 206 and to ensure the proposed policy changes protect the interests of employers, employees and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS the Government is moving in haste with a Bill, which in its current form raises significant technical, public policy and economic issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board does not support Bill 206 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with Bill 206 in its current form; and

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED THAT Ms Julia Munro, MPP York North, Mr. Mario Racco, MPP Thornhill, Mr. Tony Wong, MPP Markham, Mr. Greg Sorbara MPP Vaughan-King-Aurora, Mr. Frank Klees, MPP Oak Ridges, the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, and Mr. Curley Everitt, President, OAPSB be advised that this Police Services Board does not support proposed changes to the OMERS pension fund contained in Bill 206.