

Hon. William Hourigan

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April 23, 2026

Dear Chiefs of Police, Commissioner Carrique and Board Chairs,

I write in my capacity as the Inspector appointed by the Inspector General of Policing, Ryan Teschner, under s. 111 of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (“CSPA”) to inform you that I am commencing a sector-wide inspection of police services and police service boards across Ontario, focused on police integrity and anti-corruption.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce the inspection and outline its scope and objectives. A formal inspection notice, including detailed information regarding methodology, timelines, and expectations for participation, will follow in the coming weeks. Enclosed with this letter are the Terms of Reference that have been established by Inspector General Teschner, and which set out the full mandate and parameters of the inspection.

By way of introduction, I have spent decades in the Ontario and Canadian justice system, most recently serving as a Justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. During my tenure on the Court of Appeal, I acted as a Commissioner of Inquiry in Ontario and completed an investigation for the Government of Alberta under that province’s *Police Act*.

I am supported by Sandra Barton and Adam Bazak of Gowling WLG, who will serve as my Lead Counsel and Associate Lead Counsel, with support from a small team of Gowling WLG litigators. Ms. Barton and Mr. Bazak will both be appointed as inspectors by the Inspector General under the CSPA. Preston Lim, one of the lawyers who worked with me on the investigation for the Government of Alberta, will also be appointed as an inspector. We will approach this work with rigour, focusing on whether the systems designed to protect police integrity are working as intended, and supporting police officers and civilian members in delivering high-quality services that keep communities across Ontario safe.

Purpose and Nature of the Inspection

I want to emphasize at the outset that this inspection is organizational or institutional in nature and will examine issues of anti-corruption and integrity as it relates to police services and boards as organizational actors within Ontario’s policing system. This inspection is not an investigation into the conduct of any individual officer or civilian member. As intended by Inspector General Teschner, this inspection will be system-focused and forward-looking, designed to strengthen the institutional frameworks that support police integrity across Ontario. The inspection will not

interfere with any existing judicial process and will seek not to duplicate any quasi-judicial or regulatory process.

As part of this inspection, the inspection team will be required to:

1. determine how police services and police service boards are meeting statutory and regulatory expectations through governance, oversight, and operational practices in relation to integrity, accountability, and public trust; and
2. examine how police services and police service boards design, implement, and oversee institutional frameworks and operational practices that support police integrity and mitigate corruption risks.

Thematic Areas of the Inspection

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the inspection will be organized around five thematic areas, while retaining flexibility to examine additional matters as needed:

1. supervision and span of control, including training and practices that enable early identification and management of integrity risks;
2. screening and vetting of officers and civilian members at recruitment and throughout their careers, including progression into higher-risk roles;
3. access to police databases and information systems, including permissions, controls, monitoring, and application of the principle of least privilege;
4. evidence and property management, including chain-of-custody safeguards and controls; and,
5. substance use and fitness for duty, with an emphasis on early identification, evidence-based assessment, and supports that uphold both public trust and member wellness.

Across these themes, the inspection will consider systemic patterns, governance and oversight arrangements, and the sustainability of practices over time, rather than isolated incidents or individual conduct.

These thematic areas will be assessed with reference to the CSPA and regulations enacted pursuant to the CSPA. The inspection may also draw upon recognized best practices in policing and public-sector integrity.

Our objective is to assess operational and governance practices, identify strengths and risks, and develop evidence-informed observations that support sector-wide improvement and continued public confidence in policing. To that end, the inspection team is currently focused on designing the methodology for our review, and establishing a baseline understanding of existing frameworks, practices, and sector-wide considerations across Ontario and, where useful, other jurisdictions. As you know, following the completion of the inspection, I am required to submit my findings reports

to Inspector General Teschner, so that he can determine whether and what legally-binding directions may be required to address my findings.

Cooperation and Engagement

Your cooperation and engagement will be integral to the effectiveness of this inspection. I recognize that an inspection of this scope will place demands on the time and resources of your service and board. My team and I are committed to conducting this work in a fair, respectful, and collaborative manner, that minimizes disruption to your operations, while ensuring a thorough and credible process. We will work with you to coordinate scheduling and to streamline information requests wherever possible.

Next Steps

In the coming weeks, a member of my team will contact your office to arrange an initial introductory conversation. The purpose of that meeting will be to outline the inspection approach, discuss logistics, and answer any preliminary questions you may have. Following that conversation, you will receive a formal inspection notice setting out:

- the specific scope of engagement for your service;
- the inspection methodology and process;
- timelines and key milestones;
- expectations regarding document production and access; and
- confidentiality and information-handling protocols.

No action is required on your part at this time.

Closing

My team and I are committed to approaching this work in a fair, respectful, and collaborative manner, grounded in statutory authority and the terms established by the Inspector General, and guided by a shared interest in strengthening public confidence in policing in Ontario.

I look forward to working with you and your service throughout this process. Further information will be shared as the inspection methodology and engagement plan are finalized.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable William Hourigan
Inspector