



**Canadian Police Association
Association canadienne des policiers**

BRIEF

To the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance
regarding Pre-Budget Consultations 2008

Appearances: Tony Cannavino, President
David Griffin, Executive Officer

Date: August 15, 2008

RECOMMENDATION

The Canadian Police Association calls upon Parliament to reinforce the Police Officers Recruitment Fund, through increased and long-term sustainable funding with the necessary controls to ensure the Government fulfills Prime Minister Harper's election promise to negotiate with the provinces to put at least 2500 more police officers on the streets of our communities.

SUMMARY

Prime Minister Stephen Harper launched the Conservative Party's Stand Up for Security plan during the 2006 Federal Election campaign, which included a promise to "negotiate with the provinces to create a new cost-shared program jointly with provincial and municipal governments, to put at least 2,500 more police on the beat in our cities and communities."

In April, 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper came to speak to our association, and promised our delegates that his government would put in place a new cost sharing program with the provinces and municipalities to increase the number of police officers in our communities.

Repeated requests were made of Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day to meet with the CPA and other policing stakeholders to address requirements for this program, without success. After more than two years of dithering with this commitment, Minister Day's plan, contained in the 2008 Federal Budget, failed to fulfil the Prime Minister's commitment.

The ***Police Officers Recruitment Fund*** is insufficient, both in terms of the lack of long-term sustainable funding, the amount of money being contributed to the fund, and the controls over the use of the funds. There are no guarantees that the monies will in fact reach the municipalities and police agencies that are in need of new police officers. Minister Day has subsequently entered into arrangements with the provinces and territories which authorize the use of these funds for purposes other than the government's promise of 2500 new police officers. Some provinces maintain that decisions concerning use of these payments from the federal government are within their exclusive jurisdiction.

Our member associations feel betrayed by the government's failure to deliver upon this key election promise. We are calling on Parliament to reinforce the program commitment and design in the 2009 Federal Budget, in order to address these shortcomings.

INTRODUCTION

The CPA is the national voice for approximately 57,000 police personnel serving across Canada. Through our 170 member associations, CPA membership includes police personnel serving in police services from Canada's smallest towns and villages as well as those working in our largest municipal cities, provincial police services, members of the RCMP, railway police, and First Nations police associations. We are pleased to present these submissions to the Pre-Budget Consultations of the Standing Committee of Finance, and would welcome the opportunity to appear before the committee to discuss these submissions in further detail.

BACKGROUND

On January 5, 2006, the Conservative Party launched its ***Stand Up for Security Plan***, as part of its ***Stand Up For Canada*** platform during the 2006 Federal Election campaign. (See attached Backgrounder). Among the commitments included in the plan are promises to:

Negotiate with the provinces to create a new cost-shared program jointly with provincial and municipal governments, to put at least 2,500 more police on the beat in our cities and communities.

Invest \$100 million per year of new federal money on criminal justice priorities, including working with the provinces and municipalities to hire more police, as well as victim assistance and youth crime prevention programs.

Offers were made with Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day to assist in the development of a plan that would ensure the government's commitment was fulfilled, without success. In correspondence to Minister Day, the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB), Canadian Police Association (CPA), and Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), ("The Associations") identified the need to work in partnership with governments to present a shared vision on how to maximize the benefit of these commitments within municipal and provincial policing jurisdictions. Our pleas were ignored.

The 2008 Federal Budget included the announcement of a *Police Officers Recruitment Fund*, on February 26, 2008, which features \$400 million in funding over five years for provinces and territories to recruit 2,500 police officers. The monies will be allocated to a trust fund to be administered by a third party, and the program will be reviewed after five years.

Subsequently we received concerns from member associations regarding feedback received from their provincial Ministers, including concerns about the long-term sustainability of the funding. Enquiries with the Ministers office were made, and while the government was committed to a review of the program after five years, they refused to provide a guarantee for long-term sustainable funding.

