

## **REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

### **PENALTIES FOR CRIMES INVOLVING ILLICIT DRUGS**

Approved: November 21, 2007

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WHEREAS police services must ensure the safety and security of all persons and property;

WHEREAS illicit drugs are the foundation of organized crime and the source of property and violent crime in our communities;

WHEREAS the sources or reach of illicit drugs knows no boundaries or cultural barriers;

WHEREAS many drugs in Canada are exported to the United States in exchange for other drugs, guns and illicit products that are used by criminals in Canada;

WHEREAS the demand and profits of the illicit drug market are increasing worldwide;

WHEREAS the law enforcement community is consistently aggressive in its efforts to detect, disrupt and dismantle illicit drug operations, including marihuana grow operations and clandestine labs;

WHEREAS the health of children in marihuana grow operations and the well-being of neighbourhoods is compromised by various hazards, including electrical, carbon dioxide, exhaust, toxic mould, chemicals and explosive materials;

WHEREAS the availability of illicit drugs is a significant threat to young people who, by experimenting with their peers, risk cognitive and physical impairment, psychosocial problems, and addiction;

WHEREAS the federal government has made a commitment to implement the National Anti-Drug Strategy giving law enforcement agencies powers to take on those who produce and push drugs on our streets;

WHEREAS the provincial and federal courts have the responsibility to deter the manufacture, trafficking and importing of illicit drugs into Ontario and Canada through tough sanctions;

WHEREAS conditional sentences and other minimum sentences for crimes involving the manufacture, trafficking, and importing and/or exporting of illicit drugs have proven ineffective in combating the lucrative drug trade and putting its operators permanently out of business;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board calls on the judiciary to consider the deleterious effects of drugs on individuals and communities in sentencing criminals who manufacture, traffic, and import and/or export illicit drugs; and that the judiciary impose stiffer sentences available to them within the current legislative framework.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board calls on the justice system and provincial and federal Justice Ministers to increase penalties for crimes involving the manufacturing, trafficking, importing and/or exporting of illicit drugs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards, the Canadian Association of Police Boards, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police demonstrate support for this resolution by advocating increased penalties for crimes involving the manufacturing, trafficking, importing and/or exporting of illicit drugs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be circulated to Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.