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**MEMORANDUM TO:** All Chiefs of Police and  
Commissioner Thomas Carrique  
Chairs, Police Services Boards

**FROM:** Richard Stubbings  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division

**SUBJECT:** **Changes to Use of Force and Firearms Training  
Requirements During Declaration of Provincial  
Emergency**

<b>DATE OF ISSUE:</b>	<b>April 9, 2020</b>
<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>	<b>General Information</b>
<b>RETENTION:</b>	<b>Indefinite</b>
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<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>High</b>

As part of the continued effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 and provide law enforcement personnel with the tools to do their jobs, the government has made an emergency order under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA) to change use of force and firearms training requirements.

[O. Reg.132/20](#) allows chiefs of police to authorize members of a police service to perform duties involving the use of force or to carry a firearm, provided the member has received the training required under the Equipment and Use of Force Regulation (R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 926) within the 24 month period before the authorization is made, instead of the usual 12 months (e.g., if an officer received use of force and firearm training on April 1, 2019, the officer would be able to perform policing duties despite not “requalifying” on April 1, 2020).

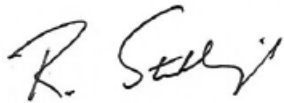
The emergency order will remain in effect for the duration of the declaration of provincial emergency. The chief of police’s authorization would remain in effect as long as the order remains in effect, unless the chief revokes the authorization sooner.

Allowing members to use force and carry firearms if they received training in the previous 24 months will also enable police services boards to reappoint recently retired policing personnel who received training within the past 24 months. This order will support police services boards and chiefs of police in ensuring the continued delivery of public safety services through the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak.

In anticipation of the future backlog of requalification needs once the emergency is over and the 24-month rule no longer applies, the ministry is also exploring changes to the Equipment and Use of Force Regulation under the *Police Services Act* to extend the timeframe for requalification to ensure a seamless transition to a regular training schedule on use of force.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stubbings". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Richard Stubbings  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division