



News Release

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OPP COSTS ESCALATE, AUDITOR GENERAL SAYS

(TORONTO) Many of the concerns identified in the 2005 audit of the Ontario Provincial Police related to staff deployment and controlling costs continue to exist today, Auditor General Jim McCarter says in his *2012 Annual Report*.

“Although crime rates and serious motor vehicle accidents have been declining for a number of years, OPP expenditures continue to increase at well above the inflation rate,” McCarter said today after the release of the Report. “Most of the OPP’s costs are associated with officer salaries, so it is critical that staffing be based on actual demand for services—in essence, having the right number of officers working in the right place at the right time.”

The audit found that the same number of officers were deployed at peak demand times as during slow early-morning hours, and OPP management had little control over shift scheduling at detachments, with almost all officers choosing to work 12-hour shifts, which offer more days off.

OPP operating expenditures totalled \$979 million in fiscal 2011/12, with staffing costs making up 87% of that. Overtime costs have increased by 60% since 2004/05, to \$53 million in 2011/12. The OPP’s expenditures, net of recoveries from municipalities, have increased 27% over the last five years, despite the declining rates of crime and serious motor vehicle accidents. This trend in expenditures is similar to that of many other large police forces in Canada.

Following are some of the Auditor General’s other significant findings:

- The OPP uses a staffing model that is almost 30 years old and which is used to deploy only about 45% of the 2,800 front-line officers, and, accordingly, officers face significantly different workloads depending on the detachment to which they are assigned. The OPP also lacks a model or method to ensure the other 2,200 non-frontline officers and civilians at detachments are efficiently and effectively deployed.
- OPP officers are among the highest-paid police in Canada. Officers and civilian employees receive benefits that other members of the Ontario public service are not entitled to, including better pension benefits and other allowances.

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