



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **YORK REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES 2008 POLICE BUDGET**

York Regional Council has approved the 2008 police operating budget, giving York Regional Police the tools it needs to maintain and enhance its community-based crime prevention and law enforcement services as the region continues to grow.

The net operating budget for 2008 is \$196.8 million. The capital budget totals \$15 million.

In keeping with the York Regional Police Five-Year Staffing Plan, 67 officers and 35 civilians will be added to the force in 2008, with 27 of the 67 officers going to frontline duties.

"These new officers and civilians will assist us in responding to issues the community has identified as important, including violent crime, guns and gangs, traffic safety, crimes against property and drug control and enforcement," said Chief Armand La Barge. "I would like to thank the Members of Regional Council and the Police Services Board for their continued strong leadership and their support of safer communities. Safety and security are important issues to our citizens and I am confident York Regional Police will continue to exceed their expectations in this area."

Forty-three of the 67 new officers will be assigned to District operations which include frontline patrol, Criminal Investigation Bureaus and the Community Oriented Response Units. Eleven officers will go to Support Services including Traffic, Incident Response and the Canine Unit. Five will be assigned to Community Services, two will be assigned to Investigative Services, three officers will be assigned duties in Staff Services and three officers will be assigned to Corporate Communications and the Duty Office.

Danny Wheeler, Chairman of the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board, said all board members worked hard to ensure the budget increases were understood and approved by Regional Council. "With the growth York Region is experiencing, the additional officers will not only improve police visibility across the region, it will also ensure we remain one of the safest communities in Canada," he said.

The operating budget will benefit from funding from the provincial Safer Communities – 1,000 Officer Partnership Program and the provincial Community Police Partnership grants. In 2008, York Regional Police will receive an estimated \$5.9 million in cost-sharing funding for a total of 179 officers.

The capital budget allows for the purchase of additional and replacement vehicles; plans for a new Investigative and Support Services facility to move forward; several Information Technology projects and the purchase of specialized policing equipment.

Prepared by: Kathleen Griffin  
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