



YORK REGIONAL POLICE
Corporate Communications
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4W5

MEDIA RELEASE

Public Affairs
1-866-876-5423 ext. 7099 or 7977
Fax: (905) 895-0036
Email: 1011@yrp.ca
1042@yrp.ca

YORK REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES 2009 POLICE BUDGET

York Regional Council today approved the 2009 police operating budget, giving York Regional Police the tools it needs to maintain its community-based crime prevention and law enforcement services as the region continues to grow.

The net operating budget for 2009 is \$211.2 million. The capital budget of \$47.1 million was approved on December 18, 2008.

In keeping with York Region's population growth, 38 officers and 14 civilians will be added to the service in 2009, with 23 of the 38 officers going to uniform duties.

"These new officers and civilian staff members will enable York Regional Police to better respond to issues the community has identified as priorities, such as violent crime, aggressive driving and drug use," said Chief Armand La Barge. "I would like to thank members of Regional Council and the Police Services Board for their continued investment in the safety and security of this great region that our citizens so proudly call home."

Twelve of the 38 new officers will be assigned to District operations which include frontline patrol, Criminal Investigation Bureaus and the Community Oriented Response Units. Nine officers will go to Investigative Services units including Bail Management, Intelligence and Drugs and Vice. Seven will be assigned to Community Services, four will be assigned to Support Services, three officers will be assigned duties in Staff Services and three officers will be assigned to Professional Standards and the Professional Development Bureau.

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 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 2009, 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 allows for the construction phase of the new Investigative and Support Services facility in Aurora, the annual purchase of additional and replacement vehicles; to maintain and upgrade Information Technology equipment; renovations; and the purchase of specialized policing and communication equipment.

Prepared by: Kathleen Griffin
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