

Report to Peterborough OPP Detachment Board

To: Chair & Members
From: Bianca Dragicevic, Interim Board Administrator
Date: October 21, 2024
Re: Community Representative Appointment Options

Recommendation:

That the Board receive the report from the Interim Board Administrator regarding Community Representative Appointment Options; and further

That the Board direct the Interim Board Administrator to proceed with Option 1, Appoint members from the formerly appointed Police Service Boards for the appointment of the Community Appointees for the remainder of the term of the Board; and further

That the Board appoint a sub-committee of not more than four (4) of the currently appointed Peterborough OPP Detachment Board Members to review and recommend Community Appointments; and further

That the Board proceed with Option 2, public call for applicants, for the term of the Peterborough OPP Detachment Board following the 2026 municipal elections.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications with the Community Appointment process, however, there may be remuneration costs associated with being a Community Appointment Member of the Board. Should the Board decide to proceed with Option 2, Public Call for Applicants, there may be advertising costs associated with the posting.

Background:

The Terms of Reference for the Peterborough OPP Detachment Board (PODB) outline that it is the responsibility of the PODB to determine the Community Appointees and recommend the Members to the participating First Nations and Municipal Councils for appointment.

As per O. Reg 135/24 of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA), there shall be three members jointly appointed by each of the municipalities and First Nations. They must meet the requirements of the CSPA and all its regulations. For any of the options presented, once the Board has determined which three Community Appointees to recommend, all participating First Nations and Municipal Councils must formalize the appointment.

In accordance with Section 33 of the CSPA, appointment or reappointment of a member of the Board shall consider:

- (a) the need to ensure that the police service board is representative of the area it serves, having regard for the diversity of the population in the area;
- (b) the need for the police service board to have members with the prescribed competencies, if any; and
- (c) any applicable diversity plan.

Further, Section 33 (4) outlines that the following persons are not eligible to be members of a police service board:

- 1. A judge or justice of the peace.
- 2. A member of a police service, a special constable or a First Nation Officer.
- 3. Any person who practises criminal law as a defence counsel or as a prosecutor.
- 4. A director, officer or employee of a prescribed policing provider.
- 5. Any other prescribed persons.

Section 33 (5) states that a former member of a police service is not eligible to be a member of a police service board unless,

- (a) The police service board does not maintain a police service that the person was a member of; and
- (b) At least one year has passed since the person ceased to be a member of any police service.

Options are provided below for the Board to consider regarding the appointment of Community Appointees.

Option 1: Appoint members from the formerly appointed Police Service Boards

For this option, the Board Administrator would contact all Community Appointees that were previously appointed to the Municipal Boards to determine their interest in being considered for the remainder of the PODB term. The term of their appointment would coincide with the term of the Municipal Act Council Appointees and would end in late 2026. Since this term for the PODB is shorter than the usual four-year term, this option would provide a quick turnaround to have Community Appointees on the PODB. The Board could also include all Provincial Appointees that were previously appointed to the Municipal Boards in the pool of candidates. When considering this, the Board should be aware that all Provincial Appointees that were previously appointed to the Municipal Boards were encouraged to reapply to be a Provincial Appointee for the new PODB. Only one Provincial Appointee has been appointed at this time, who was previously appointed to the Douro-Dummer Municipal Board, and others may be appointed in the meantime from the current pool of Provincial Appointees.

It is recommended that a small application process be developed to allow the Members reviewing the applications to garner a better understanding of the members from other Boards. This process would also ensure that the members being appointed still meet the requirements of the CSPA when considering the appointment of members.

The advantages of this option for the remainder of the term are that it would facilitate the reappointment of Detachment Board Members with prior Board experience. There are many administrative matters to be determined in the initial term of the Board, including development of Board policies and the local action plan. Therefore, it would be beneficial to have Community Appointees with previous Board experience for continuity.

This option would also allow for a quicker turnaround for Community Appointees as the application process would be significantly shorter and a public call for applicants would not be required. It would also be a more cost-effective option as there would be no advertising required.

Option 2: Public Call for Applicants

This option would require a public call for applicants to be aligned with the defined qualifications for the remainder of the term of this Board. This option would look to support the diversity obligations under the CSPA. In this option, former community and provincial appointees could apply if desired.

If the Board proceeds with this option, qualifications would need to be developed and considered for the application. It is recommended that community appointees be 18 years of age or older and possess a demonstrated knowledge and experience in a complementary area such as finance, social services, education, governance, legal, health care, mental health, and/or youth services. It would be an asset for the community appointees to have an understanding of community issues, experience working on a committee/board or volunteer involvement and be a strategic thinker with proven communication and interpersonal skills.

It should be noted that this option would require a longer timeline for appointment as it would require development of the application, a public notice period, and a review of the applications prior to recommending to the Councils. Further, the public call for applicants would require advertising. This could be done only through social media and website promotion from the participating Municipalities and First Nations, however, if ads in the local papers are considered necessary, there will be an additional cost incurred. However, this option does potentially provide a wide range of applicants as it would be going to out to the public rather than the smaller pool of former members.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that the Board proceed with Option 1: Appoint members from the formerly appointed Police Service Boards. This option would provide the Board Administration with a quicker turnover to appoint the Community Appointees given there are several other

administrative items that need to be determined this term. It should be noted that although Option 1 is being recommended for the remainder of the term, it is recommended that the Board proceed with Option 2: Public Call for applicants for any future terms.

It is further recommended that the Board establish a sub-committee of a maximum of four (4) members to review the applications and determine which three (3) Community Appointees to recommend to the Board, and subsequently to all participating First Nations and Municipal Councils to formalize the appointment.

Should the Board proceed with Option 1, a short application would be developed to send out to the Community and Provincial Appointees that were previously appointed to the Municipal Boards to complete.

Consultations:

None.

Appendices:

None.

Submitted by:

Bianca Dragicevic

Bianca Dragicevic, Interim Board Administrator