

Solicitor General

Office of the Solicitor General

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132-2021-4188
By email

October 14, 2021

Dear Head of Council/Chief Administrative Officer/Municipal Clerk:

On behalf of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, I want to thank all municipalities, together with their multi-sectoral partners, that have taken steps towards developing, adopting and implementing their local community safety and well-being (CSWB) plans.

As you know, the ministry extended the deadline for the completion and adoption of CSWB plans to July 1, 2021, to provide municipalities with an additional six months from the original deadline of January 1, 2021. Since then, we have received an overwhelming response from municipalities regarding their CSWB planning progress. This includes the submission of completed and interim plans and status updates. To date, of the 372 municipalities required to prepare and adopt a CSWB plan, 95 per cent (356 municipalities) have plans that are completed or in progress.

The development and completion of these plans demonstrates municipal leadership and commitment to proactively addressing crime and complex social issues facing your communities. Municipalities are best positioned to work with local partners to develop effective community strategies and programs and create sustainable communities that respond to local needs and conditions.

At this time, we are encouraging municipalities who have not already done so, to please submit their completed CSWB plan or provide an update on their CSWB planning status to the ministry via the following email address: SOLGEN.Correspondence@ontario.ca. Additionally, as a reminder, municipalities are required to publish their completed plans online within 30 days of adoption.

As you may be aware, under the *Police Services Act*, the Solicitor General has the power to enforce the CSWB planning requirements by appointing a CSWB planner to any municipalities that repeatedly and intentionally fail to complete a plan, at the municipality's expense. However, our government recognizes that municipalities are currently facing unprecedented circumstances in their communities due to the on-going impact of COVID-19. We also understand that some municipalities may experience delays in their planning and engagement processes as a result of the pandemic.

Ministry staff will continue to look for ways to support our municipal partners to ensure they are able to meet their legislative requirements for CSWB planning. Where possible, municipalities are encouraged to explore alternative and innovative approaches to continue on-going planning efforts, such as through virtual engagement (e.g., webinars, teleconferences, online surveys, etc.).

Municipalities are also encouraged to continue to work with respective police services, local multi-sectoral partners, and community members on the development and implementation of local CSWB plans. Localized, community-driven collaboration remains key to the success of CSWB planning, given the focus on creating workable solutions that are grounded in and tailored to individual community needs and features.

If you have any questions about CSWB planning, please contact Shamitha Devakandan, Community Safety Analyst, Public Safety Division, at Shamitha.Devakandan@ontario.ca.

I greatly appreciate your continued efforts as we move forward on this modernized approach to CSWB together. It is by working together that we can truly build safer and stronger communities in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General