



**Attorney General
Justice
Office of the Minister**

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April 10, 2025

Via Email: azebian@westhants.ca

His Worship Mayor Abraham Zebian
West Hants Regional Municipality

Re: Adapting the Additional Officer Program

Dear Mayor Zebian,

I am writing to inform you of the forthcoming adaptation of the Additional Officer Program (AOP), which is being instituted to better align with the ongoing and evolving challenges in policing in Nova Scotia.

In 2007, the Nova Scotia Department of Justice inaugurated the AOP to provide financial support to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and municipal police agencies for the remuneration and benefits of police officers to address evolving public safety concerns. This funding was designed to support the establishment of Street Crime Enforcement Units (SCEU), School Safety Resource Officers (SSRO), and specialized units focused on forensic identification and major crimes. Initially branded as “Boots on the Street”, the program aimed to enhance police visibility and bolster public confidence in law enforcement, particularly in relation to the investigation of illegal drugs, proceeds of crime, thefts, assaults, and child pornography.

The Department of Justice, Public Safety and Security Division (PSSD) has conducted a comprehensive review of all factors influencing both the present and future state of organized crime responses. Consultations with Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police and RCMP senior leadership have been undertaken in this regard.

The AOP is now entering the transition planning stage with the objective of modernizing the program to reflect the contemporary context of policing. The current funding level of approximately \$17 million will be maintained and we will adequately analyze how to best utilize this investment in collaboration with police agencies. We are confident that these changes will enhance the efficacy of the AOP and better serve the needs of our communities.

Please be advised that the police leaders in your jurisdiction have been engaged throughout the review of the AOP and have been updated on the intended transition at the Provincial Executive Committee

meeting on April 8th, 2025.

We will continue to provide you with updates on this work as it progresses. I appreciate your cooperation and support as we collaboratively strive to enhance public safety and security in Nova Scotia. Should you have any inquiries or require further clarification, please contact Hayley Crichton at Hayley.Crichton@novascotia.ca.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Becky Druhan
Attorney General and Minister of Justice

cc: Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer, West Hants Regional Municipality
Juanita Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities