



ALBERTA
JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Edmonton - South West*

AR 48941

Ms. Tanya Thorn
Chairperson
Alberta Interim Police Advisory Board
PO Box 20 Station Main
Okotoks AB T1S 1K1

Dear Ms. Thorn:

Thank you for your report outlining the recommendations that you and the Alberta Interim Police Advisory Board (AIPAB) have made towards the implementation of the operational board to replace the interim board. I have now had an opportunity to review and discuss the submission, and am pleased to provide the following comments and direction in response.

Scope and Terms of Reference for the Operational Board

The AIPAB was created as a means for Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) municipalities to have input into provincial policing priorities, into provincial police business and financial plans, and into the build-up of the provincial police service resources related to the Police Funding Model (PFM). Within its mandate, the AIPAB was to develop recommendations on the scope and terms of reference for an operational board.

It was the AIPAB's recommendation in its Report on Governance, that the operational board's mandate should be broadened to represent all municipalities policed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), both PPSA and Municipal Police Service Agreement (MPSA) municipalities. As such, the operational board would collaborate with the Government of Alberta (GoA) and the RCMP on provincial policing priorities and serve as a communication conduit between all municipalities served by the RCMP, rather than as a voice for PPSA municipalities.

It is the ministry's determination that the operational board will continue to represent those communities that receive day-to-day policing services from the RCMP paid for by Alberta and the PFM. As is the case with the interim board, *the operational board will continue to provide a voice for PPSA municipalities into provincial policing priorities and provincial police service resourcing and initiatives.*

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Governance Structure and the Recruitment and Selection of the Operational Board

The AIPAB was further tasked with developing the governance documents for the operational board, including items such as a terms of reference, a competency matrix, a code of conduct, conflict of interest documents, and a mandate and roles document, along with a recruitment and selection process for operational board members. The AIPAB's dedication, time, and thoroughness in developing the governance documents included in the report is recognized and the documents will provide an excellent framework as we move forward to the operational board. Some modifications will be required to reflect my decisions set out in this letter.

In respect of the proposed recruitment and selection process, I also appreciate the reflection and considerations that went into developing the proposed process in which AIPAB would directly administer the recruitment and selection process of members to the operational board. However, *there is a standard GoA process to recruit and select members for agencies, boards and commissions, which I confirm will be utilized*, and through that process, all selected board members will require an appointment by the Minister before assuming their role. While that standard process will apply, *the ministry will also ensure that recruitment and selection further provides for regional representation in the appointments* consistent with the AIPAB's recommendation in that regard.

Mandate and Responsibilities for the Operational Board

In its Report on Governance, the AIPAB further developed recommendations around the mandate and responsibilities of the operational board, proposing that the operational board more broadly provide input, advice and recommendations on policing-related issues that it identifies as relevant. Going forward, it is determined that the operational board mandate and responsibilities will remain consistent with those set out in the originating terms of reference for the interim board, with the ability *to provide input, advice, and recommendations on any other issues, plans, or documents as determined by the GoA, in consultation with the operational board*.

Other AIPAB Recommendations

It is noted that in its Report on Governance the AIPAB also identified operational board financial support and permanency of the operational board as key considerations in moving forward and enabling an operational board to meet its mandate.

A. Financial Support

The AIPAB was primarily established in response to municipal requests to have a greater voice in the setting of provincial policing priorities, particularly given the new police funding model being implemented. Given the work completed by the AIPAB over the past year and a half, it requested that the ministry provide an annual budget for the operational board to provide for such things as administrative and information technology support, research projects, and report development as well as honoraria and expenses. While the ministry finance department will need to determine a concrete cost analysis and budget, I can confirm that *financial assistance for the operational board is supported in order to provide for honoraria, expenses, and a part-time administrative position to assist the operational board*.

B. Term of the Operational Board

The Terms of Reference provided to the AIPAB indicated that, when formed, the operational board would be in place for a four-year term to align with the five-year period of the *Police Funding Regulation* (PFR). The interim and operational board were intended to be in place during the same five-year period as the PFR, and to have the board's purpose and existence reviewed along with the police funding model and other PFR provisions prior to the end of the PFR five-year term.

In its Report on Governance, the AIPAB recommended that the operational board be formed as a permanent entity in order to benefit from "the hard work of all parties in developing the board's mandate and purpose" and that if not established as a permanent operational board, it "would send a negative message to municipal and community stakeholders about the importance of ongoing policing-related collaboration in the province".

While I appreciate the commitment of AIPAB board members and value the input of the municipalities, it is determined that the operational board be created with a term consistent with the original intention. *The operational board will have a term that extends to the end of the PFR period, and include a review prior to the term end in order to revisit the operational board's continued role, structure, and mandate.* This decision is not intended to diminish the important work of the AIPAB or an operational board, but it is intended to remain consistent with the PFR legislation and the intent of the initiatives implemented in that context. It also recognizes that other important work is underway respecting police service and oversight delivery, which may impact a review of the operational board's mandate as we near the end of the five-year term.

Again, I thank you for your dedication and commitment, and I appreciate the thought and consideration that went into this important work. Department staff will work with you to implement the operational board within the context of these governance decisions.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kaycee Madu', written in a cursive style.

Kaycee Madu, QC
Minister