

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: **Basic Constable Training (BCT) Program**

DATE OF ISSUE:	June 1, 2020
CLASSIFICATION:	General Information
RETENTION:	Indefinite
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PRIORITY:	High

Further to All Chiefs Memo 20-0042, the ministry is pleased to confirm that the next intake of the Basic Constable Training (BCT) program will commence at the Ontario Police College (OPC) on June 24, 2020 for municipal and First Nation police services and the Ontario Provincial Police.

All police services have been granted their full request for seats on the BCT program and allocations will be communicated to training bureaus. Training bureaus will also be asked to update the request for seats (as required) and commence with submitting applications for recruits starting immediately.

As you know, the ministry has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak as it continues to evolve. To ensure that OPC can conduct a BCT intake in a safe and efficient manner, a mitigation strategy has been developed to mitigate the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak at OPC including:

- Moving to a six (6) day per week training program from a five (5) day per week program to reduce the intake length from 12 weeks to 10 weeks;
- Recruits will be asked to engage in a two-week isolation prior to attending the program and will be screened upon arrival at the College by health centre staff;
- Temperature checks will be performed twice daily with touchless thermometers to ensure the health of recruits and staff;

- Recruits will be required to follow physical distancing protocols and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when physical distancing is not possible (e.g., in Defensive Tactics and Police Vehicle Operations training);
- Staff not directly involved with the delivery of the BCT program will limit all interaction with recruits and instructional staff;
- All non-essential lessons (e.g., guest speakers) and events (e.g., March Past Ceremony and Banquet) will be cancelled;
- Recruits will be required to eat all three meals with their class at their designated table and time; and
- Significantly increased cleaning protocols have been implemented using a Health Canada-approved COVID-19 disinfectant for touch points including doorknobs, railings, and handles, common area couches and seating areas, bathrooms, and food services areas.

Recruits will be provided with detailed joining instructions outlining the specific mitigation strategies and the responsibilities of recruits prior to and while attending the BCT program via Training Bureaus.

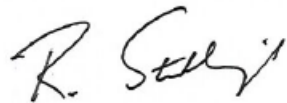
OPC has consulted with the Southwestern Public Health Unit, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Ontario, and the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development to ensure that the mitigation strategy includes their recommendations and all relevant and current guidance available.

In addition to the BCT program being delivered onsite at the OPC Aylmer campus, OPC will also be delivering a satellite BCT program using facilities at the Toronto Police College for 60 Toronto Police Service recruits. This training will be delivered by OPC as a pilot project due to the current COVID-19 outbreak and will be overseen and evaluated by OPC to ensure the requirements of the BCT program are satisfied and to determine feasibility of satellite delivery of the BCT program moving forward. The Toronto Police College has developed a COVID-19 mitigation strategy based on consultations with public health officials and internal occupational health and safety staff.

Should you have any questions related to the next BCT intake, please contact Paul Hebert, Director, by e-mail at Paul.Hebert@ontario.ca or by phone at (519) 773-4200. Should you have questions related to registration, please contact the OPC Registration Office at OPCRegistrar@ontario.ca.

We would like to thank the Executive Education and Training Advisory Group (EETAG) for their ongoing support and collaboration on developing options and ensuring the delivery of the next BCT intake. We would also like to thank you for your patience and understanding during this rapidly evolving situation.

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