

December 2, 2024

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Re: Policing Cost Relief

Dear Mr. Premier,

I commend you and your government for stepping forward to address the skyrocketing costs of Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) services affecting many municipalities, particularly the smaller ones. The \$77 million in funding will significantly aid many through these challenging times as it relates to municipal budgeting.

As a matter of fairness, I am requesting that the province also address the significant costs associated with the proclamation of Bill 68, the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019. These proclaimed costs primarily involve diversity training, mandatory training for board members, the development of diversity plans, and various other additional costs that have now been placed on the shoulders of local taxpayers.

Despite this being prudential legislation, we have received no compensation to assist us. Consequently, police budgets across Ontario have increased significantly. In the City of Sarnia, we have seen over a 35% increase in three years. Mississauga is noting a 21% increase this coming year. While we all support frontline policing and acknowledge the importance of civilian administrators in policing, a significant portion of these costs are procedural and burdensome, negatively impacting our overall budgets.

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