



The Regional Municipality of Peel
POLICE SERVICES BOARD
10 PEEL CENTRE DR., BRAMPTON, ON L6T 4B9

TELEPHONE: 905-458-1340
FACSIMILE: 905-458-7278
www.peelpoliceboard.ca

By E-mail and Regular Mail

April 7, 2016

The Honourable Yasir Naqvi
Minister of Community and Correctional Services
25 Grosvenor Street – 18th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Y6

Dear Minister Naqvi:

I am writing on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board regarding your Ministry's consultation on its '*Strategy for a Safer Ontario*'.

The Peel Board has had the benefit of reviewing correspondence to you from the Durham Regional Police Services Board dated February 24, 2016. My colleagues and I also participated in the March 23, 2016 Regional Facilitation session in Brampton hosted by your Ministry.

I am writing to advise that the Peel Board supports the positions enunciated by the Durham Board (with one exception which I will detail later). I would particularly emphasize three priority areas for the Peel Board:

1) Strengthen Civilian Governance of Police Services

Your Ministry has had numerous submissions on this topic. There have also been reviews and reports from across Canada speaking to the vital importance of effective and meaningful civilian governance of police in a democratic system. In particular, the Peel Board supports background checks for all appointees to PSBs, matching prospective members to locally determined competencies and mandatory training.

2) Clarity of Roles Between Boards and Chiefs of Police

A Police Services Board's responsibilities vis-à-vis the duties of a Chief of Police has been examined and detailed in numerous judicial decisions as well as findings from such bodies as the Ontario Civilian Police Commission. These determinations should be captured in amendments to the *Police Services Act* to provide as much guidance and clarity to PSBs and Chiefs of Police as possible.

3) Suspension Without Pay

This item needs no elaboration. It is time for the change to be made. The Peel Board is confident given the work undertaken to date that an approach can be found that meets the needs of PSBs as employers; Chiefs of Police who are responsible for the administration of the discipline system and the police associations that are mandated to represent their members.

Exception: Accreditation of Police Officers

The one area where the Peel Board does not support the Durham position is the accreditation of police officers (under the category of *'increasing the professionalism of policing'*). While the Peel Board is very much in support of a professional level of policing at the highest level possible, accreditation in the police sector is more problematic than it first appears, a position upheld by a number of academic papers from the United States. Until issues around the operation of an independent college or accreditation body, similar to those for teachers as an example, can be seamlessly meshed with the existing statutes governing police officers in the province it is a matter best left for further review rather than being advanced at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important topic. I would be happy to discuss it further if you so wish.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amrik', followed by a long horizontal line that ends in an arrowhead pointing to the right.

Amrik Singh Ahluwalia
Chair

c. Chief J. Evans, Peel Regional Police