



**Attorney General
Justice
Office of the Minister**

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To: Chief Administrative Officers

RE: ADDITIONAL OFFICER PROGRAM

I am writing to you regarding the revitalization of the Additional Officer Program (AOP).

As you know, the Additional Officer Program was established in 2007 to address existing policing issues at that time. After more than a decade in existence and given the evolution of policing challenges and priorities, the Department of Justice undertook a review of the program in 2017. This review included engagement with police and other stakeholders across the Province.

The review resulted in several recommendations for change, including but not limited to, that:

- a program director be established to revitalize the program in order to enhance the safety and security of Nova Scotians across the province. The program director will work with police leaders and stakeholders to ensure that provincial priorities, community level concerns and cross-border crime are addressed.
- the AOP be structured to allow for the flexibility of resources to address regional needs and support provincial policing priorities, (i.e. sexual assault, domestic violence and cybercrime). This is based on the understanding that crime crosses municipal and county border.
- AOP resources support prevention efforts based on emerging and immediate trends province-wide, with a particular focus on human trafficking, mental health and restorative justice.

We are pleased to advise that funding was approved in the 2019/2020 provincial budget process to ensure the continuation and revitalization of the AOP and that the above recommendations are being implemented.

As the Department of Justice works toward hiring a Program Director, we will reach out to our partners to further explain and seek input. We look forward to revitalizing the program to better support the shared goal of the safety and security of Nova Scotians.

If you have questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact Wanda Fletcher, Acting Executive Director, Public Safety and Security Division, at wanda.fletcher@novascotia.ca or at (902) 424-3178.

Yours truly,



Mark Furey