

**Ministry of the Solicitor General**

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**Ministère du Solliciteur général**

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**MEMORANDUM TO:**

All Chiefs of Police and  
Commissioner Thomas Carrique  
Chairs, Police Services Boards

**FROM:**

Tony Tessarolo, for  
Stephen Waldie  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division

**SUBJECT:**

**Update on Ontario's Guns, Gangs and Violence  
Reduction Strategy**

<b>DATE OF ISSUE:</b>	<b>August 28, 2019</b>
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As an update to the public announcement and All Chiefs Memorandum # 19-0028, distributed in March 2019, on August 26, 2019 the Ontario government publicly announced that it will be extending its province-wide efforts to curb gun crime and reduce gang activity.

An additional investment of \$54 million over three years starting in 2020-21 will be provided to support Ontario's Guns, Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy (GGVRS). This will further act as a deterrent to crime and aid law enforcement and justice partners to ensure that individuals responsible for gun and gang violence are promptly brought to justice. The GGVRS also includes investments that promote alternatives to gangs, break the cycle of offending and prevent violence before it starts.

Ontario is extending initiatives announced earlier this year and investing in new initiatives that will begin in 2020-21. New initiatives will include:

- Those focused on combatting human trafficking, including enhancements to survivor supports, investments in dedicated prosecution resources, and future enhancements to the Safer and Vital Communities Grant Program.
- Creating a new Intensive Firearm Bail Team in Peel to support bail hearings and proceedings for gun-related offences in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

- Establishing a GTA/Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) Gun and Gang Fund that will support major investigations which target the organized crime areas that fuel gun and gang operations, specifically within the GTA/GGH area.
  - Eligible police services, serving the geographic areas of the Greater Golden Horseshoe, will be able to apply for funding beginning in April 2020 through the Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario.
  - Note that all police services will also continue to be able to apply for funding under the Gun and Gang Specialized Investigations Fund (GGSIF) through the Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario. The GGSIF provides province-wide support for major investigations.
- Creating a new Eastern Ontario Gun and Gang Team that will work closely with the Ottawa Police Service. The East Region team is staffed with four Assistant Crown Attorneys, who will provide prosecutorial support for complex investigative projects and an intensive firearms and gang-specific bail strategy.

Funding will also be used to extend initiatives that the government began implementing earlier this year, including the Provincial Gun and Gang Support Unit, the GGSIF, the Ottawa Police Service Gun Violence Suppression Strategy, and the creation of Justice Centres in four locations across the province.

Ensuring public safety is a key priority for our government and we are committed to working with our policing partners to provide them with the tools and resources they need to keep Ontario's communities safe and resilient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Tessarolo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tony Tessarolo, for  
Stephen Waldie  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division