



The Regional Municipality of York Police Service Board

Public Board Meeting
April 23, 2025
For Decision

Report of the Executive Director

Public Relations Reserve Fund – Requests for Funding

1. Recommendations

1. That the Board approve the following disbursements from the Board's Public Relations Fund, as detailed in this report:
 - a. \$5,000 from the Board's Public Relations Fund in support of Ontario Women in Law Enforcement; and
 - b. \$10,000 from the Board's Public Relations Fund in support of the Canadian Association of Police Governance; and
 - c. \$10,000 from the Board's Public Relations Fund in support of the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards.
2. That the Board approve that future support of the OAPSB and CAPG police governance events be included in the Board's operating budget.

2. Purpose

The Public Relations Reserve Fund Policy (PR Fund) is the result of provisions in the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, that allow for found monies to be directed to uses that are in the public interest.

Sections 258 (2) and 259 (3) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act* give Police Service Boards the authority to use the proceeds from the sale of unclaimed personal property and money found and seized by the police service for any purpose that it considers in the public interest.

In accordance with this statutory authority, the Board established the PR Fund to be used in compliance with the [Public Relations Reserve Fund Policy No. 01/23](#) (Policy), which outlines how these funds are to be used.

Any unused monies in the fund will be carried forward into the next fiscal year of the Police Service Board Operating Budget.

3. Background

The Board receives requests from community groups and organizations in need of financial support. The Executive Director reviews each request to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria and funding guidelines as set out in the policy.

Monies from the funds are used to support and encourage policing and justice initiatives, promote positive community partnerships and enrich the quality of life in York Region.

The closing balance of the reserve fund on March 31, 2025 was \$102,739.

Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE) unifies and recognizes female members in the law enforcement field from across the province.

The attached application (Attachment #) provides details of the OWLE Major Awards and Long Service Awards Gala which presents members with service awards of 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years to both civilian and sworn members. The event also recognizes the significant contribution of women in law enforcement across Ontario. The Board has historically supported the OWLE Gala, with its last support taking place in 2019 as a Platinum Sponsor.

4. Analysis

FUNDING PROPOSALS

The following funding proposals have met the eligibility criteria under section 5.1 of the policy:

- a. Community Partnership: agencies or organizations that work with YRP to provide a variety of interventional support and support services throughout York Region, including but not limited to programs that are provided by: shelters, food banks and victim support.
- b. Governance and Justice: Activities and initiatives that grow the knowledge, skills and capacity of police services boards, police services and members of the justice community to better serve their communities. This includes educational conferences and events, activities that support the sharing and collective development of best practices in governance and the engagement of community stakeholders to support improvements in community policing and governance.

The Board had previously purchased sponsorship at organizational events. However, some of the Board's sponsorship funds would be used to offset the costs associated with hosting those fundraising events.

The Board new Public Relations Reserve Fund Policy and Application process streamlines the funding review process. As such, the Board opted to make direct donations to the applying organization, rather than purchasing sponsorships for the events. This ensured the Board's financial support was going in its entirety, to directly serve the programs and services of the organization, rather than the events which were used to raise those same funds. This practice is

aligned with the Board's strategic advocacy to engage with community partners and stakeholders to help address gaps in their ability to deliver their programs and services.

ONTARIO WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT (OWLE)

OWLE's objective is to encourage, promote and advance women in law enforcement and includes providing training, support, encouragement, recognition and networking opportunities.

OWLE is seeking sponsorship for their Annual Ontario Women in Law Enforcement Major Awards and Long Service Awards Gala taking place Thursday, May 1st, 2025, at the Queen's Manor Event Centre in Brampton, ON. Sponsorship includes a complimentary table of eight as well as sponsorship recognition at the event. Monies raised as sponsorship are used to fund the Gala as well as supporting their yearly training days in which they send OWLE members to training and conferences that are available and applicable.

As the Board has opted to directly support the programs and services offered by organizations, it is recommended that the Board provide \$5,000 directly to OWLE to support their mission to advancing women in law enforcement. This is the equivalent of a platinum sponsorship, which is what the Board has typically purchased in the past.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE GOVERNANCE (CAPG)

The Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) is the only national organization dedicated to excellence in police governance in Canada and represents 80% of municipal police service oversight bodies throughout Canada.

