



Resolution 2015-03

Collaborating for a Safer Ontario

Approved at the 64th Annual General Meeting, June 17th, 2015

WHEREAS the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police passed a resolution in 2009 to support a partnership between the OACP and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to facilitate the development of a Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy, and

WHEREAS the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police recognizes and supports that crime prevention is an integral part of policing, as written in the Police Services Act, which mandates all Chiefs of Police to ensure that crime prevention remains a core policing function, and

WHEREAS in 2012, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police became a member of the Future of Policing Advisory Committee (FPAC), which has the following four guiding principles:

1. Collaborate with Ontario's policing partners to proactively shape the future of police services
2. Ensure the delivery of policing services in a manner that keeps Ontarians and members of police services safe
3. Ensure effective, efficient, and sustainable police service delivery that is responsive to the needs of Ontario's diverse communities
4. Enhance and facilitate continued cooperation, collaboration and partnerships between police services and the communities they serve, and

WHEREAS the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police passed a resolution in 2014 which called on the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to develop complementary community safety planning tools and to support communities as they implement their local Community Safety Plan, and

WHEREAS Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne has directed the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services to "...maintain a strategic focus...." on community safety and well-being for all Ontarians (2014 Mandate Letter), and

WHEREAS 70-80% of public calls for police response, intervention, and resolution do not relate to crime, but rather to a variety of social disorder occurrences (Economics of Policing), and

WHEREAS crime in Ontario continues on a 40-year decline (Statistics Canada) while public demand for police to address and resolve social disorder is increasing (Ontario Auditor General, 2012), and

WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are currently challenged with the sustainability of policing, comprise “an entire social safety web” of agencies, organizations, and offices that encourages an “adopt a whole-of-society approach” to safety (Association of Municipalities of Ontario, 2015), and are demonstrating significant levels of interest in optimizing community safety and well-being with multi-sectoral, risk-driven initiatives including social development, prevention, risk mitigation as well as emergency response (Ontario Working Group: “Gaining Momentum: Multi-Sector Community Safety and Well-being in Ontario;” 2015), and

WHEREAS police services throughout Ontario have specialized capabilities to identify risk factors, mobilize community partners, and leverage more constructive mitigation, prevention, and social development work.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police supports the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services’ efforts to:

- Encourage local, multi-sectoral and collaborative partnerships for community safety and well-being by modeling them at the provincial level with other Ontario ministries, the federal government and municipalities;
- Shift emphasis from the narrow and limited goals of preventing chargeable offenses to the more inclusive goal of promoting community safety and well-being;
- Collaborate with other ministries of government in mandating community safety and well-being planning for Ontario municipalities; and,
- Revise the Ontario Police Services Act to:
 - ✓ emphasize the key roles of police in community safety promotion and the development of community safety planning
 - ✓ define police roles and duties in light of a shift in emphasis from the narrower crime prevention, to the broader safety promotion
 - ✓ mandate police agencies to collaborate transparently, equitably and respectfully with local agencies, organizations, offices and citizens in the community enterprise of safety promotion and community safety planning
 - ✓ enable police agencies to share private and confidential information with appropriate community partners in the interests of personal and public safety and well-being, and within the parameters of consistent purpose and implied consent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police supports and partners with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to:

- Pursue police training and professionalization that enhances service delivery capacities in safety and well-being promotion;

- Support development of a broad community of practice and centre of excellence in collaborative, risk-driven community safety and well-being; and,
- Develop and promote the application of diverse tools, including multi-sector analytics that support local safety promotion initiatives.

Submitted May 11th, 2015 by Deputy Chief Andrew Fletcher, Chair, Community Safety & Crime Prevention Committee