On April 1st, 2008, the Canadian Police Association, the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police CACP sent a joint letter to Prime Minister Harper, requesting a meeting to discuss these concerns. We have never received so much as an acknowledgement of this request.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL POLICING IS OVERDUE

The need for federal support of front line local policing in the pursuit of federally mandated and inter-jurisdictional policing responsibilities has never been more apparent:

National Security and Terrorism

Many local communities are the agency responsible for security and first response in relation to counter-terrorism and national security responsibilities. Vulnerable targets within local jurisdictions include critical infrastructure:

- Transportation centres including airports, railways, transit, ports, and border crossings
- Power generation facilities, refineries, and pipelines
- Commercial centres and security exchanges
- Public places including stadiums, shopping centres, bridges and tunnels

While the federal government has responded to terrorism and national security concerns with legislation and new agency responsibilities, the support for first responders has been modest, at best.

Cyber-Crime

Technology has enabled revolutions in crime which transcend traditional jurisdictions and boundaries, complicating the investigative response to such crimes as child pornography, sexual luring and exploitation, and commercial crimes. Local police agencies are challenged to respond in an integrated manner with other local, provincial, federal and international agencies. Less than one-half of one percent of existing police officers are assigned to technological crime investigations.

Legislation

Legislation introduced over the past decade has mandated an elevation in standards and complexity of local investigations and prosecution. For example, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* has downloaded enormous burdens on local police agencies to coordinate the policing response and community measures required under the Act.

Court Decisions

Jurisprudence has established rigorous standards for arrest, search, detention and prosecution, which have in more than doubled the time spent by police officers in most investigations in paperwork and red tape, eroding policing's ability to deliver core services.

Federal Funding is Necessary

The costs to local police services of compliance and cooperation with federally mandated responsibilities have been significant. Effective and efficient allocation of the promised federal dollars will assist police agencies in reinforcing local policing efforts to increase community safety and security.

There is broad support for federal funding for local law enforcement. During the 2006 federal election campaign, The New Democratic Party platform included a commitment for "enhanced resources for law enforcement". On March 14, 2007, Liberal Party Leader Stéphane Dion unveiled his party's platform; "Protecting Our Homes and Our

Rights”, which included a promise to provide funds to the provinces to meet the failed Conservative promise of 2,500 more police officers in our communities.

Property Tax Payers Are Subsidizing Federal Policing

The CPA supports concerns raised by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), that the federal government is falling short on its commitment to policing Canadian municipalities. On May 29, 2008, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities issued a report on policing roles, responsibilities and resources in Canada, entitled “Towards Equity and Efficiency in Policing”. FCM contends that property tax payers are subsidizing federal policing. The report highlighted the fact that the Police Officer Recruitment Fund, as recently announced in the 2008 federal budget:

- Fails to insure the delivery of the advertised number of front-line police officers
- Fails to provide multi-year, sustainable funding, as called for by the CPA, FCM, and other police stakeholders.

This risks leaving the provinces, territories and municipalities on the hook for the long-term costs of sustaining any additional officers created by the fund. It also holds no guarantees that any new front-line police officers will be working in our communities.

In its report, the FCM outlines the inequalities that exist between locally funded municipal police services and federally subsidized policing provided through RCMP contract policing. The CPA shares the concern that the impact of downloaded responsibilities and federally mandated programs on local policing is taking a toll on municipalities and CPA members.

FUNDING CRITERIA

The current program design is inadequate. Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day has entered into arrangements with the provinces and territories which authorize the use of these funds for purposes other than the government’s promise of 2,500 new police officers. This means that the federal government has no control over its own commitment of adding a least 2,500 more front-line police officers. In previous submissions to Minister Day, the CPA and our policing partners identified the need for sustainable funding focused on recruitment of new police officers. These submissions have been virtually ignored. We contend that for the program to succeed in meeting the Prime Minister’s election promise, these critical issues must be addressed:

Sustainability

In order to ensure adequate participation and corresponding financial support from local communities, local police agencies seek adequate assurances that the promised federal funding will be available for the long term as sustainable program funding. Police services cannot expect local communities to share the costs of this federal program, if the federal contribution will evaporate in the future leaving communities responsible for the compensation liabilities.

Eligibility

In order to satisfy the principles set out in the ***Stand Up For Security*** plan, adequate measures must be in place to confirm that the federal funding is used solely for the

addition of ***“net new”*** police officers, and not to backfill vacancies created by attrition or shortfalls in existing complement.

