



**Inspectorate
of Policing**

**Service d'inspection
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Terms of Reference for Province-Wide Inspection on Police Integrity and Anti-Corruption Practices

MANDATE

On February 9, 2026, Ontario's Inspector General of Policing ("**Inspector General**"), Ryan Teschner, announced a province-wide inspection to examine police integrity and anti-corruption practices across Ontario's policing sector. The Inspector General has determined that this sector-wide approach is necessary to identify strengths and opportunities to further fortify Ontario's policing system against corruption and integrity risks. The inspection ("**Inspection**") will consist of several interrelated inspections that will focus on issues within defined areas.

Pursuant to subsection 111(1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*,¹ ("**CSPA**"), the Inspector General has appointed the Honourable William Hourigan as the inspector ("**Inspector**") to conduct this work. With this appointment, Inspector Hourigan possesses all the legal authorities required to conduct this Inspection and will prepare and submit Findings Reports that can lead to the Inspector General issuing legally-binding directions ("**Directions**").

The purpose of the Inspection is to conduct a comprehensive, independent and transparent examination of police integrity and anti-corruption practices within the province's policing and police governance sector. The Inspection will gather evidence: to assess any non-compliance with the CSPA and its regulations; to identify any systemic issues, shortcomings and areas for improvement; and to inform any Direction(s) that the Inspector General may issue to improve the performance of police services and boards in preventing, detecting and responding to corruption.

The Inspection is established in recognition of the fact that: (i) all aspects of policing are conducted on behalf of the public and in the public interest; (ii) effective policing requires public confidence in Ontario's police services; (iii) public confidence is primarily built and maintained by police services and boards, and (iv) the policing system is interconnected and has interdependencies, including the sharing of information between organizations, the movement of personnel from one police service to another, and investigations or other matters that involve multiple police services.

The Inspection will cover all of Ontario's police services and police service boards as defined by the CSPA. The sector-wide Inspection will focus on five defined areas, with the ability to examine additional areas as the need arises during the Inspection:

¹ *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, S.O. 2019, c.1, Sched. 1.

1. Supervision and span of control, including a review of the methods and effectiveness of officer supervision

- Primary objectives include:
 - Determine how supervisors are trained to identify areas of vulnerability, early warning signs of corruption and performance deficiencies to address issues before they escalate or propagate;
 - Understand how corruption can progress from individual to systemic corruption within police services; and
 - Determine what practices and approaches ensure the appropriate level of risk-management and supervisory engagement, including by examining best practices from other jurisdictions and sectors.

2. Screening and vetting of police officers and civilian members both at recruitment and on an ongoing basis

- Primary objectives include:
 - Define “corruption” and “corruption risks”;
 - Understand the causes or risk factors that create opportunities for corruption at both the recruitment stage and throughout a policing career;
 - Identify proven practices for preventing and detecting corruption; and
 - Identify effective, evidence-based practices for screening new police service members and active members throughout their career, including when progressing into more senior or high-risk roles, for integrity, suitability, and ability to meet service standards, including by examining best practices from other jurisdictions.

3. Access to police databases and information systems, including permissions, controls and clearances

- Primary objectives include:
 - Identify how police database and information systems can be proactively and reactively monitored, including through the use of Information and Information Technology solutions, to prevent misuse and detect early warning signs of corruption or potentially corrupt activity; and
 - Review role-based access permissions to determine effective approaches for applying the principle of least privilege to ensure police service members only have access to information necessary for their current duties, including by examining best practices from other jurisdictions.

4. Evidence and property management practices

- Primary objectives include:
 - Identify best practices for evidence and property management that comply with regulatory requirements and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*;²
 - Determine how police services can maintain a process to ensure a rigorous, unbroken chain of custody for all physical and digital evidence from the point of seizure through to final disposition; and
 - Understand how to manage the risks of theft and evidence tampering to implement effective precautionary measures, including by examining best practices from other jurisdictions.

² *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Part I of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, being Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982* (U.K.), 1982, c. 11.

5. Substance abuse and fitness for duty

- Primary objectives include:
 - Understand how police services can identify officers who may be struggling with substance abuse or other wellness issues before these issues affect their fitness for duty;
 - Identify evidence-based criteria for prompting and conducting fitness for duty assessments; and
 - Determine how police services can support members' wellness and rehabilitation while maintaining public trust, including by examining best practices from other jurisdictions.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THIS INSPECTION

The Inspector General is appointed through Order-in-Council under the CSPA and is mandated to ensure compliance with the CSPA and its regulations through inspections, investigations, monitoring and advisory services.

This Inspection will be conducted pursuant to Ontario's CSPA and shall operate with the full powers, protections, and immunities afforded thereunder.

The Inspector shall carry out the Inspection in accordance with these terms of reference ("**Terms of Reference**"), the Inspector General's direction, the CSPA and its regulations, and all other applicable legislation and regulations.

