

August 10, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Municipal CAOs

SUBJECT: Court Security and Prisoner Transportation

The Ministry of the Solicitor General (ministry) is committed to keeping communities across Ontario safe, supported and protected. An important pillar of this mandate is the safe care, custody and supervision for those in remand, or for those who are serving a custodial or community sentence.

The *Police Services Act* outlines the responsibilities of police services, including the requirement for police services boards and the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police, to provide court security in premises where court proceedings are conducted. In addition, police services also conduct prisoner transportation.

Under the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (CSPT) Program, the ministry allocates funding to municipalities to offset costs associated with both court security and prisoner transportation services to and from courts. The ministry's annual investment to help assist municipalities in offsetting their CSPT costs began in 2012 and has gradually grown to a maximum of \$125 million annually since 2018.

As part of the ongoing work to build a more responsive and resilient justice system, the ministry will retain an independent consultant with expertise in public safety and security to review the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program. A Request for Services will be issued shortly.

This review will help strengthen best practices, as well as explore ways to improve the delivery of court security and prisoner transportation. This continuous improvement is part of the ministry's ongoing work to reduce court delays, leverage technology, improve public safety and reform the adult correctional system.

It is important to note that there will be no changes to the 2020 CSPT Program as a result of the review.

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This review will engage ministry stakeholders – including municipalities, police services and other justice sector partners – to help assess and identify improvements to court security and inmate transportation as well as the design of the CSPT Program. Throughout this process, the safety of Ontarians and frontline staff will remain the ministry's top priority.

Be well and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stubbings".

Richard Stubbings
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division