CONCLUSION

The Canadian Police Association welcomed the 2006 election promise from Prime Minister Harper, to put at least 2,500 more police officers on the street in our cities and local communities. The Association remains committed to work in partnership with governments to present a shared vision on how to maximize the benefit of these commitments within municipal and provincial policing jurisdictions.

The Canadian Police Association calls upon Parliament to reinforce the Police Officers Recruitment Fund, through increased and long-term sustainable funding with the necessary controls to ensure the Government fulfills Prime Minister Harper's election promise to negotiate with the provinces to put at least 2500 more police officers on the streets of our communities.

BACKGROUND – Conservative Stand Up for Security Plan

More police on the streets

Canada needs more front-line law enforcement. According to Department of Public Safety documents, there is currently a shortage of 1,059 RCMP officers in federal, provincial, and municipal policing roles. In addition, many provincial and municipal police forces are under-funded and overstretched. It is time to reinvest in front-line law enforcement in Canada.

The plan

A Conservative government will:

- *Reinvest savings from cancellation of the ineffective long-gun registry program into hiring more front-line enforcement personnel, including filling 1,000 RCMP positions.*
- ***Negotiate with the provinces to create a new cost-shared program jointly with provincial and municipal governments, to put at least 2,500 more police on the beat in our cities and communities.***
- ***Invest \$100 million per year of new federal money on criminal justice priorities, including working with the provinces and municipalities to hire more police, as well as victim assistance and youth crime prevention programs.***

Full plan can be found at:

<http://www.conservative.ca/media/20060113-Platform.pdf>

BACKGROUND – Announcement; Conservative Stand Up for Security Plan

Stephen Harper announces plan to Stand up for Security

05 January 2006

Calls for five- and ten-year mandatory minimum prison sentences for gun crimes, hiring more police, cracking down on smuggling, and increased support for youth at risk.

TORONTO– Speaking in downtown Toronto, metres away from the site of the Boxing Day shootings, Conservative leader Stephen Harper released the party's plan to Stand up for Security.

“We should be able to walk freely on our streets. We should feel safe in our neighbourhoods. We should live without fear in our cities, said Harper. “We should not view these as luxuries, but our rights as Canadians – as fundamental characteristics of the Canadian way of life, on which we will not compromise.

The Stand up for Security plan includes:

- Mandatory minimum prison sentences of five or ten years for major firearms offences, including five years for possession of a loaded restricted or prohibited weapon such as a handgun, and an end to revolving door bail and parole policies;
- Filling more than 1,000 unfilled RCMP positions and working with provinces and municipalities to hire at least 2,500 more police officers across the country;
- Measures to crack down on firearms smuggling and toughen security at Canada's border crossings, including giving our customs agents the support and equipment they need to do their job; and
- Investing \$50 million over five years in programs to promote crime prevention and assist youth at risk.

The plan also includes a broad series of justice reforms including sentencing reform, dealing with sex offenders, effective gun control, strengthening the Youth Criminal Justice Act, promoting victims' rights, ensuring effective deportation laws, and creating a national drug strategy.

The plan is based on extensive discussions Conservative MPs have had with unions representing front-line law enforcement, including the Customs and Excise Union (CEUDA), local and national police associations, and corrections officers, and with victims' advocates such as Joe Wamback of Toronto and Rev. Don Schiemann, father of one the RCMP officers killed in Mayerthorpe, Alberta.

“Recent acts of violence here in Toronto and across Canada have proven that idle talk does not save lives, said Harper. “The revolving door of our justice system must be closed. We need to put more cops on our streets, and we need to crack down on smuggling.

Reacting to Harper's announcement, CEUDA president Ron Moran said, “We are very pleased with Mr. Harper's proposals on the border. This represents the most serious

plan that we have seen from any political party to enforce effective control at our border crossings and to give Canada's customs agents the powers and resources they need.

Legislative Reference – Bill C-50

136. (1) The Minister of Finance may make direct payments, in an aggregate amount not exceeding four hundred million dollars, to a trust established to provide provinces and territories with funding to support the recruitment of 2,500 new front-line police officers over the next five years.

(2) The amount that may be provided to a province or territory under this section is to be determined in accordance with the terms of the trust indenture establishing the trust.

(3) Any amount payable under this section may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, on the requisition of the Minister of Finance, at the times and in the manner that the Minister of Finance considers appropriate.