

6 April 2016

OAPSB Response to Justice Tulloch's Report: Review of Police Oversight Agencies

Report Recommends Mandatory Governance Training

Recommendation 12.2 – “The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services should develop mandatory training for police services board members. This training should be developed in partnership with the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards and post-secondary institutions with expertise in the areas of public sector and not-for-profit governance.”

OAPSB Response:

OAPSB is very pleased to see this recommendation and thanks Justice Tulloch for his very thorough work as head of the Ontario Independent Police Review. OAPSB has been advocating for mandatory police board training for years. Of course, this training is only one part of effective police governance; the other three parts, which are also currently missing, are:

- The establishment of clear police board roles and responsibilities that are meaningful to the community
- Police board access-to-information and funding for independent expertise and advice
- Regular evaluations of police board performance

Police boards are entrusted with great responsibility and are critical to ensuring that local policing reflects local needs and expectations. Fulfilment of all four of these criteria is the best way of ensuring that communities are policed in our communities' own best interests.

Recommendation 12.1 – “The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services should establish selection criteria for police services board appointees.”

OAPSB Response:

Establishing selection criteria for police board members is a valid suggestion, and can be helpful.

We believe that barriers to entry onto a police board should be minimized, and that the emphasis should be placed on ensuring board members have the tools for success which come with:

- The establishment of clear police board responsibilities that are meaningful to the community
- Robust, mandatory individual and collective police board training
- Police board access-to-information and funding for independent expertise and advice
- Regular evaluations of police board performance

Police boards are entrusted with great responsibility and are critical to ensuring that local policing reflects local needs and expectations. Fulfilment of all four these criteria is the best way of ensuring that communities are policed in our communities' own best interests.