

Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Future of Policing Advisory Committee (FPAC)

COMMUNIQUE

June 9, 2015

The Strategy for a Safer Ontario (SSO) builds upon the last three years of work with our policing and municipal partners under the Future of Policing Project.

What began as an examination to define core and non-core police services has led to the province-wide goal of crafting a new policing framework within the SSO. The valued input from the Future of Policing Advisory Committee (FPAC), as well as input from other ministries and affected stakeholders, is reflected in the SSO.

Reaching this point would not have been possible without the skills and expertise provided by FPAC and its various working groups. Their discussions – rooted in collaboration – have delivered practical advice to government and are threaded throughout the foundation of the SSO Framework.

The objectives of the SSO are consistent with the priorities set out for the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services in the Premier's Mandate letter which identifies 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;
- Engage with stakeholders and Ministry partners to review issues that intersect between policing and civil liberties to bring forward change; and
- Work with the federal government and First Nation communities to address the sustainability of First Nation Policing.

For further information on the Ministry's Mandate Letter, please access the link below:
<https://www.ontario.ca/government/2014-mandate-letter-community-safety-and-correctional-services>

The SSO approach is a comprehensive one, which includes the modernization of civilian police governance to ensure an effective governance model that is compatible with Ontario's vision for community safety and well-being. Within the vision, police are not the stewards of community safety and well-being, they are a part of the approach, rather than being the entire approach themselves. Also included in the SSO is the Ministry's development of a Provincial Approach to Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework. The Framework and its guidance documents will assist communities in developing local risk-based plans to address crime and complex social issues on a sustainable basis.

To lead the strategic co-ordination of the SSO, the Ministry has established a Secretariat to take FPAC's work to the next level: expanding and unifying our approach to community safety and well-being to make it a truly collaborative effort on the part of all sectors – public and

community-based – that have a role to play in service delivery. To accomplish this, the Ministry continues to consult with partners in community safety and beyond.

Our collective commitment to community safety will identify the evidence to back real and practical solutions that will improve outcomes, and continue the well-established relationships between the policing community and other sectors, such as education, health care, business organizations and social services, to make communities safer.

We must realign our services to reflect these realities and build safer communities. This is the key to sustainable, effective and community-focused policing in the 21st century. A new model will move us away from the traditional reactive mode of crisis response to a pre-emptive intervention and community building approach.

To accomplish this, the SSO will require smarter and better ways to do things in order to deliver services in a proactive, targeted manner.

The Ministry recognizes that issues faced by police services today have eclipsed current policies and frameworks – terrorism, poverty, homelessness, cybercrime, theft via technology, sophisticated frauds, and interactions with people who are mentally ill or coping with addictions – all require new and innovative approaches. This is why the strategy includes a review of programs, policies and legislative and regulatory frameworks to ensure they are appropriate and aligned with the goal of safer Ontario communities.

Our work began in March 2012, with the ground-breaking Summit on the Future of Policing, and it has now culminated in the development of the new Strategy for a Safer Ontario.

Our resolve remains: to usher in sustainable, effective and efficient police service delivery while maintaining the high-quality services enjoyed by Ontario's communities.