



RESOLUTION 2017-04

Funding for Enforcement of the *Cannabis Act*

Preamble:

On April 14, 2017 the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-45, an *Act to provide legal access to cannabis and to control and regulate its production, distribution and sale, known as the Cannabis Act* ("the Act").

WHEREAS the regulations to set the standards, outline who is responsible and how the regulations will be delivered have yet to be established, leading to the concern that the burden of enforcing the Act will be placed on local municipal police services, and

WHEREAS the regulation of tobacco has not achieved the elimination of the illicit tobacco industry and despite the regulation of alcohol, collisions involving alcohol are the leading criminal cause of death in Canada, and

WHEREAS the Act will result in additional municipal law enforcement costs due to an increase in demands for service related to marijuana use, such as mental health calls, motor vehicle collisions, break and enters, thefts, robberies and injured persons, and

WHEREAS the Act will require significant officer training costs in order to perform standardized field sobriety testing, to train officers as drug recognition experts and to purchase and maintain roadside testing devices. Other new training costs include critical standardized training to inform officers of the significant reform to impaired driving laws and to ensure that misunderstandings do not occur when police intervention is required, and

WHEREAS the Act will require additional local enforcement of the personal cultivation limit of four plants per household, and

WHEREAS the Act will result in increased costs to prove an offense, including the costs to draw and analyze blood samples, and

WHEREAS the Act will require funding for a comprehensive public education strategy focused towards youth, parents and vulnerable populations, and

WHEREAS the Act will have a significant impact on a system of social service providers including policing, health care, education, public health and the criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS in Colorado, the Legislative Council established a Marijuana Tax Cash Fund Appropriation totaling \$35.3 million in 2013/2014 of which \$7.6 million or 21.5% was allocated for the Marijuana Enforcement Division.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to establish new funding to local police services for enforcement of the *Cannabis Act*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to publish regulations related to the *Cannabis Act*.

Submitted by: Jeff Channell, York Regional Police, OACP Budget, Finance & Asset Management Committee