

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE BOARD  
COMMISSION DE SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA**

**24 March 2025 / 24 mars 2025**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

**Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa**

**Contact Person / Personne resource:**

**Russell Lucas, A/Supterintendent, Parliamentary District  
LucasR@ottawapolice.ca**

**SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION**

**OBJET: MISE EN ŒUVRE DU DISTRICT PARLEMENTAIRE**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que la Commission de service de police d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du présent rapport à titre d'information.**

**BACKGROUND**

In April 2024, the Federal budget announced \$50 million in funding for the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) to address the unique security and public safety concerns around the Parliamentary Precinct. The Precinct is defined by the Federal government and is inclusive of Parliament Hill and the numerous buildings in the area which support the House of Commons, the Senate and the Prime Minister's Office. The Parliamentary District is the area encompassing the Parliamentary Precinct and is defined by the OPS. The current geographic boundaries are the Ottawa River, Elgin St, Queen St and Lyon St. The boundary also includes the area surrounding the Senate building at 2 Rideau St, Ottawa.

The funding will be administered through Public Safety Canada (PSC), who has outlined the parameters of the program, inclusive of delivery and reporting. The overarching intent of the program is to provide policing support for the Parliamentary Precinct and offset the policing impacts for the city of Ottawa.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Parliamentary District project aims to build a community policing program that addresses the unique security and community concerns of the Parliamentary Precinct and its surrounding communities. As police of jurisdiction, OPS is responsible for coordination with affected partners to enhance community safety and trust.

To best address the various safety concerns for the area, OPS has engaged as the central catalyst with our foundational, protective service partners in the Parliamentary Precinct. This includes the Parliamentary Protective Service (PPS), the RCMP, and the respective corporate security directorates from the House of Commons, the Senate and the Prime Minister's Office. Each partner has a distinct, but separate role which is mutually supportive to their partners.

To better serve all communities, the OPS will strive to build a diverse team dedicated to providing exceptional service to the many individuals who live, work, and visit the area. Additionally, the Service will apply an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Lens to the project's outreach strategy for fulsome community engagement.

To balance the organizational needs of OPS with that of the Parliamentary District, we have engaged in a phased approach and a gradual building of the team. Our early focus was to establish a presence within the District and to understand the specific, unique concerns and challenges of this community and our partners. To achieve the goals of the funding from Public Safety Canada, the OPS Parliamentary District will be comprised of several supporting functions which are described below.

### **Parliamentary Resource Teams**

Following the principles of OPS District Teams, these Parliamentary Resource Teams (PRT) will be focused on providing a visible presence within the Parliamentary District and working collaboratively with PPS by providing direct policing support. In addition to this foundational work, these officers will also be engaged in the following activities:

- Fostering and developing the OPS Community Safety Plan within the Parliamentary District
- When fully deployed, this program will reduce the need and frequency of police members from other parts of the city being required to be redirected to the Parliamentary District in order to respond to federal related matters.
- Working with partners to identify areas of concern and develop strategies to mitigate risk and improve public safety

- Coordinated and strategically directed policing activities to proactively manage public safety concerns of the Parliamentary Precinct
- Collaborative work with both internal and external partners to address community related concerns and social disorder on an intelligence lead/community-based perspective
- Respond to daily protest activities that fall within their area of responsibility and their capacity to manage.
- Responding to and managing calls for service within the identified Parliamentary District

Once fully staffed, the PRT will be comprised of four teams that will provide coverage seven day a week coverage over days and afternoons.

### **Police Liaison Team**

The Federal funding will facilitate the establishment of a full time Police Liaison Team (PLT), which embodies some of the recommendations from the Public Order Emergency Commission. The PLT has been realigned under the Parliamentary District and will continue its focus on engagement with the various community organizations and activities to build and maintain open lines of communication. Their activities play a key role in building community trust and mitigating potential negative impacts from protest activities.

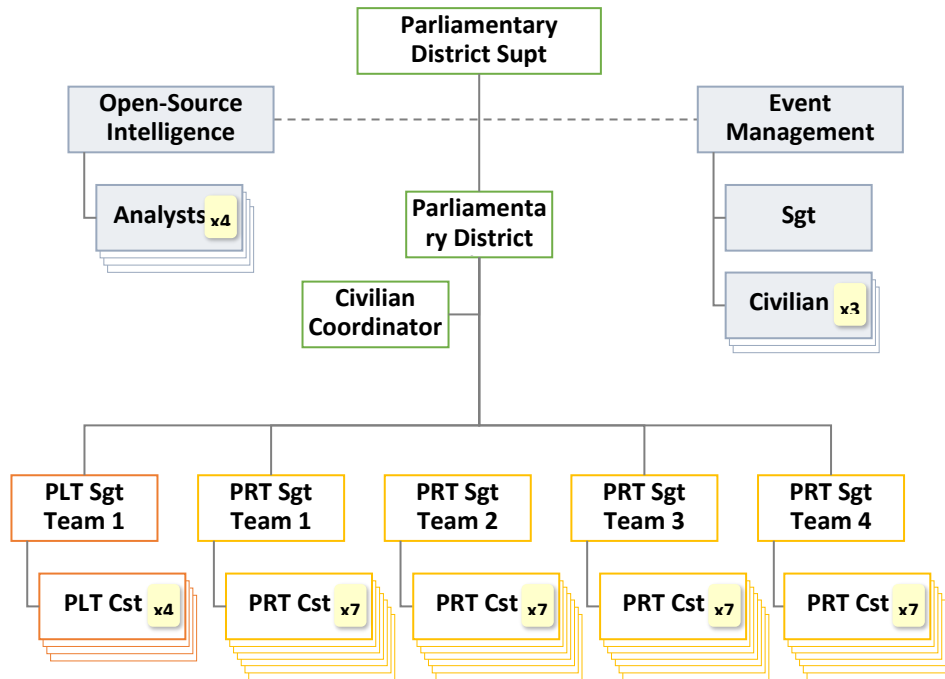
### **Open-Source Intelligence Analysis**

As part of the implementation of the Parliamentary District, funding has been allocated to create four full-time civilian positions that will be dedicated to monitoring and analyzing Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT). The reporting from this team is intended to facilitate fulsome assessment of online activities to allow for intelligence lead decision making and risk management. This segment of the Parliamentary District implementation is at the earliest stages of development. Their final alignment within OPS is yet to be determined but will be based upon functional activities and alignment within the organization to maximize effectiveness.