The Inspector will have all the authorities and powers of an inspector under Part VII of the CSPA and will conduct the Inspection in accordance with all requirements of the CSPA, including the privilege and confidentiality requirements under sections 118 and 119 of the CSPA. Additionally, the Inspection and any Findings Reports generated will comply with the CSPA, its regulations and other applicable legislation, such as the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("**FIPPA**").³

INSPECTION AUTHORITIES, POWERS AND PROCESS

The Inspector will manage the Inspection in a manner that is efficient, reasonable, and proportionate to fulfil these Terms of Reference, which includes obtaining meaningful information necessary to inform the Inspector in the execution of his duties. The Inspection will be conducted using a combination of the following methods, as appropriate:

- a) review and analysis of policies, procedures, directives, data, reports, and governance frameworks maintained by police services and boards;
- b) interviews and consultations with police chiefs, board members, senior officers, front-line personnel, and other relevant stakeholders, including representatives of police associations;
- c) benchmarking against leading practices in policing and other sectors (where applicable), academic research, and comparable jurisdictions;
- d) site visits and on-site inspections;

³ *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter F. 31.

- e) consultation with individual experts and/or panels of experts as deemed necessary by the Inspector from time to time; and
- f) any other investigative or analytical techniques, including surveys, focus group or innovative engagement approaches, deemed appropriate by the Inspector and consistent with this mandate and relevant authorizations.

In accordance with subsection 111(4) of the CSPA, the Inspector shall not conduct the Inspection for the purpose of determining whether a particular individual's conduct constitutes misconduct under the CSPA. To the extent reasonably possible, activities conducted under the Inspection must not compromise any ongoing police investigation, public prosecution, or misconduct investigation. The Inspector may defer or pause examination of specific matters if the Inspector is satisfied that proceeding would prejudice ongoing or pending criminal investigations, prosecutions, or misconduct investigations. The Inspector may consult with relevant prosecutorial authorities or with the Law Enforcement Complaints Agency regarding any such concerns.

The Inspector will notify the Inspector General if, during the Inspection, they become aware of conduct that may constitute a criminal offence, misconduct, or a matter that otherwise requires notification to the Inspector General pursuant to section 120 of the CSPA. The Inspector General or the Inspector may disclose information obtained as may be required for any law enforcement purpose pursuant to section 119 of the CSPA.

As required by the CSPA, all police services, police services boards and the Ontario Provincial Police shall cooperate fully with the Inspection, including by providing timely and unrestricted access to requested information, records, data, personnel and premises. The Inspector shall notify the Inspector General if the lack of cooperation of an entity or individual involved in the Inspection may affect the Inspector's ability to conduct the Inspection. If the entity or individual identified by the Inspector fails to cooperate with this Inspection within a reasonable time as determined by the Inspector General, the Inspector General may issue such Direction as deemed necessary and as permitted by law to ensure the integrity of the Inspection and the effective fulfilment of these Terms of Reference. For clarity, offences in relation to the conduct of the Inspection pursuant to section 129 of the CSPA apply.

Costs of the Inspection will be borne by the Province of Ontario through the Office of the Inspector General and shall be paid and incurred in accordance with applicable Government of Ontario guidelines and requirements.

The Inspector will provide a financial report on the costs of the Inspection to the Inspector General on an annual basis and as otherwise required, and the Inspector General shall make that information publicly available in the appropriate form.

INSPECTION COUNSEL AND STAFF

The Inspection shall be supported by counsel who may be appointed as inspectors pursuant to subsection 111(1) of the CSPA ("**Inspection Counsel**"). Inspection Counsel shall be responsible for assisting the Inspector in the conduct of the Inspection, including by gathering information, interviewing individuals, engaging experts, and conducting research and analysis. Inspection Counsel shall act at the direction, and on behalf of the Inspector, and shall not act as advocates for any party or special interest.

The Inspection shall be supported by such administrative staff, researchers, investigators, experts, and other personnel as the Inspector considers necessary to carry out the mandate. The Inspector and Inspection Counsel shall have the authority to form retained expert panels as deemed necessary throughout the course of the Inspection to assist in the execution of these Terms of Reference.

TIMING AND REPORTING

The Inspection will be conducted in a timely and thorough manner, reflecting the urgency and importance of the issues under review.

Following the appointment of the Inspector, the Inspector will provide progress updates on the Inspection to the Inspector General at least every six months. The Inspector General shall publish the progress updates on the internet in a manner consistent with applicable legislation, such as the FIPPA. Notwithstanding this timeline, the Inspector, in agreement with the Inspector General, may amend the frequency for which progress updates are provided if the Inspector and Inspector General agree that amending the timeline would better fulfil these Terms of Reference, including the objectives of promoting transparency and public trust.

The Inspector will provide Findings Report(s) to the Inspector General when,

- the Inspector is satisfied that inspection of one of the defined areas under the Inspection is complete and the Findings Report can support the issuing of any Directions by the Inspector General;
- at the conclusion of the entire Inspection; and/or
- at any other time as deemed necessary by the Inspector.

The Inspector General shall independently review all Findings Reports and may, where the report discloses evidence of non-compliance with the CSPA or its regulations, or that an act or omission will likely result in such non-compliance, issue legally-binding Directions to police service(s), police boards(s), and/or chief(s) of police. The Inspector General will publish all Findings Reports and any Directions on the internet, in a manner that complies with the CSPA and its regulations.

AMENDMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

These Terms of Reference may be amended by the Inspector General should such amendment become necessary to clarify the mandate, address unforeseen circumstances, or otherwise ensure the effective operation of the Inspection.

Signed this 23rd day of April, 2026



Ryan Teschner
**Inspector General of Policing
of the Province of Ontario**