



BRIEFING NOTE

Policing

December 19, 2011

1. Front Line Policing

Issue:

Policing and public safety is the fastest-growing cost for municipalities, surpassing even health care, and now exceeds 20% of spending for the average local budget. Without a new approach, other essential services will suffer. The Police Officer Recruitment Fund is set to expire in March 2013 and must be replaced.

Key Messages:

- The Ontario share of the Police Officer Recruitment Fund has enabled the hiring of up to 329 new police officers in Ontario communities.
- These officers are needed to ensure the safety of these communities.
- A coordinated approach involving all levels of government is required to address the issues of the allocation of resources for policing.
- Without a plan, competition for resources will escalate and create challenges for recruitment and retention.

Background:

Municipalities pay more than 60% of Canada's policing costs, including many activities under the core responsibilities of the RCMP. The Police Officer Recruitment Fund was established in 2008 with a budget of \$80M per year for 5 years. Ontario's share of the fund is set at \$156M. This funding provides roughly 70 percent of what is required to fund the promised officer positions across the country.

2. Crime Prevention Programs

Issue:

As resources become scarcer, emphasis will be on reactive rather than proactive policing (i.e. crime prevention).

Key Messages:

- The City of London endorses the position of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) that programs which attack the causes of crime and deter troubled youths from becoming career criminals should be supported.
- A new approach involving all levels of government is needed to fight crime and allocate resources.

Background:

The *Police Services Act* mandates all Chiefs of Police ensure crime prevention remains a core function of all police services. It is the responsibility of police services to provide adequate crime prevention services to ensure community policing standards are delivered and crime prevention levels are monitored and evaluated.