### **Event Management Support**

Funding from this program has also been allocated to create three full time civilian positions and one sworn position within the Event Management section. These members will be integrated as part of our overall operations with their work primarily focused on offsetting the impacts from Federal events. This includes, but is not limited to national events, such as Canada Day and Remembrance Day, but also ongoing protest activities related to the Federal government and the hosting of international

visits. The alignment of these members within our Event Management Section will allow for increased collaboration, training and mentoring. Additionally, the sworn member will be providing direct support to the Parliamentary District, allowing PRT and PLT to stay engaged operationally with our partners and the public. The civilian positions have



been filled, and the sworn position is anticipated to be filled later this year.

### End State Structure

Once fully implemented and staffed, the funding will support 40 sworn positions and nine civilian positions at OPS.

### Current State

Key achievements to date include the securing of the funding through PSC, the operationalizing of the PRT and the realignment of PLT to the Parliamentary District. Initial stakeholder feedback has been positive, particularly from the House of Commons, the Senate and PPS. Team members are engaged in daily operational meetings with PPS and the RCMP to share information and prioritize policing activities – such as directed operations supporting Parliamentary and local community activities, following up on investigations impacting the Parliamentary District and responding to protest activities which have a nexus to their area of responsibility. Regular meetings are taking place with PPS, the RCMP and other Federal partners to maintain strategic alignment and focus for all partner agencies.

As a result of our strong partnership with PPS, the Federal government has provided access to office space within the Parliamentary Precinct as an in-kind service. This

office space will facilitate a drop-in location for our members to take breaks and engage in their administrative duties, while remaining within the District.

### **Next Steps**

Over the next year, OPS plans to incrementally increase the staffing for the Parliamentary District in coordination with the Staffing Stabilization Plan. As staffing increases, the hours of operation will move to seven days a week resulting in more proactive engagement with partners and communities.

The OSINT capacity will be created through the hiring, training and implementation of personnel to enhance our analytical capabilities. A member of the Cybercrime team has been temporarily assigned to the Parliamentary District to manage this part of the project implementation.

Work is continuing with PSC to develop a reporting structure on the Parliamentary District which fulfills the requirements of the terms and conditions of the Contribution Agreement for the provision of funding to OPS.

Provided that we can meet the staffing commitments, the Parliamentary District should be fully staffed and operational by Q4 of 2026.

### **CONSULTATION**

Initial consultation was focused on PSC to determine the scope and requirements to secure the funding for this program. Upon confirmation of the parameters for funding were determined, focus shifted to engagement with our foundational protective services partners within the Precinct. We needed to acquire and understand the full scope of roles and responsibilities of each of our partners and facilitate enhanced interoperability to achieve our separate but mutually supportive roles.

Concurrently, the District members have been engaging internally at OPS to identify potential gaps and overlaps with roles and responsibilities. Strategies are being implemented to increase communication and support to mitigate the impacts from the various touchpoints between units.

As the staffing levels increase in the Parliamentary District, the team will increase community consultation to address potential impacts with the various community stakeholders, including but not limited to affected city counsellors, Business Improvement Agencies, and other community groups. This outreach will facilitate community engagement to identify, and address community concerns which impact not only the Parliamentary Precinct, but the community as well.

Formal communication strategies are being developed for engagement with our government and community partners.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The funding for this initiative was formally secured in March 2025. Public Safety Minister David McGuinty and other federal officials joined Chief Stubbs, Vice-Chair Marty Carr and Mayor Sutcliffe for a public announcement at 474 Elgin on the funding approval on March 7.

The budget has been established as part of the terms and conditions with PSC. The funding is currently allocated with 10 million dollars a year over five years. There is continued work with PSC to have the funding reprofiled to allow for money from the first and second year to be reallocated over the remaining years of the five-year agreement. To maximize the funding opportunity, we have loaded front end with many of the associated capital costs, including but not limited to vehicles, radios and other police related equipment.

There is also a plan for a review and audit of the Parliamentary District at the end of year three to allow for sufficient time to assess and prepare the request for the long-term funding commitment to this program.

## **CONCLUSION**

There are many complexities and nuances to establishing and maintaining a strong network of interoperability between the various partners and government agencies that provide security, protection and policing in and around the Parliamentary Precinct. As the police of jurisdiction, OPS has a responsibility to serve as the central hub for continuous communication and coordination for these partners

Additionally, the Service's continued commitment to its strategic pillars (enhance community safety; build trust through strong partnerships; advance and support a resilient thriving membership; and equity, diversity, and inclusion – strengthen our commitment to human rights) must remain top of mind as we deliver services to this area of the city which is known for its rich multicultural atmosphere.

OPS will continue to work collaboratively with communities and partner agencies to foster a safe, secure and inclusive environment for Parliamentarians, employees, and all other individuals alike within the area surrounding the Parliamentary Precinct.