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Cannabis Costs

Chief Eric Jolliffe of York Regional Police (YRP) has shared the results of a recently completed YRP financial analysis of the anticipated financial implications associated to the pending *Cannabis Act*.

The report notes that the initial legalization of cannabis in other jurisdictions has resulted in increased rates of impaired driving, motor vehicle collisions, overall crime, as well as injuries/illnesses associated to cannabis use.

YRP applied the documented statistical increases experienced in other jurisdictions to its current demands for service to determine the expected impact on workload and staffing related to the legalization of cannabis. The objective of this financial analysis is to ensure its members are properly trained, equipped, and staffed to effectively address the needs of the community by proactively and reactively responding to the anticipated operational demands related to the recreational use of cannabis.

The report notes that the anticipated financial impact include:

- 1. Items such as training and equipment, which are being treated as known and mandatory costs associated to the pending Cannabis Act and the associated changes to impaired driving legislation;
- 2. The anticipated/expected impact associated to responding to demands for service associated to the use of cannabis; and,
- 3. Maintaining and enhancing the best practices that distinguish policing in Canada as international leaders in community safety, including educating our youth, investigating organized crime and its evolution in the new cannabis market.

In the interest of ensuring the safety and security of our community and mitigating the financial impact on the Region and its local residents, the YRP Board is advocating for the appropriate Federal funding needed to supplement federally imposed changes on a policing system that currently receives no Federal and limited provincial funding for municipal policing.

For more information, please contact Jeff Channell at 5460@police.york.on.ca (<mailto:5460@police.york.on.ca>).