



TOWN OF FORT FRANCES POLICE SERVICES BOARD

May 26, 2020

Mayor Kevin Holland
Zone 1 OAPSB Representative
via email: mayorholland@conmee.com

Dear Mayor Holland:

At their meeting May 22, 2020, the Town of Fort Frances Police Services Board passed the following resolution:

“THAT the letter and email dated May 11, 2020 from Mayor Kevin Holland, Township of Conmee and OAPSB Representative re: Upcoming Meeting of the Ontario Association of Police Services Board (OAPSB) be received;

and

FURTHER THAT a letter respecting the Fort Frances Police Services Boards opposition to the proposed structure of Police Services Boards for the Ontario Provincial Police be forwarded to the OAPSB with copy to Mayor Holland and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) with copy to Matthew Wilson, Senior Advisor AMO”.

Please find attached correspondence in support of the Board's position on this important matter.

Yours truly

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
John McTaggart, Board Chair

c.c. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
-Attn: M. Wilson, Senior Advisor mwilson@amo.on.ca
Ontario Police Service Board Association oapsb@oapsb.ca



TOWN OF FORT FRANCES POLICE SERVICES BOARD

May 26, 2020

Mayor Kevin Holland
Zone 1 OAPSB Representative
via email: mayorholland@conmee.com

Hi Kevin,

The Fort Frances Police Services Board met this past Friday and we pass along to you our comments on the legislative changes for Police Services Boards that are being proposed under the new Community Safety and Policing Act.

There is provision in the act for one PSB or more than one PSB per detachment and there are a number of points that must be carefully considered before a proper solution can be determined for any detachment area.

At a recent round table discussion held in Kenora there was a suggestion put forward by the Rainy River District Social Services Board CEO Dan McCormick that organizations such as his would be the proper organization to lead the new PSB. Kevin, I can tell you in the strongest language possible that the Fort Frances PSB is absolutely opposed to the local DSSAB or for that matter any DSSAB in Northwestern Ontario being the representative of Police oversight!! The role of civilian oversight of police is far greater than an item on a very full DSSAB agenda! This is a non-starter.

There are several considerations in determining the possibilities of a one detachment board model for any area. I speak to you today as it impacts Fort Frances and the communities of the Rainy District.

The first consideration is the geography of Northern Ontario and the Rainy River District which covers an area in excess of 15,000 square KM, ranging over 300 KM from east to west. There are ten municipalities in the district with the vast portion of the population of is in the western third of the district, which makes policing a real challenge to manage. Fort Frances which comprises just a little less than half of the total population of the district accounts for more than an estimated 70% of the calls for service. A detachment board needs to be reflective of population and in some manner to the calls for service model. This then leads to a board size representing 10 communities over 300 KM. How do you square this?

We cannot live in silos and we must be responsive to the needs and impacts of all communities around us as there are forces from outside Fort Frances that have direct implications on the town and its policing services. There needs to be considerations of other municipalities that Fort Frances hosts the District Courthouse and with that goes the costs of security provided for that facility which no other district community sharing in the costs.

Consideration of the size of a detachment board needs to be in the forefront as to not make it unwieldy. It is an absolute must that the Town of Fort Frances as a current Section 10 board and as the base of a large portion of the population and unfortunately the source of the majority of calls for service requires that it have a guaranteed number of positions on any board moving forward. Atikokan as a Section 10 municipality should have a guaranteed seat on a detachment police services board. The balance of the board members from district municipalities as determined to fill out the balance of the board could be rotated in and out on a predetermined schedule.

A concern moving forward would be the ongoing training for board members that has been the highlight of several inquiries in the recent past. With members rotating in and out board roles it would make training even more of a challenge.

There is an underlying issue in all of this and that is the best use of the detachment commander's time and resources. Presently reporting to two Section 10 boards between 4 and 10 times a year and reporting eight 5.1 communities once a year is a large time commitment. One PSB board would streamline the reporting method and be much more efficient, but there cannot be any municipality left unserved by a detachment board.

There has been some discussion of the provincial appointments to PSB's being done away with. This can be supported as I believe that each municipality can make well-reasoned choices for members of its own Police Services Board. The board will be represented by local community members whether appointed by local government or by the province, so leave it to local government.

Kevin, thank you for advancing our concerns to OAPSB. This is a game changer for Police Services Boards across the province.

Best regards,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
John D McTaggart
Board Chair
Fort Frances Police Services Board