



Office of the Minister

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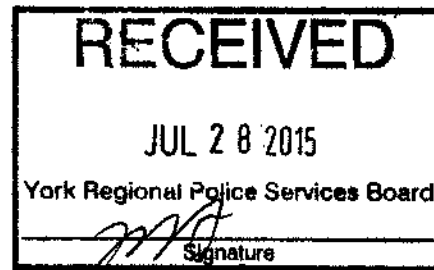
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MC-2015-1905

JUL 21 2015

His Worship Frank Scarpitti
Chair, York Regional Police Services Board
Mayor, City of Markham
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 4W5



Dear Mayor Scarpitti:

Thank you for your e-mail of May 22, 2015, providing input from the Big 12 Police Services Boards to help inform the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services' (MCSCS) review of the current civilian police governance model in Ontario.

As you may be aware, the ministry has been working on the development of a provincial strategy known as the Strategy for a Safer Ontario (SSO). The SSO builds upon the last three years of work with our policing and municipal partners under the Future of Policing Project, including the findings from the Future of Policing Advisory Committee (FPAC), as well as input from other ministries and affected stakeholders. The Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) continues to be a valued contributor to this initiative.

The SSO was created in response to the ministry's mandate letter from Premier Kathleen Wynne, which outlines MCSCS' priorities for 2014-2015. Some areas specifically identified in the letter include the need to:

- develop a new strategic vision for community safety and policing
- accelerate the development of a package of reforms to policing service delivery
- maintain a strategic focus on community safety through a made-in-Ontario Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Strategy that builds on past work and complements other key government initiatives

For further information on the ministry's mandate letter, please visit www.ontario.ca/government/2014-mandate-letter-community-safety-and-correctional-services.

The SSO is about smarter and better ways to do things in order to deliver services in a proactive, targeted manner. This involves using evidence and experience to improve outcomes, and continuing our well-established collaborative partnerships, which include police and other sectors, such as education, health care and social services to make communities safer. We have also been looking across other jurisdictions to discover innovative solutions and identify best practices.

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The SSO has been developed with the understanding that the future of policing should be rooted in strong local governance. As a result, we are continuing to consult with key partners to ensure that the appropriate structure and capacity for governance is in place at the local level. Furthermore, our ministry continues to lead efforts to examine how to effectively calibrate civilian police governance to provide a foundation for service delivery that reflects and serves the needs of communities in Ontario.

Your feedback has been forwarded to MCSCS staff for their review and consideration, given our ongoing work on civilian governance. In the interim, if you have further questions you may wish to contact the OAPSB as your representative for this initiative.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yasir Naqvi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yasir Naqvi
Minister