LANARK COUNTY OPP DETACHMENT BOARD
CONSEIL DU DÉTACHEMENT DU COMTÉ DE LANARK
DE LA POLICE PROVINCIALE

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GUIDE FOR PROSPECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF AN OPP DETACHMENT BOARD MEMBER: IS SERVING ON AN OPP DETACHMENT BOARD RIGHT FOR YOU?

Serving on an OPP Detachment Board is an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to community safety, public confidence and effective police governance.

Board members help ensure that local policing priorities reflect the needs of the communities they serve while supporting accountability, transparency and strong relationships between communities and the Ontario Provincial Police.

This guide has been developed to help prospective Board members understand the role, responsibilities and expectations associated with serving on an OPP Detachment Board before accepting an appointment.

IS THIS THE RIGHT ROLE FOR YOU?

Serving on an OPP Detachment Board may be right for you if you:

- Are committed to serving the public interest.
- Value integrity, accountability and ethical leadership.
- Enjoy strategic thinking and collaborative decision-making.
- Are interested in community safety and well-being.
- Respect the distinction between governance and police operations.
- Are open-minded and willing to consider diverse perspectives.
- Can review information critically and ask thoughtful governance questions.
- Are prepared to participate in ongoing learning and professional development.
- Can commit the time necessary to prepare for meetings and contribute throughout the year.

Governance, Not Operations

OPP Detachment Boards do not direct police operations or supervise members of the Ontario Provincial Police. Instead, they provide civilian governance by helping ensure that community priorities, accountability and public confidence remain central to policing within the communities they serve.

WHAT DOES AN OPP DETACHMENT BOARD DO?

OPP Detachment Boards operate within Ontario's provincially delivered policing model. They provide governance for the relationship between the communities they serve and the Ontario Provincial Police.

Board responsibilities include:

- Participating in the development and ongoing review of the Local Action Plan.
- Determining policing priorities and objectives consistent with the Ontario Provincial Police Strategic Plan.
- Monitoring the performance of the Detachment Commander.
- Reviewing policing reports and governance information.
- Supporting transparency, accountability and public confidence.
- Preparing annual reports and fulfilling legislative responsibilities.
- Engaging with communities to better understand local policing priorities.

TIME COMMITMENT

Board members should expect to:

- Attend regular Board meetings. These are typically held once per month at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday except in July and December. They are held in Perth at the Lanark County Administration Building and are typically around two hours in length.
- Prepare in advance for meetings by reviewing agenda packages (a few hours each month) and reviewing correspondence (approx. 3 to 4 hours per week).
- Complete mandatory training (approx. 6 to 12 hours).
- Participate in orientation.
- Attend governance workshops and educational opportunities (typically three Zone meetings per year (approx. 3 hours per meeting plus travel time) and an annual conference of two- to three days).
- Participate in Board planning sessions where required.
- Contribute to Board initiatives throughout the year.

Effective governance extends well beyond attending meetings.

WHY YOUR APPOINTMENT MATTERS

Every appointment helps strengthen the governance relationship between participating municipalities, First Nations (where applicable) and the Ontario Provincial Police. Strong Board members contribute to informed decision-making, effective governance and increased public confidence in policing.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about police governance in Ontario, visit the Police Boards in Ontario section of the Police Governance Ontario website:
https://policegovernanceontario.ca/about-pgo/police-governance-in-ontario/.