



**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF
POLICE SERVICES BOARDS**
“Commitment to Excellence in Civilian Police Governance”

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October 4, 2012

Hon. Vic Toews, MP
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
269 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P8

Dear Minister,

Your government's Police Officer Recruitment Fund (PORF) has been a highly successful, five-year program. It has allowed municipalities to hire much-needed front-line officers to help make our communities safer.

Unfortunately, PORF is scheduled to end on March 31, 2013. This termination will leave a gap of approximately \$31 million per year in Ontario, and will affect the funding of 329 police officers on our streets.

As you know, policing is one of the single largest line items in municipal budgets, and these budgets are coming under increasing strain. With the termination of PORF, these pressures will only increase, as municipalities will now have to scramble to find funding to retain staff levels that have increased under the program.

I know that your government places a high priority on community safety, and that you are committed to your municipal partners. I know that you understand the need for stable, predictable, and adequate funding for police services. I understand that a number of boards have raised similar concerns with you and your colleagues already. It would not be prudent to recruit officers, only to have to let them go a few years later.

This is why I urge you to make the PORF funding permanent. It is a fair and sensible solution that will keep police staffing levels stable, and our communities safe.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Thank you for all the work you have done, and continue to do, on behalf of community safety in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Jensen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'H'.

Henry Jensen
President