

December 5, 2025

The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner  
Solicitor General of Ontario  
Ministry of the Solicitor General  
25 Grosvenor St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6  
[michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org](mailto:michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org)

**Re: Financial Relief for Municipally-Policed Communities**

Dear Minister:

During the November 17, 2025 meeting of Sarnia City Council, the following resolution was adopted:

***That Sarnia City Council support the Town of LaSalle, and request that the Ministry of the Solicitor General:***

- 1. Acknowledge the inequity created by the 2024 and 2025 OPP funding interventions;***
- 2. Provide equivalent financial relief to municipally-policed communities facing similar budget pressures;***
- 3. Work with municipalities and police boards to develop a fair, transparent, and sustainable provincial funding framework that applies equally to all police services in Ontario; and***

***That a copy of the correspondence to be sent to municipally-policed communities for support.***

A copy of the letter prepared by the Town of LaSalle is enclosed.

Yours sincerely,



Amy Burkhart  
City Clerk

cc: Clerks of Municipally-Policed Communities



October 28, 2025

The Honourable Michael Kerzner  
Solicitor General of Ontario  
Ministry of the Solicitor General  
25 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

**Subject: Request for Equitable Provincial Support for Municipally Policed Communities**

Dear Solicitor General:

I am writing on behalf of the Town of LaSalle and other municipalities across Ontario that operate their own local police services to raise a serious concern regarding the growing inequity in provincial financial support between OPP-policed and municipally-policed communities.

Over the past two budget cycles, the Province has provided direct relief to OPP-policed municipalities to help offset sharp increases in policing costs. In response to those increases, the Province allocated approximately \$77 million in one-time funding to help affected municipalities manage the financial impact. While that relief was welcome for many, no comparable support was provided to municipalities operating their own police forces, even though we face the same financial pressures and in many cases, even greater ones.

At the time, municipally-policed communities were told that this funding was not being extended to them because they could apply for provincial policing grants. However, many of those same grants are also available to OPP-policed municipalities. The \$77 million subsidy was not a grant it required no application process, selection criteria, or eligibility review. Every OPP-policed municipality received the benefit automatically. That distinction is key, and it has created an inequity that continues today.

This year, the Province has again provided financial protection to OPP-policed municipalities through a new 11% cost cap for 2025–2026, along with a lowered threshold for call-volume discounts. In your correspondence to mayors, you stated that these measures were intended to provide greater clarity, predictability, and stability in the OPP cost-recovery model. While

those goals are commendable, the outcome has once again created a two-tier system: OPP-policed municipalities continue to receive automatic provincial cost relief, while municipally-policed communities are left to shoulder the full impact of inflation, collective bargaining, and new legislative mandates under the *Community Safety and Policing Act* (CSPA).

These measures have far-reaching consequences. OPP salary settlements influence policing costs across the province, setting a benchmark for compensation and collective bargaining negotiations. As municipalities enter upcoming contract discussions, the impact of those provincial agreements will again be felt locally but without any equivalent financial support, local taxpayers bear the full cost.

At the same time, the CSPA has introduced new and necessary obligations including enhanced training, compliance, and equipment standards that further strain municipal police budgets. These requirements are provincially mandated and cannot be deferred or avoided. Under Section **50(6)** of the CSPA, policing services cannot be withheld or interrupted due to a local budget dispute. If a police services board and council cannot agree on a budget, the matter can be referred to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission for resolution. Ultimately, municipalities remain legally responsible for ensuring those costs are funded.

If a municipality with its own police service were to similarly “cap” its policing costs at 11%, as the Province has done for OPP, it would immediately face a funding shortfall. Those contractual and statutory obligations do not disappear. There is no mechanism for a municipal police service to receive an automatic subsidy, nor has the Province offered a way to balance that financial gap.

In LaSalle, our residents are deeply proud and supportive of our local police service. They value the connection, accountability, and community engagement that come from having officers who live, work, and serve locally. As municipal leaders, we are equally proud of the professionalism and dedication of our police service, but the growing financial disparity threatens the sustainability of that local model.

Municipalities are not asking for preferential treatment we are asking for parity. If the Province recognizes the need to stabilize OPP-policed budgets, it is only fair and reasonable that the same level of consideration be extended to municipally-policed communities facing equivalent pressures.

On behalf of the Town of LaSalle, I respectfully request that the Ministry:

1. Acknowledge the inequity created by the 2024 and 2025 OPP funding interventions;
2. Provide equivalent financial relief to municipally-policed communities facing similar budget pressures; and
3. Work with municipalities and police boards to develop a fair, transparent, and sustainable provincial funding framework that applies equally to all police services in Ontario.

LaSalle remains committed to responsible budgeting, strong community policing, and open collaboration with our provincial partners. Ensuring fairness in provincial funding across all policing models will allow every Ontario community — large or small, OPP-policed or municipally-policed — to remain safe, resilient, and well-served.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response and to meaningful dialogue on how we can achieve fairness and sustainability across all policing models in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "Meloche".

Crystal Meloche  
Mayor, Town of LaSalle

:tcm