



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

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April 6, 2016

The Honourable Minister Yasir Naqvi
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Y6

Dear Minister Naqvi:

Re: Proposed Amendments to Police Services Act

As Chair of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board, I have been asked by the Board to forward this letter to you concerning proposed amendments to the Police Services Act.

The proposals arise out of the fact that a Police Services Board's role as employer of police officers, particularly in relation to discipline issues, has been effectively eliminated by the provisions of Part V of the Act.

A related concern deals with officers who are suspended from duty because of discipline issues, but who still accrue OMERS pension credits during the suspension.

Both the provisions of Part V as currently constituted, and the OMERS pension credit issue, are contributing factors to the lengthy delays that often occur in the discipline process involving police officers. Accordingly, we request that you consider two sets of amendments to the Act.

First, we believe that the matter of discipline of police officers based on matters arising out of the Collective Agreement should be removed from the Part V process and instead embodied in Collective Agreements as is the case with civilian members. In this way, the Board can exert more traditional employer rights with respect to police officers who are being disciplined based on violations of those negotiated provisions.

Second, we believe that officers who are suspended from duty for discipline reasons should not be entitled to accrue OMERS service credits during the period of suspension. Rather, if the officer is exonerated in the discipline process, the credits can be reinstated retroactively. If not exonerated, the officer loses the credits. This should provide an incentive for all parties to deal with the matter expeditiously.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the above proposals.

Yours truly,

Bob Gale
Board Chair

c. Chief of Police J. McGuire, Niagara Regional Police Service
Chairs, Big 12 Police Services Boards
President, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards