

## ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

### HISTORY



### During the 1930s

During the 1930s, Ontario's Chiefs of Police determined that the existing standards in policing were inadequate to meet the demands of a modern society. The challenges of emerging technology to law enforcement brought policing standards of the day into sharper focus. Chiefs of Police had played an active role in the Chief Constables' Association of Canada since its inception in 1905. However, that national association was not meeting the specific needs of provincial Chiefs.

### By 1951



The Police Association of Ontario (PAO), formed in 1933, complemented the Chief Constables' Association of Canada in presenting public demands to the Government of Ontario. In 1944, the PAO's perspective started to change. There was more emphasis placed on police rights and working conditions, as opposed to emphasizing the structure of the police service. By 1951, Ontario Chiefs of Police identified a need to re-establish themselves as a recognized police interest group on a provincial level and founded the Chief Constables' Association of Ontario (CCAO).

This association gradually evolved, opening membership to senior officers and police managers. The CCAO's influence was a significant factor in the establishment of the Ontario Police College in 1963, an initiative that enhanced the organization's prestige and growth. A formal name change to the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) was adopted in 1965.

### In 1992

In 1992, the OACP hired its first Executive Director and established a corporate headquarters. The association's constitution was revised to give the Ontario Provincial Police and the Toronto Police Service their own representation on the Board of Directors. In subsequent years, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and First Nations Police services also obtained dedicated places on the OACP Board of Directors.

In 1993-94, the OACP was licensed to deliver the Constable Selection System (CSS) in partnership with the Ministry of Solicitor General, a selection tool now widely used to improve the quality of candidates for the position of constable in Ontario's police services. Recognizing the need for Executive Training, the OACP cooperated with the Ontario Police College to conduct a police executive "Training Needs Assessment" in 2000. This was followed by the launch of a competency-based executive development "Police Leadership Program" (PLP) with the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management (University of Toronto) in April 2001. The PLP continues to be offered to leaders within police services.

The OACP has more than 1,200 members and represents the RCMP, the OPP, First Nations, and municipal police services. Members are divided into six categories: Active, Honorary, Life, Associate, Associate Retired, and Affiliate. The association's members maintain a global perspective by going beyond provincial issues to address national and international concerns.