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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report CAO-05-2023 O.P.P. Detachment Board

For Consideration by Council in Committee on November 21, 2023

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### OBJECTIVE:

To provide an update on the O.P.P. Detachment Board composition under new legislation - Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CAO-05-2023 O.P.P. Detachment Board be received;
2. AND THAT a response be provided to the Ministry of the Solicitor General advising of Haldimand County's support to include a Council appointment from Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation on the new O.P.P. Detachment Board and requesting that consideration be given to an additional dedicated Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation community appointment.

**Respectfully submitted:** Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has requested Haldimand County's input regarding the new O.P.P. Detachment Board composition as outlined in the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (Act). Staff are recommending that a response be sent to the Ministry of the Solicitor General indicating Haldimand's support to include a Council appointment from Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) and request that consideration be given to an additional community appointment from MCFN.

### BACKGROUND:

At the March 30, 2021 Council in Committee meeting, Council received memorandum [PSB-M01-2021 O.P.P. Detachment Board](#). The memo outlined the Board's review of the new O.P.P. Detachment Board Framework and correspondence from the Ontario Solicitor General, requiring the municipality to determine the composition of their board and submit a proposal to the Ministry by June 7, 2021. Consequently, staff submitted the suggested composition to the Ministry of the Solicitor General based on the direction provided by Council formed by the proposal from the Police Services Board. That composition maintained the overall representation at 5 members but changed the make up as follows:

Membership	Current	Proposed
Haldimand Council Appointment	2	2
Community Appointment	1	2
Provincial Appointment	2	1
Total Composition	5	5

The requested composition change would shift representation to one provincial appointment and two community appointments, retaining a total of 5 representatives, due to chronic provincial appointment vacancies.

## ANALYSIS:

Since the time of the above noted request, the Community Safety and Policing Act, which replaces the Police Services Act, is evolving and regulations are currently being written to prescribe compositions into the legislation for each Board. As this process advances, the Ministry reached out to staff to provide an update on the consultation process and to advise that the composition decision would also be informed by First Nations input.

The new Act outlines the O.P.P. Detachment Boards (which replace Police Services Boards) and indicates that the new Boards are based on the overall detachment area – not a specific municipality. The Haldimand O.P.P. Detachment currently services Haldimand County as well as Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN). These two communities form the detachment area. And the associated Detachment Board that will stem from the Act will represent this entire detachment area. After Ministry consultation, MCFN has requested one Council member appointment from MCFN for the Board which will increase the overall composition.

What is unclear at this point is how the community appointments will be made. Historically the municipality has appointed community members but with the new Board representing two communities, it is unknown if one community member will be from Haldimand and one will be from MCFN or if both will continue to be from Haldimand. From a representation perspective, Haldimand is larger in both land area and population and the Board should be representative. However staff acknowledges that First Nations community representation is beneficial. Therefore staff are suggesting that Council provide direction to respond to the Ministry that Haldimand supports the MCFN Council appointment and suggests that the Ministry discuss with MCFN the potential for an additional dedicated MCFN community representative. If supported by MCFN and the Ministry, this would increase the composition to 7 as follows:

Membership	Current	Proposed
Haldimand Council Appointment	2	2
Haldimand Community Appointment	1	2
MCFN Council Appointment	0	1
MCFN Community Appointment	0	1
Provincial Appointment	2	1
Total Composition	5	7

This would ensure that Haldimand retains its current representation on the Board.

Staff recommends that a response be provided to the Ministry of the Solicitor General advising of Haldimand's support to include a Council appointment from MCFN and requesting consideration be given to an additional community appointment from MCFN.

## **FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

It is expected that MCFN Council would determine the appropriate stipend for their Council and community appointments and that costs associated with that would be borne by the MCFN and not Haldimand County, and vice versa, however details related to cost sharing of Board expenses have not yet been provided by the Ministry.

## **STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:**

Haldimand has been communicating directly with the Ministry on this matter. A copy of this report has been circulated to the current Police Services Board Chair.

## **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

## **REFERENCES:**

None.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

None.