



KENORA DISTRICT MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

SUBJECT: Reducing OPP Policing Costs

SUBMITTED BY: City of Kenora

YEAR: 2022

BACKGROUND:

The City of Kenora and other municipalities in the Kenora District have a history of high policing costs, being some of the six communities in all of Ontario where the cost of policing is over \$600 per household. Over the last 6+ years, the municipalities have been advocating for reduced policing costs, which have included various meetings, letters, and delegations made to several Ministers. There are a number of risk factors that influence the presence of harm, victimization and crime, which relate to the number of calls for service our local OPP detachment attends. These issues facing our community are complex and root causes have to be addressed in order to develop upstream solutions. It is clear that the City of Kenora and other municipalities in the Kenora District are facing a unique fiscal burden that is borne from systematic failures in provincial and federal policy relating to criminal justice and the current OPP billing model does not take this factor into account.

RECOMMENDATION:

Whereas the City of Kenora is one of the six communities in all of Ontario where policing costs are well above the provincial average and in 2019 were \$789 compared to \$359 per household provincially; and

Whereas the City now sits at \$833 per household which equates to over a 1% tax increase for citizens solely based on policing costs; and

Whereas the calls for service are the most significant driver in the continuing increases and the escalating costs are not sustainable to the taxpayers; and

Whereas the City of Kenora is the judicial hub of the District with individuals required to travel to Kenora for the judicial system, however, they are not provided with adequate supports to return to their home community or avoid re-offending while on bail; and

Whereas it is clear that the City of Kenora and other district Municipalities are facing a unique fiscal burden that is borne from systematic failures in provincial and federal policy relating to criminal justice and the current OPP billing model does not take this factor into account; and



Whereas the City of Kenora has advocated for several years for change to the billing model that accurately reflects the levels of service required for the community that are unrelated to judicial system failures;

NOW THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Kenora District Municipal Association Request a meeting with the Solicitor General and Minister Rickford to begin negotiations on a contract with the Ministry that will provide a cap or subsidy on OPP billing.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Concurrence _____ **X** _____

Concurrence as Amended _____

Non-Concurrence _____

CONVENTION ACTION

Concurrence _____

Concurrence as Amended **X** _____

Non-Concurrence _____