



35 Alice Street  
Brighton, ON K0K 1H0  
613-475-0670

**Media Release**

**Tuesday, August 23, 2011  
For Immediate Release**

**Coalition including the Municipality of Brighton  
secures commitment to discuss impact of OPP costs on municipalities**

**Brighton, ON** - The OPP provides policing services to small and rural municipalities across Ontario. The cost of these services has risen significantly and is creating an increased burden on these municipalities.

As result, in February the Council of the Municipality of Brighton passed a resolution which requested the province, through its Police Services grant in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) formula, to cover all increased costs associated with the recently negotiated OPP contract and letters of endorsement were sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Minister of Finance, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, and other Section 10 Police Service Boards in Ontario.

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, representatives from more than 20 Ontario municipalities including Mayor Mark Walas participated in a joint delegation at the 2011 AMO Conference in London, Ontario to speak with the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of Community Safety & Correctional Services and the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. MPP's Lou Rinaldi and Leona Dombrowski attended in support. Separate meetings were also held with the PC and NDP caucus leaders.

The municipal concerns centered on the escalating and unsustainable costs of policing services provided to municipalities. The coalition was seeking a commitment from the government and support of the other Provincial political parties for a dialogue to identify solutions to these rising costs, while maintaining adequate and effective policing resources.

Mayor Mark Walas indicated he was pleased with the outcome of the meetings and that the resolution from Brighton was instrumental in initiating the process.

The municipal coalition, led by Arnprior Mayor David Reid, secured a commitment to work collaboratively to improve communications between the OPP and the host municipalities. Most importantly, it is anticipated that further discussions will occur between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario [AMO] and the Province of Ontario.

## **Backgrounder**

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario is an umbrella organization representing most municipalities in Ontario and has a Memorandum of Understanding which ensures that any legislation or actions by the Provincial government which impact on municipalities is discussed prior to implementation.

The municipal coalition enforced four issues relating to OPP costs as follows: the escalating costs of policing services; the large difference in per household and per capita costs between municipalities; the inconsistent application of policing deployment models throughout the province; and the lack of transparency and accountability regarding the application of policing costs. For example, of the municipalities taking part in the survey, the average annual increase in policing costs since 2006 is 62.3% with some municipalities seeing over a 100% increase in annual costs. Per household costs range from \$263.21 to \$691.77. In many Ontario municipalities, policing costs are the single biggest cost in the annual municipal operating budget – the result has been that some municipalities have had to cut service in other areas to offset the increasing costs of policing

“Such huge discrepancies cannot solely be offset by variances in geography and populations”, insisted Mayor Reid. Along with the other municipalities, he finds the situation rather puzzling, explaining, “It is our understanding that OPP Contract Policing utilizes a standard deployment model and selected weighted occurrence comparisons to determine the minimum number of staff resources required to service detachments; yet requests for this information seemed to be met with resistance or simply ignored.”

In conclusion, the coalition had two requests of the Province:

1. The information on applicable deployment models is made available to municipalities in a timely manner prior to the 2012 budget year, and a review is undertaken of OPP costs, formulas, and deployment models to identify efficiencies and that this review will take place in full consultation with the municipal sector.
2. There is transparency and accountability with regard to costs being assigned to municipalities for Ontario Provincial Police services.

It was the general opinion of the municipal delegation that progress has been made since all three political parties showed interest and the group is anticipating there will be municipal input in any Provincial review process on OPP policing services to Ontario municipalities.