

## ***MEDIA RELEASE*** *for immediate release*

### ***Mayors' Concerns Continue in regards to the High Cost of Provincial Policing***

**April 20, 2012** - Representing over 70 Municipalities serviced by the Ontario Provincial Police, The Mayors Coalition for Affordable, Sustainable, Accountable Policing continues to champion the urgent need for an immediate halt to ever-escalating policing costs.

While the Coalition applauds the commencement of the Ministry-led Policing Task Force, we remain concerned that the Task Force is not allowed to speak to or review the items of true and significant concern. The items not allowed to be discussed by the Task Force include:

- The province-wide model for developing municipal police costs;
- The adequacy standards and/or other legislative or regulatory requirements for policing;
- The policy or practice for collective bargaining with the OPPA.

Given that the items of true importance will not be addressed and therefore not resolved at the Task Force level, the need for Municipalities to lead and be the primary advocates of cost reducing Policing measures and change is paramount. Recognizing this need, the Mayors Coalition continue to build the necessary move forward elements.

- 1) Communications updates to our fellow municipalities are being released
- 2) A Coalition web site is under construction
- 3) The search for a communication strategist, public relations firm and a "Drummond" like third party is underway
- 4) A Coalition funding plan that reaches across all 343 OPP policed municipalities is developed

The Mayors Coalition is making every attempt to communicate with the Ministry and have invited the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services to meet during the upcoming Ontario Small Urban Municipalities Conference (OSUM) being held in Huntsville during the first week of May.

During the OSUM Conference Coalition members, Cochrane Mayor Peter Politis and Penetanguishene Mayor Gerry Marshall will take part in a live panel discussion on the high costs of policing. An invitation has been sent to Ministry staff involved in the Task Force to participate in this extremely important discussion and to ensure that continuing progress is being made leading up to the AMO Conference in Ottawa which will mark the one year anniversary since this matter was formally raised to the Minister.

#### **For media requiring additional information, please contact:**

For further information contact a member of the Committee:  
Cochrane Mayor Peter Politis - Peter.Politis@cochraneontario.com  
Arnprior Mayor David Reid - dreid@arnprior.ca  
Penetanguishene Mayor Gerry Marshall - gmarshall@penetanguishene.ca  
Parry Sound Mayor Jamie McGarvey - jmcgarvey@townofparrysound.com  
Norfolk Mayor Dennis Travale - Dennis.Travale@norfolkcounty.ca.  
Tillsonburg Mayor John Lessif. - JLessif@Tillsonburg.ca