



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

5700 VALLEY WAY, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2E 1X8

Tel: (905) 688-4111 Fax: (289) 248-1011
E-mail: psb@niagarapolice.ca
Website: www.niagarapolice.ca

March 27, 2023

SENT BY EMAIL ONLY
michael.kerzner@ontario.ca

The Honourable Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General of Ontario
Ministry of the Solicitor General
18th Floor, 25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto Ontario
M7A 2Y6

**Re: Request for Amendment to the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*,
Section 31 – Municipal Police Services Board Community Appointments**

Dear Minister Kerzner:

As Chair of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board, I have been asked by the Board to forward this letter to you to request an amendment to Section 31, of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*.

The composition of municipal police services boards is outlined in Section 27 of the current *Police Services Act* (PSA) and Section 31 of the new *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA).

Section 27 of the current PSA describes that police services boards shall consist of “*one person appointed by resolution of the council, who is neither a member of the council nor an employee of the municipality*,” and Section 31 of the new CSPA states that boards shall consist of “*one person appointed by resolution of the municipality, who is neither a member of the municipal council nor an employee of the municipality*.”

The Niagara Region is a two-tier Regional government structure, comprised of 12 local area municipalities and one Regional Council. The term “council” is and always has been appropriately interpreted to mean the council of the upper tier municipality as it is this council that makes appointments to the police services board. However, the language in both Acts does not take into consideration a two-tier government structure in terms of the appointment of a community member to the board. The current and proposed language could be interpreted so as to mean that local area municipal councillors and employees from any of our 12 municipalities would be eligible to apply as the community member representative to serve on the police services board.

The Niagara Police Services Board believes that the language in the new CSPA does not make clear that the individual selected to serve in this capacity should be a representative from the community, and not an elected official or employee from a lower-tier area municipality. For greater clarity, the CSPA should define “community member” as a person who is neither a member of the regional or local area municipal councils, nor an employee of the district, regional or metropolitan municipality.

This request for a proposed amendment to the CSPA is an important opportunity for the Province to provide greater clarification on the composition of a police services board and will deliver enhanced transparency in the municipal council appointment process.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the above amendment. We look forward to continuing to engage with the Ministry as new regulatory proposals under the CSPA are brought forward.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen Lawson".

Jen Lawson
Board Chair

- c. Vice-Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board
Chief of Police B. MacCulloch, Niagara Regional Police Service
Regional Clerk A. Norio, Niagara Region
Chairs, Big 12 Police Services Boards
President, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards
D. Tilley, Policing Services Advisor – Zone 4, Ministry of the Solicitor General