The CAPG is seeking sponsorship for its 36th Annual Conference which will be held in Victoria, BC from August 14th to 16th. This year's theme is "Navigating Challenging Times: Policing and Governance in an Era of Global Unrest".

The Board is a long-standing supporter of the CAPG and its conferences and also hosted the conference in York Region in 2015. Sponsorship provides opportunities to enhance relationships with the police governance membership, build stronger connections and provides recognition and enhanced exposure of our Board through promoted publications through CAPG's website, social media and at the event itself.

Earlier this year, the Board's office and CAPG arranged an opportunity with the UK's Police Foundation Director Rick Muir for Board Chair Steve Pellegrini and Chief MacSween to contribute to a panel on the importance of the Board and Chief relationship. At this year's CAPG Conference, Board Vice Chair Linda Jackson will present on a panel alongside Chief MacSween on Performance, Change and Relationship Management. Board staff continue to work with CAPG staff on strengthening police governance and increasing collaboration nationally among Boards and Commissions.

In keeping the Board's previous support, it is recommended that the Board provide champion sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000. This level of sponsorship includes one complimentary conference registration, one free virtual conference registration (allows access for up to five

people), a five-minute speaking opportunity to introduce one keynote speaker, and recognition on CAPG's social media and in the conference app.

The sponsorship package has been attached to this report for the Board's consideration.

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF POLICE SERVICE BOARD (OAPSB)

The Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB) is the leading voice of police governance in Ontario whose membership includes police service board members, police and law enforcement officials and other persons involved in policing and public safety.

The 2025 Annual Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting is taking place from June 3rd to 5th in London, ON. Member sponsorship assists with activities related to running the conference and to support the activities of the OAPSB. Sponsorship also minimizes costs to members attending the seminar, helps offset expenses related to the event, supports marketing and outreach and provides recognition for the sponsoring organization.

The Board increased its sponsorship amount to \$5,000 as a platinum sponsor for the 2024 conference. It is recommended that the Board continue to provide platinum sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000. This level provides the Board with recognition on the OAPSB website, logo recognition on the digital presentation at the conference and logo recognition on one feature event. Increasing the support above the minimum will also contribute necessary resources that will strengthen the OAPSB's advocacy and knowledge transfer capabilities.

Additionally, the Board and YRP have both increased their direct engagement with OAPSB. In the [March 2025 report on Conference Highlight and Participation – June 2024 to February 2025](#) it was mentioned that the Board's staff and YRP participated in the OAPSB's spring and fall conferences. Through the OACP (Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police) and under the direction of Chief MacSween and Halton Deputy Chief Roger Wilke, YRP Superintendent Chirag Bhatt and Halton Superintendent Jeff Sandy present on the executive education for police leaders.

At this year's conference:

- Superintendent Bhatt and Halton Superintendent Sandy will be returning this spring with the OACP to speak to the launch of the executive leadership program with the endorsement of the OAPSB.
- The Executive Director with the Diane Smithson, CAO of the Town Carleton Place will be facilitating a workshop on the Rules of Engagement for board members of both municipal and OPP detachment boards.

5. Financial Considerations

The financial implications of this report are associated with the funding requests and the funds will be drawn from the Board's Public Relations Fund.

From 2026 and onward, future sponsorships for CAPG and OAPSB will be accounted for in the Board's own operating budget. This is the result of the Board having increased its own engagement with these police governance associations and will be more active participants in their activities.

6. Local Impact

Providing funding would be in keeping with the Board's desire to support initiatives that increase community safety and support the diverse needs of York Region's communities. As well as directly supporting the delivery of programming and services from partnering organizations and improving training and education for board members.

7. Conclusion

The Board has made significant investments from its Public Relations Fund in recent years in accordance with its Public Relations Reserve Fund policy. The funds help support community safety initiatives and help build partnerships with policing and community stakeholders. Granting the funding requests would be aligned with the Public Relations Policy goal to develop and support community partnerships with agencies and organizations which provide programs that support victims and equitably support the needs of the diverse communities within York Region and increase community safety.

For more information on this report, please contact psb@yrp.ca. Alternative formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Approved for Submission: Anitra Basant Sisavang
Executive Director

/jk

Attachments (3): OWLE Request for Funding and supporting documents
CAPG Request for Sponsorship and supporting documents
OAPSB Request for Sponsorship and supporting documents