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April 27, 2021

To all Rainy River District Mayors and Councils,

Re: **Local Police Governance - Rainy River District – High Importance**

I would like to thank those municipal representatives who were able to participate in the virtual meeting of Thursday, April 15, 2021.

As indicated at the meeting there is some urgency surrounding this request as our input is required in determining a locally driven solution with respect to the number of district police service boards in the Rainy River District. The deadline for submittance of our proposal to the Ministry of the Solicitor General is **June 7, 2021**.

Across the province communities are divided in the sections for policing per the Police Services Act 1990.

- Section 31 – Communities who have their own police service, namely, Dryden and Thunder Bay in the northwest.

Within the Rainy River District communities are divided into 2 classes.

- Section 10 – Communities who have a contract for police services with the OPP, namely Atikokan and Fort Frances.
- Section 5.1 – Encompasses the remaining 8 district towns. Although these communities receive police service, they do not have a contract for service with the OPP.

Section 10 and 5.1 communities are billed on a per household cost for policing plus charges on a call for service basis. A section 10 board can contract for enhanced service as Fort Frances has done in hiring 2 special constables for courthouse security.

Currently, Atikokan and Fort Frances (section 10 boards) are composed of 5 individuals consisting of: two council members, one council appointed community citizen and two community members appointed by the province. With the exception of July and August, meetings occur bi-monthly in Atikokan and monthly in Fort Frances. The boards receive reports from the detachment commander, have input into policing priorities in the community and each board maintains a seat on the recruitment selection panel of a new detachment commander. Training is an expectation of each board member to meet the requirements of the Police Services Act. Both boards are members of the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB).

With the implementation of the New Community Safety and Policing Act 2019, several changes will occur that will impact police oversight and governance in communities across the district and the province. All section 10 Boards will disappear, as will existing contracts between municipalities and the OPP. The only contracts that will remain are those for enhanced services such as the hire of 2 constables as previously mentioned for security at the Fort Frances courthouse.

The greatest change for municipalities is the requirement of one or more than one board per detachment to represent all communities in our detachment catchment area (Rainy River / Lake of the Woods through to east of Atikokan). Under the new legislation each municipality has the option of a seat on the new board or boards. It is important to note that a police services board is independent and not a committee of any council.

The new boards are to consist of 5 members at a minimum with no maximum and are to be composed of 60% council appointees, a minimum of 20% council appointed community members and 20% provincial appointees. There is a point at which the Ministry will ask questions if the board is too large. As such, the size of the detachment area will be considered in determining if there should be one or more than one board per detachment.

Discussions last week centred on a suggestion that Atikokan, due to its relative isolation from the rest of the other district communities maintain their own Police Services Board. Further, to coordinate with the adjoining boundaries and the probability of common interests in policing matters, the remaining 9 municipalities form one board.

There was discussion on the idea of representation from neighboring communities, and the suggestion was brought forward that a group of municipalities have one representative on the board. For your information, I have included the 2020 OPP calls for service for each of the 10 district communities to demonstrate the wide variation in calls for service.

For discussion purposes, I would like to suggest the following for a PSB structure which should meet the needs of community representation and keep the board at a manageable size.

Township	Board Member
Chapple Morley Dawson Lake of the Woods Rainy River	1
Township	Board Member
Alberton La Vallee Emo	1
All above noted townships	Community Member Appointment - 1

Township	Board Member
Fort Frances	2
Above township	Community Member Appointment - 1

Provincial Appointment	Board Member - 1
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This allotment meets provincial legislation of their minimum of 5 members with sufficient community and provincial appointments and keeps the board at a manageable size for getting quorum.

Further to the discussion surrounding applicable costs for PSB, consideration of a division of board costs per municipality will need to be determined for the proposed model. Options to consider may be a model similar to RRDSSAB apportionment or board representation by municipality or group of municipalities or the model used by the NWHU.

Fort Frances has had an average cost of \$16,300 in 2017 - 2019 for a 5-person board. Below is a list of costs that is indicative of the experience that Fort Frances has had.

Ontario Association of Police Services Boards <i>(based on the number of officers that serves the board area)</i>	\$2,000.00
OAPSB Zone 1 dues	\$125.00

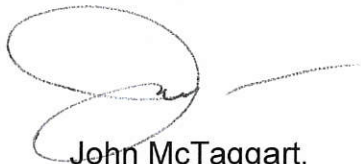
Board member stipends	Range of \$1,000.00 - \$2000.00 annually/per member
Secretarial costs	Unknown at this time
Board Insurance	Unknown at this time
Travel – OAPSB annual conference, Zone 1 meetings, board meetings	Unknown at this time
Training	Unknown at this time

On April 20th, I participated in a SOLGEN run webinar that referenced the upcoming deadline for proposals for board structures and all the implications of the transition. I have attached the PowerPoint presentation. There is another session scheduled in May if you wish to partake. Each municipality has received a letter from Minister Jones indicating the changes at hand along with the intended deadline and a Q & A page.

At this point in time the Ministry is preferring one submission per detachment and the **deadline for submission is June 7, 2021**. With that deadline imposed, I am asking that each council **respond by May 19, 2021** with questions or your approval to proceed to the submission stage. Please forward your reply via email to town@fortfrances.ca.

Should you have questions please refer to the Ministry of the Solicitor General's website or feel free to contact me. My email is jmctaggart@fortfrances.ca and my phone number is 275-9062.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.



John McTaggart,
Councillor Town of Fort Frances
Fort Frances Police Services Board Chair

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Attachments:

Virtual Information Session – April 20, 2021
2020 Calls for Service Municipalities
Letter S10 Update – March 2021
Letter re OPP Detachment Board Framework
Proposal Factsheet
OPP Proposal Q & A