



DURHAM REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES BOARD

R. Anderson, Chair * A. Furlong, Vice-Chair
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 Bill McLean, Member * R. Rockbrune, Member * R. Wilson, Member

SENT VIA EMAIL

July 11, 2012

**OTTAWA POLICE
 SERVICES BOARD**

Mr. Alok Mukherjee
 President
 Ontario Association of Police Services Boards
 10 Peel Drive
 Suite 1A, 1st Floor
 Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

JUL 11 2012

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Action: _____

Dear Mr. Mukherjee:

As you know, the Toronto Police Services Board received the final report from the Independent Civilian Reviewer on June 29, 2012 in respect of the policing of the G20 Summit in June of 2010. In his report The Honourable John W. Morden states that the Toronto Police Services Board failed to assert its authority over operational matters which it considered to be within the purview of the Chief of Police. The Durham Regional Police Services Board is concerned with Mr. Morden's position on the appropriate role of Police Services Boards as defined in the *Police Services Act*.

The restriction upon the Board and its members to direct or interfere in operational matters, as set out in the legislation, is a fundamental feature of our model of civilian oversight and the key principle upon which our Board relies to fulfill its responsibilities. While we agree with Mr. Morden that the *Police Services Act* does not prevent the Board from making decisions governing the structure and environment in which policing functions occur, we do not share his view that it is appropriate for Boards to review operational plans and make suggestions and recommendations. Rather, the Act states that Boards shall generally determine, after consultation with the Chief, objectives and priorities with respect to police services. If Mr. Morden's position is accepted, the functioning of Boards would be fundamentally altered and the relationship between Chiefs and Boards would be transformed. The practical consequences of endorsing this perspective would be far-reaching and the necessary resources would be exponential.

I would draw your attention to Module 1 of the OAPSB's online training materials for Board members. In reference to the Board's governance role and the limitations on the Board to involve itself in operational matters, the training session states that "in other words, the Board is responsible to govern the Police Service. The PSB determines what is to be accomplished, and the Chief determines how the what is to be accomplished."

I would suggest that this statement is not consistent with the assertions of Mr. Morden.

We would ask if the OAPSB intends to adopt a formal position in respect of Mr. Morden's report and whether the Association expects to raise this matter with the Government of Ontario. We believe that the leadership of the OAPSB would assist in clarifying whether Boards need to adjust their practices to conform to the interpretation of the Independent Civilian Reviewer. Should the expectation be that Boards adopt a governance approach consistent with the model espoused by Mr. Morden, we would respectfully suggest that further discussion is warranted.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "A".

Roger Anderson
Chair

c.c.: Big 12 Police Services Boards