



RESOLUTION 2025-05

Supporting a National Public Safety Broadband Network for Ontario and Canada

WHEREAS the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) represents police services across Ontario committed to public safety and effective emergency response, and

WHEREAS current fragmented communication systems across Ontario can significantly hamper coordination during major incidents, natural disasters, and security emergencies that cross municipal, provincial, and territorial boundaries, and

WHEREAS many rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in Ontario and across Canada lack adequate emergency communications coverage due to the challenges commercial networks face in serving sparsely populated areas, and

WHEREAS a dedicated National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) would provide a reliable, secure communications infrastructure independent of commercial networks that may become overwhelmed or compromised during emergencies, large events or due to telecommunications network failures, and

WHEREAS the introduction of Next Generation 911 (NG911) capabilities will drive an increase in cellular data needs for first responders and police services will be unable to adequately serve the safety and well-being of the community without access to reliable, resilient, high-speed wireless data, and

WHEREAS national interoperability standards would facilitate coordinated communication and emergency responses among police services, fire departments, emergency medical services, and other first responders across Ontario and all provinces and territories, and

WHEREAS an NPSBN would strengthen Canada's sovereignty over critical emergency communications infrastructure while ensuring sensitive public safety data remains secure within Canadian and specifically Ontario borders, and

WHEREAS the economic benefits of enhanced emergency response capabilities, business continuity during disasters, and protection of critical infrastructure justify significant national investment in public safety communications, and

WHEREAS an NPSBN must be designed as a multi-carrier, multi-RAN (Radio Access Network) system to ensure resilience, redundancy, and optimal coverage across Ontario and Canada's diverse geographic and demographic landscape so that emergency services are not compromised during service outages, and

WHEREAS effective governance of an NPSBN requires meaningful participation and oversight from public safety organizations in the decision-making structure to ensure the NPSBN meets operational requirements and maintains accountability to end users.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls upon the Government of Canada to prioritize the development and implementation of a National Public Safety Broadband Network as a critical nation-building infrastructure project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OACP calls upon the Government of Ontario to champion the NPSBN initiative, ensuring this critical infrastructure project receives priority attention and coordinated support from all provinces and territories, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OACP urges the Government of Ontario to work collaboratively with other provincial, federal and territorial governments, Indigenous communities, and public safety organizations to ensure the PSBN is implemented as a multi-carrier, multi-RAN system with robust public safety governance structures that include meaningful representation from police, fire, emergency medical, and other emergency response organizations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OACP commits to supporting the planning, implementation, and ongoing operation of an NPSBN through technical expertise, operational requirements input, and advocacy efforts.