



Resolution 2016-07

New Funding Model

Approved at the 65th Annual General Meeting, June 29th, 2016

Preamble: Canada's comparatively high property taxes directly effects rental and ownership affordability. High property taxes are regressive for asset-rich but income-poor, unfavorably effecting Canada's middle class.

WHEREAS the economics of policing has received significant attention from the federal tier including the Summit on the Economics of Policing (January 2013), a Public Education and Learning Summit (September 2013), a report on the Economics of Policing by the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (May 2014), and the 2015 Summit on the Economics of Policing and Community Safety (March 2015); and

WHEREAS the economics of policing has received significant attention from the provincial tier including the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services led Future of Policing Advisory Committee and the New Strategy for a Safer Ontario (August 2015) initiatives. The Association of Municipalities Ontario released a report Building a New Public Safety Model in Ontario: AMO's Policing Modernization Report (April 2015); and

WHEREAS many of Ontario's police services have evolved by making significant operational and organizational transformation in order to demonstrate fiscal accountability; and

WHEREAS lacking from the public debate has been the current funding model, which is based primarily on the municipal tax levy. Most of the police services in Canada are provided by municipalities and typically greater than 90% of gross costs are paid by the local tax levy; and

WHEREAS in contrast to other municipal services, several regional and or municipal services are funded more than 50% by other tiers of government. The Province of Ontario is 43% funded from sources other than provincial taxes; and

WHEREAS international comparator jurisdictions have acknowledged that policing costs should be shared among taxing authorities, to prioritize the affordability of property taxes. For example, United Kingdom policing is funded greater than 70% from the federal tier.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to upload costs from the municipal tax levy to the federal and provincial tiers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police call on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to streamline funding transfers using a long-term perspective (ideally four years to match the term of local Council) and through simple transparent allocations, for example per capita or per household, to maximize efficiency and to allow local municipalities who choose higher levels of service, to pay for it.