

Solicitor General

Office of the Solicitor General

25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tel: 416 326-5000
Toll Free: 1-866-517-0571
SOLGEN.Correspondence@ontario.ca

Solliciteur général

Bureau du solliciteur général

25, rue Grosvenor, 18^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tél. : 416 326-5000
Sans frais : 1-866-517-0571
SOLGEN.Correspondence@ontario.ca



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By email

January 21, 2022

Dear Chief Administrative Officer/Municipal Clerk:

The Ministry of the Solicitor General is committed to keeping communities across Ontario safe, supported and protected.

In fall 2020, the ministry hired an independent consultant, Goss Gilroy Inc., to conduct a review of court security and prisoner transportation in Ontario, including the design of the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (CSPT) Transfer Payment (TP) Program. Under the CSPT TP Program, the ministry provides funding to municipalities to assist them in offsetting costs associated with both court security and prisoner transportation.

The review is part of the ministry's ongoing work to leverage technology and improve public safety to build a more responsive and efficient justice system across the province. This includes initiatives such as the Criminal Justice Digital Design (CJDD) and the Criminal Justice Video Strategy (CJVS). CJDD is modernizing the criminal justice sector by digitizing criminal case records and connecting IT systems to ensure data flows seamlessly from police, prosecution, courts and corrections and is readily available to the right people at the right time for decision-making. In addition, CJVS is designed to increase the use of video technology for most types of in-custody court appearances. This reduces the need to transport accused between correctional institutions and courthouses and in turn, improves safety and overall system efficiencies.

Municipalities, police services and other justice sector partners were engaged during the review of court security and prisoner transportation. This review is now complete and in turn, the ministry would like to share the enclosed high-level summary and full report (enclosed). We appreciate the time and effort provided by individuals and organizations during the review process. As a result, valuable feedback on how we can strengthen best practices, as well as explore ways to improve the delivery of court security and prisoner transportation was obtained.

The ministry is taking a phased approach in response to the program review to ensure a pathway for future planning and continuous improvement predicated on good evidence that addresses gaps in the program review. It is important to note that there will be no changes to the overall funding envelope of the CSPT TP Program, subject to the regular fiscal process.

Public safety is a top priority for our government and providing our frontline police and their municipal partners with the tools, resources and financial supports they need to protect our communities is critical to this endeavor.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you and other municipal and justice sector partners on court security and prisoner transportation and on other shared public safety priorities.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the CSPT program review or if you would like a French version of the full report, please contact Michelina Longo, Director, External Relations Branch at Michelina.Longo@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

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

Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General

Enclosures (2)