

Mayor's Coalition compliments Task Force, OPSBA and Future of Police Advisory Committee (FPAC)

Good afternoon Mayor.

The coalition continues to receive excellent support across the province and our numbers are growing every day. Not only do we see OPP policed municipalities joining, we also see Municipalities with their own force recognizing areas of common concern and they are joining as well.

Two questions we receive the most are what is the Mayors Coalition doing that is different from the OAPSB? And what are you doing that is different from the AMO efforts?. This line of questioning is certainly apropos and we felt that rather than answering these questions in a one off manner that we would respond to all.

The Mayors Coalition for Affordable, Sustainable, Accountable, Policing is a consortium of concerned municipalities who have formed a temporary coalition of the public's elected representatives seeking to address the need for a complete shift from current policy, in order to act on the unsustainable cost of the service.

The Mayors Coalition provides a distinct difference from existing advocacies such as A.M.O. and Police Service Boards.

While PSB's are an important part of the service, they are a component of the current policy and do not have the mandate to go outside of that. At the same time, there are some key logistical barriers to the OAPSB in regards to the policy shift we are seeking that include:

- 60% of OPP communities do not have a PSB. *Those that do do not have the mandate to deal with police costing issues.*
- And the OPP's PSB's and OPP PAC's do not have the mandate related to contracts and finances.

A.M.O. is our Municipal Association and is an integral part of how we as municipalities advocate our interests. However, A.M.O. has many other interests to manage that can confuse the task at hand. As well, they are already sitting on a policing task force formed by the province with a very specific mandate that does not allow for reforms to the current policy or legislation. Regardless, the task force that AMO currently sits on is an important part of reviewing the status quo and they are working hard within that.

The Mayors Coalition is the highest level of political influence that is attempting to reform policing policy and legislation at a level outside of the OAPSB and that of AMO's role. *It will take all three bodies to have effective change take place quickly, we in fact compliment each others efforts. At the end of the day it will be the political body at Queen's Park who will decide on any changes. This is an urgent issue impacting each of our municipalities ability to manage the budgets, we the elected representatives will be the conduit to have open dialogue with Minister Muillier and the Government to bring about the necessary changes.*

The Mayors Coalition must first determine if there is the will by the Province to reform the partnership to be that of a true partnership where cost and strategy control are shared. There are two possible outcomes from this determination.

1) If this is acceptable, then the Coalition can form a municipal working group from across the province to work on the details of the subsequent reforms of the status quo to meet this new partnership.

2) If the Province decides not to engage in a real partnership, then the Mayors Coalition must focus on having the Province remove the collection for payment of their service from the municipal tax levy all together.

In either case, a specialized consortium of public representatives is required that goes well beyond the mandates of current advocate groups is required.

The Mayors Coalition is not an advocacy but rather a consortium of municipalities seeking a reformed partnership model, or the complete removal of the payment for the service from the municipal tax levy all together.

The OAPSB and AMO are an important part of the solution going forward and can play an important role in the reforms being sought. In this we look forward to working in harmony with these groups and appreciate their integral support going forward as well.

Have a great week,

Mayor Gerry Marshall
Town of/Ville de Penetanguishene