

Ministry of Community Safety
and Correctional Services

Office of the Minister

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Ministère de la Sécurité communautaire
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By e-mail

Dear Chief Administrative Officer:

I am pleased to share with you the attached resources that have been developed to support municipalities as they begin undertaking the community safety and well-being planning process. I encourage you to share these resources with your members and their partners, as they begin to develop and implement their local community safety and well-being plans.

As you know, on January 1, 2019, new legislative amendments to the *Police Services Act, 1990* came into force which mandate every municipality to prepare and adopt a community safety and well-being plan. As part of these legislative changes, municipalities are required to work in partnership with police services and other various sectors, including health/mental health, education, community/social services and children/youth services as they undertake the planning process. Municipalities have two years from the in-force date to prepare and adopt their first community safety and well-being plan (i.e. by January 1, 2021). Municipalities also have the flexibility to develop joint plans with neighbouring municipalities and/or First Nations communities, which may be of value to create the most effective community safety and well-being plan that meets the unique needs of the area.

These amendments support Ontario's modernized approach to community safety and well-being which involves taking an integrated approach to service delivery by working collaboratively across sectors to proactively address crime and complex social issues on a sustainable basis. Through this approach, municipalities will have a leadership role in identifying local priority risks in the community and implementing evidence-based programs and strategies to address these risks before they escalate to a situation of crisis.

It is important to note that the provisions related to mandating community safety and well-being planning will continue in the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019, which was introduced on February 19, 2019. If passed, this bill would repeal and replace the Police Services Act, 2018 and the Ontario Special Investigations Unit Act, 2018. The bill would also repeal the Policing Oversight Act, 2018 and the Ontario Policing Discipline Tribunal Act, 2018. A new provision is also included under the bill which, once in force, will require the participation of the local police service in the development of the plan.

My ministry is committed to supporting municipalities, and their partners, in meeting these new legislative requirements. As a first step, the ministry is offering community safety and well-being planning webinars over the next few months to assist municipalities as they begin the process. The webinars will provide an overview of the new community safety and well-being planning requirements,

as well as guidance on how to develop and implement effective plans. The webinars will be offered on the following dates/times, and there will be both English and French-only sessions available:

March 7, 2019

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

April 25, 2019

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

May 9, 2019

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

March 19, 2019 (French only)

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

April 11, 2019

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May 15, 2019 (French only)

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

March 21, 2019

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

May 23, 2019

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Please note, the content of the webinars will be the same for each session. To register for a webinar, please send your request to SafetyPlanning@ontario.ca with the date/time that you would like to register for.

In addition, the ministry has also developed a Frequently Asked Questions document to provide more information and clarification related to community safety and well-being planning (see Appendix A).

Municipalities are encouraged to continue to use the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet to support in the planning process (see Appendix B). This booklet has recently been updated to include reference to the new legislative requirements, an additional critical success factor that highlights the importance of cultural responsiveness in the planning process, and a new resource to assist municipalities with engaging local Indigenous partners. The updated version is also available on the ministry's [website](#).

We greatly appreciate your continued support as we move forward on this modernized approach to community safety and well-being together. If communities have any questions, please feel free to direct them to my ministry staff, Tiana Biordi, Community Safety Analyst, at Tiana.Biordi@ontario.ca or Jwan Aziz, Community Safety Analyst, at Jwan.Aziz@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Jones

Minister

Enclosures (2)