

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

**13 October 2023 / 13 octobre 2023**

**Submitted by: Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service**

**Contact Person / Personne ressource:**

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principal**

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**SUBJECT: RCMP SPECIAL CONSTABLE APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATED  
AUTHORITY: 1 MILLION MARCH 4 CHILDREN EVENTS**

**OBJET: NOMINATIONS D'AGENTS SPÉCIAUX ET DÉLÉGATION DE  
POUVOIRS À LA GRC : MOUVEMENT « 1 MILLION MARCH 4  
CHILDREN »**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board:**

- 1. approve the appointment of up to 100 RCMP employees as special constables as the need arises through the 1 Million March 4 Children Events, pursuant to Section 53 of the Police Services Act, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Approval of Appointment Forms that will follow.**
- 2. delegate authority to the Chair and/or Vice-Chair to approve any additionally required special constable status appointments in relation to the 1 Million March 4 Children Events occurring in October 2023.**

**These appointments will be valid until October 23, 2023.**

- 3. delegate authority to the Chair and/or Vice-Chair to approve any memorandums of understanding that are required by the Ottawa Police Service to secure resources from other police services to assist with the operational response required for this event.**

## RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa :

1. **Approuve la nomination d'un maximum de 100 employés de la GRC à titre d'agents spéciaux, au besoin, dans le cadre des événements du mouvement « 1 Million March 4 Children », en vertu de l'article 53 de la *Loi sur les services policiers*, conformément aux conditions énoncées dans les formulaires d'approbation de nomination qui suivront.**
2. **Délègue au président ou au vice-président le pouvoir d'approuver toute nomination supplémentaire requise au titre du statut d'agent spécial dans le cadre des événements du mouvement « 1 Million March 4 Children » qui auront lieu en octobre 2023.**

**Ces nominations seront valables jusqu'au 23 octobre 2023.**

3. **Délègue au président ou au vice-président le pouvoir d'approuver tout protocole d'entente requis par le Service de police d'Ottawa pour obtenir des ressources d'autres services de police afin de contribuer aux interventions requises pour cet événement.**

## BACKGROUND

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is requesting the staffing support of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to respond to the 1 Million March 4 Children Events, which is scheduled to arrive in Ottawa starting October 21, 2023.

The OPS is requesting approval to appoint Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers with special constable status, which will provide these RCMP officers with law enforcement capabilities within the City of Ottawa, in cooperation with the OPS.

The OPS is seeking the approval of up to 100 additional officers.

Following Board approval today, Approval of Appointment Forms will be provided by the Ministry in the coming days and will require the Chair's signature.

In addition, the OPS is requesting the Board provide delegated authority to the Chair and Vice-Chair to approve any additional special constable status requests pertaining to these Events, should the need arise.

Any exercise of this delegated authority will be reported back as part of the Board's next regular meeting.

All appointments and re-appointments would be valid until October 23, 2023.

The OPS requests that the Board refrain from posting the names of the RCMP members in accordance with operational security requirements.

### **Board Appointment of Special Constables**

The Board regularly approves the appointment of special constables for the RCMP, OC Transpo, Carleton University, and internal members of the OPS. These appointments ensure that respective employees can carry out the full scope of their assigned duties. Generally, applications are made to the Ministry to have individuals appointed as special constables pursuant to Section 53 of the PSA. The Board then appoints these employees as special constables upon approval of the Ministry.

### **OPS and RCMP Memorandum of Understanding**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the OPS and the RCMP was established in 2016 with no expiry date. An RCMP indemnification letter was provided to the Board on January 25, 2016, by Chief Superintendent Bruce Kirkpatrick to address concerns raised by the Board respecting potential liability. The following is an excerpt from this letter:

“In the absence of a formal agreement between the RCMP and the Board, and in an effort to address the aforementioned concerns, I wish to assure you that the RCMP will, at its own cost, indemnify the Board from any claims, demands, actions and judgements instituted or recovered by a third party, arising from any act, conduct or omission of members of the RCMP appointed as special constables under subsection 53(1) of the Police Services Act (PSA) by the Board while carrying out their duties. To this end, the RCMP requires that the Board provide it with notice, in writing to the undersigned or the individual occupying that position without delay, or in exigent circumstances, as soon as reasonably possible of any claims, demands, causes of action or actions arising from any act, conduct or omission of members of the RCMP appointed as special constables under subsection 53(1) of the PSA by the Board while carrying out their duties.”

For the purposes of this agreement, the Board has authority, pursuant to the PSA, to appoint special constables for such purposes and with such powers as it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Ministry.

The Board shall designate the Chief of Police or his/her designate to perform some or all the Board's administrative functions under these agreements. The Chief shall designate one officer as his/her designate with respect to the day-to-day administration of this agreement.

For the administration of this agreement, the Chief Superintendent of the RCMP will be responsible for some or all the administrative functions under each respective agreement. These leaders shall designate an employee for the day-to-day administration requirements.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The RCMP and the OPS have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines roles, responsibilities, and relationships regarding policing in the City of Ottawa accordingly.

Typical RCMP roles and responsibilities include:

- Safeguarding of designated Protected Persons (PP). Members on mobile patrol have a role in deterring and detecting potential terrorist activities and/or incidents impacting on PP. Members are responsible for having knowledge of all zones and protected locations, of which many are located within the city of Ottawa and are responsible for answering security alarms and proactively gathering information for risk and threat assessment purposes relative to those locations.
- Enforcing moving violations/traffic violations on specific NCC roadways and bridges.
- Deterring and detecting criminal and provincial offences other than highway traffic infractions by using different techniques such as car patrol, bicycle patrol, foot patrol and vehicle checks.
- When observed and on duty, enforce violations of the Highway Traffic Act, Liquor License Act, Mental Health Act, and the Trespass to Property Act in which they have a duty to take action.
- Working with the OPS on all major visits, special events, and demonstrations taking place on federal, provincial, and municipal property. These occurrences generally start on City property and end up on federal property and in the process of policing these events; the RCMP would assist the OPS with enforcement of the above-mentioned Acts.

RCMP officers who are appointed as special constables by the Board as part of this request will perform those duties noted above.

### **DISCUSSION**

Approval will be obtained from the Ministry for the appointment of RCMP officers as special constables, as required throughout the event, pursuant to Section 53 of the PSA.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Document 1: Approval of Appointments as Special Constable to follow as required.

**CONCLUSION**

The appointment of special constable status for RCMP employees will allow these officers to undertake the full scope of their duties. Delegation of authority to the Board's Chair and Vice Chair will expedite any emerging need for RCMP special constable status requests for the duration of the Events in October 2023. All appointments would be valid until October 23, 2023.