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

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OPP DETACHMENT BOARD MEMBER POSITION DESCRIPTION

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

An Ontario Provincial Police Detachment (OPP) Board Member contributes to effective civilian governance by helping to ensure policing services remain responsive, accountable and reflective of the communities served by the Board.

Board members participate in strategic governance, community engagement, oversight and accountability within Ontario's provincially delivered policing model. They work collaboratively with fellow Board members and the Detachment Commander to support policing priorities that reflect local community needs while respecting the operational independence of the OPP.

POSITION SUMMARY

OPP Detachment Board members are responsible for carrying out the statutory duties assigned under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA). OPP Detachment Boards do not govern the Ontario Provincial Police as an organization. Instead, they provide civilian governance for the relationship between the communities they serve and the Ontario Provincial Police.

Board members exercise independent judgment, act in the public interest and contribute to decisions that strengthen accountability, transparency and public confidence in policing.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Board members are expected to undertake:

Strategic Governance

- Participate in establishing Board priorities and objectives consistent with the Ontario Provincial Police Strategic Plan.
- Participate in the development, review and monitoring of the Local Detachment Action Plan.
- Contribute to long-term governance planning.

Oversight and Accountability

- Monitor and evaluate the performance of the Detachment Commander in accordance with legislative requirements.
- Review reports regarding policing services provided within the detachment area.
- Monitor progress toward Board priorities and objectives.
- Support transparency and public accountability.

Community Governance

- Understand the diverse communities served by the Board.
- Consider community safety priorities, local risks and emerging issues.
- Support meaningful community engagement.
- Bring community perspectives into governance discussions.

Governance Responsibilities

- Prepare for and attend Board meetings.
- Review agendas, reports and supporting materials.
- Ask thoughtful governance questions.
- Participate respectfully in Board discussions.
- Support collective Board decisions.
- Maintain confidentiality where required.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

Effective Board members demonstrate:

- Integrity and ethical leadership.
- Sound judgment.
- Strategic thinking.
- Respect for differing perspectives.
- Strong communication and listening skills.
- Critical thinking and analytical ability.
- Collaborative decision-making.
- Commitment to accountability and transparency.
- Respect for the distinction between governance and police operations.
- Willingness to learn and participate in ongoing professional development.

Previous policing experience is not required. Effective police governance benefits from members who bring diverse professional backgrounds, community knowledge, lived experience and a commitment to public service.

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.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Board members must carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, applicable regulations and Board policies. Board members are expected to act honestly, ethically and in the public interest while maintaining the integrity and independence of the Board.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility requirements for Board members are established under Section 33 of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*.

Board Members must:

- Reside in one of the towns or townships policed by the Ontario Provincial Police in Lanark County (Beckwith, Carleton Place, Drummond/North Elmsley, Lanark Highlands Mississippi Mills, Montague, Perth or Tay Valley).
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Not be an employee of one of the above-mentioned municipalities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Lanark County OPP Detachment polices eight municipalities, including Beckwith, Carleton Place, Drummond/North Elmsley, Lanark Highlands, Mississippi Mills, Montague, Perth and Tay Valley. The Detachment Board reports to the respective Municipal Councils as required in accordance with the CSPA.

The Board is comprised of a Council representative from each of those eight municipalities, two Community Representatives appointed jointly by the municipalities and two representatives appointed by the Province.

The four-year term for the Council and Community representatives coincides with the Municipal Council term. Provincial Appointee terms are at the discretion of the Province.

Lanark County is almost 3,000 square kilometres in size with a population of more

than 75,000 people. It is largely rural, with numerous lakes, forests, trails and local and county roads, as well as two major provincial highways. In recent years it has experienced significant residential growth.

More information about police governance in Ontario is available on the Police Governance Ontario website at https://policegovernanceontario.ca/about-pgo/police-governance-in-ontario/.