



Item No. 4
Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality
June 4, 2025

TO: Chair and Commissioners of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality

FROM: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 21, 2025

SUBJECT: Forensic Firearms Laboratory Contribution Agreement

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This is a staff-initiated information report.

BACKGROUND

The Government of Canada via the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada established the Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund ("GGVAF") to support projects that contribute to the achievement of Canada's objectives to support law enforcement and intervention initiatives at the provincial/territorial, municipal, and community levels to support police services and other organizations in enhancing efforts to prevent, disrupt, and combat gun and gang violence, and increase awareness and understanding of related issues.

The Province of Nova Scotia entered into a Contribution Agreement with Canada on March 26, 2024, for the purpose of a "Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund - Nova Scotia". The Province wished to distribute this funding to entities that seek to achieve the goals of the GGVAF and has directed funding for the purchase forensic firearm and projectile tracking and identification technology, upgrade current capabilities, integrate systems into national firearms databases, and purchase training for members of the Halifax Regional Police ("the Project") in order to create a Forensic Firearms Laboratory situated with the Halifax Regional Police. The Forensic Firearms Laboratory will be accessible to all police services and law enforcement agencies in the province.

DISCUSSION

On March 28, 2025, a Contribution agreement was signed between the province of Nova Scotia and the Halifax Regional Municipality to distribute \$680,000 to Halifax Regional Municipality. The Halifax Regional Municipality will use the funds for costs associated with the creation of a Forensic Firearms Laboratory, situated with the Halifax Regional Police, for use by all law enforcement agencies in Nova Scotia at no cost.

The Project will facilitate efficient and timely access to forensic firearms technology, ensuring the most effective investigation and prosecution of crimes related to gun and gang violence.

Specifically, the Halifax Regional Police will use \$660,000 to purchase forensic technology to track and identify firearms, upgrade current forensic firearms technology, work to integrate the laboratory into the Canadian Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (CIBIN), a database containing information about unsolved cases involving firearms in Canada, and purchase associated training for Halifax Regional Police staff and officers.

\$20,000 will be used to purchase a fume hood for firearm serial number restoration to allow police to safely restore damaged and defaced serial numbers on illegal firearms and those used in firearms offences and to support additional police operations to combat gun and gang violence.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications at this time. The system has a full warranty for 5 years.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia *Police Act*. 2004, c. 55:

Section (3), states:

(3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a board shall...

(c) ensure that community needs and values are reflected in policing priorities, objectives, goals, programs and strategies;

(d) ensure that police services are delivered in a manner consistent with community values, needs and expectations;

(e) act as a conduit between the community and the police service providers;

Section 53(1), states:

53(1) The Board shall annually cause the chief to prepare a budget for the police department.

Halifax Charter, section 35(1), states:

35(1) The Chief Administrative Officer shall (b) ensure that an annual budget is prepared and submitted to the Council.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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