

BULLETIN

August 31th, 2012

OAPSB Calls on Provincial Government to Take Long, Hard Look at OPP Costs

This week, OAPSB released a statement to the media in response to comments made by Premier Dalton McGuinty:

This morning, Premier McGuinty said that municipalities should look at banking of sick days for police and firefighters in their municipal services to control costs. We agree with the Premier's comments that municipal forces need to curb costs; however, the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards further calls on the provincial government to take responsibility for the costs of its own police - the OPP. OPP contracts are negotiated directly between the provincial

government and the OPPA, and those contract talks are happening right now.

While the OPP do not bank sick days, there are opportunities for savings and the OAPSB calls on the government to take a consistent approach to OPP contract negotiations (as they have with other public sector workers) to curb the unsustainable and exponentially rising costs of policing. Not only do OPP contracts impact the municipalities that use OPP services, but they also set the example for other police service contracts, driving costs up across the province.

The statement is also available on [our website](#).

Media Outreach and Response

As a result of our media outreach, we generated a great deal of media interest in the issue. (Some print media stories are linked below; we received radio and television coverage as well.) Some media hits:

- [McGuinty considers scrapping bankable sick days for police, firefighters \(Globe and Mail\)](#)
- [Premier muses about ending bankable sick days for police, firefighters \(CTV News\)](#)
- [McGuinty suggests ending bankable sick days for police \(CBC\)](#)
- [Bankable Sick Days In Ontario: McGuinty Wants Perk Eliminated For Police, Firefighters \(Huffington Post\)](#)
- [Police, firefighters sick days under scrutiny \(iPolitics\)](#)
- [Sick day benefits for police, firefighters too expensive, Dalton McGuinty says \(National Post\)](#)
- [Police, firefighters sick days under scrutiny \(Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal\)](#)
- [Police, firefighters sick days under scrutiny \(Sympatico.ca Finance\)](#)

Ontario Association of Police Services Boards

10 Peel Centre Drive | Suite A, 1st Floor | Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
T: (905) 458-1488, 1-800-831-7727 | E: admin@oapsb.ca | W: OAPSB.ca

BULLETIN

August 31th, 2012

What You Can Do to Help

We will continue to keep up our media and government relations efforts on behalf of our members, and especially our section 10 boards, for whom OPP costs represent a serious financial challenge.

But now is the time to act. OPP will be negotiating non-monetary aspects of their contract with the government this fall, but we have an opportunity to influence some of those decisions. As members, you can help by sending letters to the Premier, Community Safety Minister Madeleine Meilleur, PC Leader Tim Hudak, and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath. Their contact information is reproduced below. You can also submit your letter directly to OAPSB and we will send it on your behalf. A template letter is attached to this bulletin to get you started.

You can also work with your local media and Member of Provincial Parliament to raise these important issues. See our advocacy section on our website to learn how you can do this, and to arm yourself with useful information and facts.

Another option is to take to social media! Tweet and Facebook our political leaders to make sure they pay attention. Their contact information is provided.

- Premier Dalton McGuinty
Rm 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A4
Twitter: [@Dalton_McGuinty](https://twitter.com/Dalton_McGuinty)
Facebook: facebook.com/dalton.mcguinty
- Community Safety Minister Madeleine Meilleur
George Drew Building, 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6
Twitter: [@m_meilleur](https://twitter.com/m_meilleur)
Facebook: facebook.com/madeleine.meilleur
- PC Leader Tim Hudak
Rm 381, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A8
Twitter: [@timhudak](https://twitter.com/timhudak)
Facebook: facebook.com/timhudak
- NDP Leader Andrea Horwath
Rm 113, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5
Twitter: [@andreahorwath](https://twitter.com/andreahorwath)
Facebook: facebook.com/AndreaHorwathONDP

Ontario Association of Police Services Boards

10 Peel Centre Drive | Suite A, 1st Floor | Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
T: (905) 458-1488, 1-800-831-7727 | E: admin@oapsb.ca | W: OAPSB.ca

BULLETIN

August 31th, 2012

Template Letter for OAPSB Members

Dear [Name],

Our police forces do important work keeping our communities safe. But our municipalities and our province are facing serious financial challenges, and we need to make sure that we are spending taxpayer dollars effectively and efficiently. It's the only way to keep our communities safe and prosperous, in the long-term.

If we are going to get serious about fiscal responsibility, we also have to look at policing. And we have to look at the single largest police force in our province, the OPP. With costs continuing to rise unchecked, we believe there are opportunities to curb costs and stop the pattern of exponentially rising costs - if the province commits to tackling the problem.

Unfortunately, boards that use and pay for OPP contract services have no input into the negotiation process. The impact is broad, as even non-OPP municipalities and taxpayers are forced to meet OPP contract terms for their own forces.

The government has said: there is no new money for pay. I/we call on you and your party to work to ensure fiscal responsibility across all sectors of the broader public service, including the OPP.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Ontario Association of Police Services Boards

10 Peel Centre Drive | Suite A, 1st Floor | Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

T: (905) 458-1488, 1-800-831-7727 | E: admin@oapsb.ca | W: OAPSB.ca