

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK  
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

25 FEBRUARY 2009

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**Police Officers Recruitment Fund**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Board approve the Police Officers Recruitment Fund program from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services; and
2. That the Chairman be authorized to execute the agreement in accordance with Recommendation #1, subject to prior review by York Region Legal Services; 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**

The federal government committed to funding additional police officers in communities across Canada for a period of five years. York Regional Police has been allocated funding for up to ten officers under the Police Officers Recruitment Fund. The funding covers salary related costs to a maximum of \$70,000 per annum per officer. Officers hired must be additional to your sworn strength as of, and retroactive to, April 1, 2008.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Grant funding for 2009 in the amount of \$700,000 has been included in the proposed 2009 Operating Budget. Retroactive funding in the amount of \$438,000 has been accrued against the 2008 Operating Budget based on ten experienced officers hired after April 1, 2008.

During the first two years of the program, overtime expenditures may be used to supplement the claim as necessary. This will allow York Regional Police to claim the full grant of \$700,000 per annum back to April 1, 2008. This grant will be paid at the beginning of each fiscal year.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2006, the federal government pledged \$400 million to put 2,500 new officers on Canadian streets. The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services is participating in the federal government's Police Officers Recruitment Fund which was created in the 2008 Federal Budget. This federal government initiative is a five year program, with no commitment to fund after the five year period. The Ministry continues to advance the position to the federal government that, like the Community Policing Partnerships Grant and the Safer Communities – Thousand Officer Policing Partnerships Grant, funding should be provided in perpetuity.

The Province of Ontario will receive \$156 million in federal funding over five years to hire more officers. Under the province's plan, \$78 million will go to hire 125 new Ontario Provincial Police officers, \$58 million for municipal police services to hire up to 164 new officers and \$20 million will fund 40 new officers for First Nations police services.

The agreement shall commence on April 1, 2008, and shall expire on March 31, 2013, with funding provided at the beginning of each fiscal year. During the first two years of the program, April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2010, any unspent funds may be directed towards overtime for new and existing officers.

York Regional Police has been allocated \$700,000 in funding for up to ten officers with 100 percent funding of salary related costs to a maximum of \$70,000 per annum per officer. Overtime expenditures may be used to supplement the claim as necessary during the first two years of the program.

The agreement was reviewed by York Region Legal Services and the Ministry requires a resolution by Regional Council authorizing council to enter into this agreement.

The Municipality and the Board shall use grant funds only for the purposes set out in the Agreement and any part of the grant funds that have not been used or accounted for by the Board or the Municipality by the end of any fiscal year during the term of this agreement shall be returned to the Ministry immediately upon the request of the Ministry.

APL/mh

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