



Grey Bruce OPP Detachment Board
177964 Grey Road 18, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5N5

July 16, 2025

The Honourable Doug Downey
Attorney General of Ontario
c/o Ministry of the Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2S9
Sent via email: Doug.Downey@ontario.ca

**Re: Appeal to The Ministry of the Solicitor General for Review and Reform
of Provincial Offences System**

Dear Minister,

Please be advised that at its June 24th, 2025, Board Meeting, the Grey Bruce OPP Detachment Board passed the following resolution:

OPP2025-022

Moved By: Member Scott Mackey

Seconded By: Member Robert Uhrig

Approved

Whereas the Grey Bruce OPP Detachment Board serves as a civilian governance and oversight body, mandated to guide local policing priorities, promote transparency and accountability, and support the development and monitoring of community safety initiatives;

And whereas the Board has become aware of the recent withdrawal of a substantial number of Provincial Offences Act (POA) charges in our region, which undermines the principles of accountability, deterrence, and public confidence in the justice system;

And whereas municipalities are responsible for the administration of fine collection of POA matters on behalf of the province and rely on fine revenue not only to recoup associated costs but to support local justice infrastructure and community safety initiatives;

And whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), supported by the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), has called for a third-party review of the POA system to address long-standing concerns, including judicial resource shortages, growing court case backlogs, difficulty collecting outstanding fines, outdated legislative frameworks, and an overly burdensome administrative structure;

And whereas AMCTO President, Paul Shipway and staff, recently met with Attorney General, Doug Downey, and Parliamentary Assistant, Monica Ciriello, to advocate for urgent reforms to improve efficiency, enhance fine collection, and reinforce the integrity of the POA system in Ontario;

Therefore be it resolved that the Grey Bruce OPP Detachment Board formally express its deep concern and displeasure at the unexplained and substantial withdrawal of POA charges in our region, and the negative impact this action has on community safety, public trust, and municipal cost recovery;

Be it further resolved that the Board endorse AMO's and AMCTO's call for a third-party review of the Provincial Offences Act system and support efforts to modernize POA legislation to better reflect current enforcement and judicial needs;

Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of the Attorney General, AMCTO, AMO, ROMA, all Ontario Municipal Councils and Police Services Boards, OAPSB and local Members of Provincial Parliament, and that the Board request a formal response from the Ministry explaining the rationale behind the withdrawal of POA charges and what steps are being taken to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

Sincerely,

Jodi Ward

Jodi Ward

Board Administrator

✉ jward@georgianbluffs.ca | ☎ 519-376-2729 ext. 601

CC: AMCTO

AMO

ROMA

All Ontario Municipal Councils

All Police Services Boards

OAPSB

Paul Vickers, MPP — Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

Alex Ruff, MP — Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

 www.georgianbluffs.ca |  519-376-2729 |  info@georgianbluffs.ca