

**Ministry of Community Safety  
and Correctional Services**

**Ministère de la Sécurité communautaire  
et des Services correctionnels**



Office of the Deputy Minister

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Peggy Van Mierlo-West  
The Town of Kingsville  
2021 Division Road N.  
Kingsville, ON N9Y 2Y9

Dear Peggy Van Mierlo-West:

On January 1, 2015, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) implemented a new billing model to recover the cost of policing services provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). The new billing model was implemented to provide a fairer and more transparent way to calculate billings to municipal governments that receive policing services from the OPP.

The ministry and the OPP have been monitoring the implementation of the new model since it was introduced. As part of our ongoing engagement with the municipal sector, we have heard that there are concerns with the inclusion of some types of properties in the count (e.g., wind turbines) that the OPP uses to allocate base services costs among municipalities.

The OPP has been working closely with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) on a comprehensive review of all property and structure codes used in the billing model. Based on this review, the OPP has identified several structures and property codes that could be removed to ensure that the properties used to allocate base services costs are appropriately linked to the required level of policing. Specifically, this includes removing properties:

- That do not require proactive policing because they have limited interaction with the public (e.g., wind turbines, communication towers, billboards); and,
- That are considered part of a larger infrastructure system (e.g., tunnels, bridges).

In total, the OPP identified 4,318 properties that could be excluded from the property count based on the above characteristics (see Appendix for a detailed list of property and structure codes). Excluding these property and structure codes from the 2018 Annual Billing Statements would improve the transparency and fairness of the billing process. However, this change will not impact the overall cost of OPP services province-wide, which is fixed to provide consistency for municipal governments year over year. Accordingly, any changes to the number of properties will shift the costs among the OPP serviced municipalities; these costs will not be removed from the billing model.

If implemented, these changes are expected to have a minimal impact on the overall cost for the vast majority of municipalities - for example, roughly 70% of municipalities would experience less than a \$1,500 increase or decrease in their overall cost. Based on the 2017 billing data, the changes being proposed, if implemented, would result in an estimated adjustment of \$-502 in your municipality's 2018 OPP Billing Statement.

The ministry has had discussions with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on the possibility of amending the property count methodology used to calculate OPP billing costs. AMO recommended that the ministry consult more broadly with municipalities policed by the OPP to seek input on whether to proceed with changes to the property count methodology as it will have different impacts for each municipality.

We know that the affordability of the billing model is important for municipal governments. This is why we want to work closely with you and seek your input on how to move forward with this proposal. We are proposing a two-phased approach to engage municipalities:

- Phase One: Using this link <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/ontario-mcscs/opp-billing-model-survey/?code=k3xbzxbfv>, municipalities are encouraged to fill out a survey that seeks feedback on whether to exclude the properties identified above. The survey will be open until June 30, 2017. Results of the survey will be communicated to municipalities once completed.
- Phase Two: The ministry will work with AMO and member associations, to establish a Technical Table with municipal representatives, reflective of the diversity of OPP policed municipalities (e.g., contract, non-contract, rural, urban, small, medium), as well as representatives from MPAC. The Technical Table will review the proposal and results of the survey and provide advice to the ministry on how to move forward.

Should discussions result in changes to the way that municipal policing costs are calculated, the ministry and the OPP will communicate the changes to impacted municipalities well in advance of the municipal budgeting cycle for 2018 to ensure municipalities have adequate time to plan for any changes.

We are committed to continuing to work closely with the municipal sector to ensure policing costs remain fair and transparent. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Timothy Fuchs, Team Lead, Strategic Policy, Research and Innovation Division, MCSCS at [Timothy.Fuchs@ontario.ca](mailto:Timothy.Fuchs@ontario.ca)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Torigian', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Matthew Torigian  
Deputy Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services

CC: MUNICIPAL CLERK: JENNIFER ASTROLOGO

## Property and Structure Codes

| Property Codes  | Count in 2017 Statements |
|---|--------------------------|
| 100 - Vacant residential land not on water  | 304                      |
| 102 - Conservation Authority Land   | 13                       |
| 103 - Municipal park (excludes Provincial parks, Federal parks, campgrounds)        | 15                       |
| 105 - Vacant commercial land  | 1289                     |
| 106 - Vacant industrial land  | 410                      |
| 107 - Provincial park   | 223                      |
| 108 - Federal park  | 14                       |
| 110 - Vacant residential/recreational land on water                                 | 60                       |
| 111 - Island under single ownership   | 6                        |
| 112 - Multi-residential vacant lot  | 2                        |
| 115 - Land in transition - value based on alternate use                             | 4                        |
| 120 - Water lot (entirely under water)  | 105                      |
| 125 - Residential development land  | 3                        |
| 127 - Townhouse block - freehold units  | 1                        |
| 130 - Non-buildable land (walkways, buffer/berm, storm water management pond, etc.) | 11                       |
| 150 - Mining lands - Freehold Patent  | 53                       |
| 151 - Mining lands - Leasehold Patent   | 9                        |
| 155 - Land associated with power dam  | 1                        |
| <b>sub-total- 100 Series</b>  | <b>2,523</b>             |
| 236 - Farm with oil/gas well(s)   | 1                        |
| <b>sub-total- 200 Series</b>  | <b>1</b>                 |
| 487- Billboard  | 9                        |
| 495- Communication Towers   | 317                      |
| <b>sub-total- 400 Series</b>  | <b>326</b>               |
| 504- Oil/gas wells  | 73                       |
| 567- Wind Turbine   | 20                       |
| 568 - Solar PV Electricity Generating Facility                                      | 59                       |
| <b>sub-total- 500 Series</b>  | <b>152</b>               |
| 743- International bridge/tunnel  | 8                        |
| <b>sub-total- 700 Series</b>  | <b>8</b>                 |
| <b>Total Property Codes</b>   | <b>3,010</b>             |

| Structure Codes                    | Count in 2017 Statements |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 567- Wind Turbine                  | 704                      |
| 490- Tower                         | 514                      |
| 492- Billboard                     | 43                       |
| 501- Pipelines, Compressor Station | 2                        |
| 502- Bridge                        | 0                        |
| 556- Tunnel                        | 2                        |
| 568- Solar Thermal (Solar Panels)  | 43                       |
| <b>Total Structures</b>            | <b>1,308</b>             |