



MEDIA RELEASE

York Regional Council approves 2011 Police Budget

York Regional Council today approved the 2011 police operating and capital budgets, giving York Regional Police the tools it needs to maintain its community-based crime prevention and law enforcement programs as the region continues to grow.

For 2011, the net operating budget is \$239.2 million. The capital budget is \$10.3 million. The service will be adding 28 officers and 10 civilians in 2011 with 93 per cent of the officers being assigned to frontline duties.

Extensive consultation with our community stakeholders identified the top five community concerns as crimes against property, traffic safety, crime prevention programs, guns and gangs and drug control and enforcement. The addition of these new officers will help York Regional Police address these important community priorities and improve police visibility in neighbourhoods across the region.

Fourteen officers will be assigned across our five Districts. Region-wide speciality units, including Traffic, Youth Programs, Crime Prevention and Special Investigations & Support will receive a total of 12 additional officers. Two new officers will be assigned to training and education duties.

"I would like to thank members of Regional Council and the Police Services Board for their continued support of our mission to ensure our citizens feel safe and secure through excellence in policing," said Chief Eric Jolliffe. "We also appreciate the confidence of our community as we continue to build an organization that is vision-inspired, mission-focused and values-driven."

Danny Wheeler, Chairman of the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board, thanked the board members for their diligence in ensuring that the police budget would be approved by Regional Council. "The addition of these officers will ensure that we continue to be the safest community in Canada."

The operating budget continues to benefit from funding from three government grant programs - the federal Police Recruitment Fund, the provincial Safer Communities 1,000 Officer Partnership Program and the provincial Community Police Partnership. In 2011, York Regional Police will receive an estimated \$6.6 million in funding from these grants, which will help subsidize the salaries of a total 189 existing officers.

The capital budget will fund the creation of a Marine Headquarters, the renovation of the existing #3 District facility, the annual purchase of additional and replacement vehicles, Information Technology maintenance and upgrades and the purchase of specialized policing and communication equipment.

For more information, please contact Corporate Communications at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7977.

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March 24, 2011

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