

Ministry of Community Safety
and Correctional Services

Public Safety Division

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MEMORANDUM TO: All Chiefs of Police and
Interim Commissioner G.J. (Gary) Couture
Chairs, Police Services Boards

FROM: Stephen Waldie, for
Stephen Beckett
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division

SUBJECT: Support for Community Safety and Well-Being Planning

DATE OF ISSUE:	January 17, 2019
CLASSIFICATION:	General Information
RETENTION:	Indefinite
INDEX NO.:	19-0004
PRIORITY:	Medium

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services' efforts to ensure that municipal, policing, and community partners have the necessary supports as we move forward with the new legislative requirements related to community safety and well-being planning.

As you are aware, on January 1, 2019, new legislative amendments to the *Police Services Act, 1990* came into force which mandate municipalities to prepare and adopt community safety and well-being plans. As part of these legislative changes, municipalities are required to work in partnership with police services and other various sectors, including health/mental health, education, community/social services and children/youth services as they undertake the planning process. Municipalities have two years from the in-force date to prepare and adopt their first community safety and well-being plan (i.e., by January 1, 2021). Municipalities also have the flexibility to develop joint plans with neighbouring municipalities and/or First Nations communities, which may be of value to create the most effective community safety and well-being plan that meets the unique needs of the area.

First Nations communities are encouraged to undertake the same community safety and well-being planning process; however, they are not required by legislation to do so. The ministry continues to explore opportunities to support and encourage First Nations communities to engage in this type of planning process.

These amendments support Ontario's modernized approach to community safety and well-being, which involves taking an integrated approach to service delivery by working collaboratively across sectors to proactively address crime and complex social issues on a sustainable basis.

As a first step to supporting communities with the planning process, the ministry will be offering webinars beginning in February 2019. The webinars will provide an overview of the new legislative requirements related to community safety and well-being planning, as well as guidance on how to develop and implement effective plans. Please refer to Attachment 1 for more details. In addition, the ministry has also developed a Frequently Asked Questions document to provide more information and clarification related to community safety and well-being planning (see Attachment 2). We encourage you to share these attachments with staff within your organization, as well as any other relevant partners.

Municipalities, First Nations communities, and their local partners are encouraged to continue to utilize the *Community Safety and Well-being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet to support the planning process (see Attachment 3). This booklet has recently been updated to include reference to the new legislative requirements, an additional critical success factor that highlights the importance of cultural responsiveness in the planning process, and a new resource to assist municipalities with engaging local Indigenous partners. The updated version is also available on the ministry's website at <https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Publications/MCSCSSOPlanningFramework.html>.

We greatly appreciate your continued support as we move forward with this modernized approach to community safety and well-being together. If you have any questions, please contact Tiana Biordi, Community Safety Analyst at Tiana.Biordi@ontario.ca or Jwan Aziz, Community Safety Analyst at Jwan.Aziz@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Stephen Waldie, for
Stephen Beckett
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division

Attachments