



RESOLUTION 2021-10

Urgent Replacement of the Automated Criminal Intelligence Information System (ACIIS) for Law Enforcement in Canada

WHEREAS Ontario's law enforcement community works together everyday to combat increasingly complex criminal threats to public safety, including money laundering and financial crimes, the inter-jurisdictional flow of illicit drugs, firearms, traffic victims, cyber information, as well as guns and gang activity, and

WHEREAS the efficient sharing of criminal information and intelligence is critical for effective and efficient law enforcement and enhanced public safety, particularly in light that half of the assessed organized crime groups in Canada operate in Ontario, and

There are three criminal hubs in Canada, the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Greater Montreal Area (GMA) and lower mainland of British Columbia. However, on an annual basis, Ontario reports more transnational organized crime groups than any other province. Half of all assessed crime groups in Ontario, including their extensive and illegal influential networks, continue to expand illegal operations in the province. The seamless sharing of criminal information and intelligence is critical for enhanced public safety, effective law enforcement, successful prosecution, and justice.

WHEREAS Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO) was established in 1966 to address the growing threat from serious and organized. CISO is a federation of over 100 federal, provincial, First Nations and municipal police, federal department and provincial ministries, and non-profit, non-government organizations. CISO has a Provincial Bureau with facilities and infrastructure to enable for the collection, analysis and dissemination of criminal intelligence, and the delivery of shared, centralized investigative supports to policing and the broader law enforcement community. CISO is the oldest of the bureaux which compose Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC), and

WHEREAS CISC is an inter-agency organization that produces, coordinates, and shares criminal intelligence among its law enforcement member agencies. The CISC has a central bureau in Ottawa that is co-located with the RCMP and a bureau in each province offering services to over 400 member agencies across Canada, and

WHEREAS since 2000, CISO and its members have solely relied on the Automated Criminal Intelligence Information System (ACIIS) to assist in the production and sharing of intelligence assessments, which contributes to operational decision making, priority setting and targeted enforcement activities. As Canada's only national serious and organized crime information and intelligence databank, law enforcement agencies use ACIIS daily, with Ontario consistently being the largest contributor, and

WHEREAS introduced over 40 years ago, ACIIS is showing its age and is no longer an effective platform for the collection, analysis and sharing of large volumes of information that is generated by today's law enforcement community. ACIIS was not designed to handle the information and intelligence requirements of law enforcement and its ever-expanding 21st century data collection and processing needs, and

WHEREAS as technology issues and information silos grow, Canada's law enforcement agencies will be significantly hampered in its ability to input, obtain, analyze and share modern criminal intelligence, thus leading to an overall lack of criminal intelligence and collaboration across Canadian law enforcement. There is also a significant risk that ACIIS may be rendered unusable by future law enforcement computing upgrades, and

WHEREAS CISC's National Executive Committee (NEC) provides CISC with its strategic leadership and is comprised of 25 ex-officio members who are leaders from Canada's law enforcement community at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. CISC's NEC, of which CISO agencies hold seats, has recognized the critical and urgent need to replace ACIIS and has tasked CISC to identify a replacement. Upgrading ACIIS is not an option as it is no longer supported by the vendor and has no additional program development capability, including interoperating with modern technology such as videos and the automatic uploading of intelligence data, and

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Ontario has endorsed the urgent need for the replacement of ACIIS and called upon their provincial and federal counterpart to do the same, and

WHEREAS ACIIS has been fully funded by the RCMP since its introduction. Although CISC is currently considering available replacement options, there is currently no approved funding mechanism for this initiative. Without urgent funding for an ACIIS replacement, Canada's law enforcement agencies will continue to be hampered in their ability to input, obtain, analyze and share 21st century criminal intelligence and Canadians will not benefit from improved public safety provided by more fulsome law enforcement collaboration, and

WHEREAS police services at the municipal, provincial, and national level require a modern system to effectively combat the evolving threats posed by serious and organized crime in Canada. Ensuring that Canadian police are provided the tools to enable efficient sharing and analyzing information is key to the integration of joint investigations; supports operational decision making to ensure finite resources are focused appropriately; and significantly impacts both police and public safety.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police urges the Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers responsible for Justice and Public Safety to make the urgent replacement of ACIIS a top public safety priority. Without such a replacement, Ontario's law enforcement community and Ontarians will continue to not fully realize the full public safety benefits of a modern, robust criminal intelligence platform, supporting strategic, evidence-based decision making.