

**Solicitor General**

Office of the Solicitor General

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132-2020-380

**By e-mail**

April 24, 2020

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

As you may know, on January 1, 2019, amendments to the *Police Services Act* (PSA) came into force, which mandate every municipality in Ontario to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plan.

As part of these legislative requirements, municipalities must consult with chiefs of police and police services boards or detachment commanders and various other sectors, including health/mental health, education, community/social services and children/youth services, as they undertake the planning process. As previously communicated, municipalities had two years from the in-force date to prepare and adopt their first CSWB plan (i.e., by January 1, 2021). Municipalities also have the flexibility to develop joint plans with neighbouring municipalities and/or First Nations communities, which may be valuable in order to meet the unique needs of the area.

With the COVID-19 outbreak, our government appreciates that municipalities are currently facing unprecedented circumstances in their communities. We also understand that some municipalities may experience delays in their planning and engagement processes as a result of the current provincial emergency.

In order to support our municipal, policing and community partners during this emergency, on April 14, 2020, the government passed the *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act, 2020*, which amends the PSA to allow the Solicitor General to prescribe a new deadline for the completion and adoption of CSWB plans past January 1, 2021. The amendments came into force immediately upon Royal Assent. This change will help ensure municipalities are able to meet the legislative requirements and complete their CSWB plans. The Ministry of the Solicitor General (ministry) will work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, as well as the City of Toronto, to determine an appropriate new deadline that will be set by regulation at a later date. For reference, the new Act can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-189>

This extension will ensure municipalities, police services and local service providers can continue to dedicate the necessary capacity and resources to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, while also providing adequate time to effectively undertake consultations, work collaboratively with partners, and develop meaningful and fulsome plans following the provincial emergency. Where possible, municipalities are encouraged to explore

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alternative options to continue on-going planning efforts, such as through virtual engagement (e.g., webinars, teleconferences, online surveys, etc.).

At this time, the ministry would also like to provide some additional resources and remind you of existing resources to further support municipalities and municipal partners as these CSWB plans are prepared and adopted.

The ministry has recently developed two resource documents, which outline examples of data sources and funding opportunities available to support the CSWB planning process (see Appendix A and B). These resource documents were developed in collaboration with the ministry's Inter-Ministerial Community Safety and Well-Being Working Group, which consists of representatives from nine Ontario ministries and the federal government. The documents highlight examples of sector-specific data available at the provincial, regional and local level, which can assist in the identification of local priority risks in the community, as well as funding opportunities that can be leveraged to support the development and implementation of plans.

As you may recall, in spring 2019, the ministry hosted webinar sessions on CSWB planning to assist municipalities, policing and community partners as they began the planning process. The webinars consisted of an overview of the CSWB planning requirements and provided guidance on how to develop and implement effective plans. A recording of these webinars has been made available and can be accessed through the following link: <http://mcscs-erb.adobeconnect.com/p3e0qppm8g30/>.

The ministry has also made updates to its Frequently Asked Questions document to provide more information and clarification regarding CSWB planning, including changes to the CSWB planning provisions that came into force as a result of recent legislation (see Appendix C).

Municipalities are encouraged to continue utilizing the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet to support the planning process (see Appendix D). This booklet includes the CSWB Planning Framework as well as a toolkit of practical resource documents, including a tool on engagement, to guide municipalities, First Nations and their partners as they develop and implement their plans. The booklet is also available on the ministry's website at: <https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Publications/MCSCSSSOPlanningFramework.html>.

If communities have any questions, please feel free to direct them to my ministry staff, Tiana Biordi, Community Safety Analyst, at [Tiana.Biordi@ontario.ca](mailto:Tiana.Biordi@ontario.ca) or Steffie Anastasopoulos, Community Safety Analyst, at [Steffie.Anastasopoulos@ontario.ca](mailto:Steffie.Anastasopoulos@ontario.ca).

I greatly appreciate your continued support as we move forward on this modernized approach to CSWB together. Through collaboration, we can work to build safer and stronger communities in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jones', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sylvia Jones  
Solicitor General

Enclosures

## Data Sources to Support Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Planning

### Provincial Data Sources

- **Ontario Government's Open Data Catalogue** includes various data on existing services and health/wellness indicators available at local, regional and/or provincial levels (e.g., Early Development Instrument, Ontario Victim Services, Crime Severity, Violent/Property Crime, etc.): <https://www.ontario.ca/page/open-government>

### Education

- **School Board Progress Reports** with data on ten (10) education indicators available by school board: <https://www.app.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/bpr/index.html>
- **Suspension/Expulsion Rates** available by school board: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/statistics.html>

### Community and Social Services

- **Children's Aid Societies (CAS) data**, including number of children in care, referrals, and families served. Data is available for each CAS site location, regional and provincial level. Contact your Regional Office to obtain local data. For the appropriate Regional Office, please visit: <https://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/regionalMap/regional.aspx>
- **CAS data on five performance indicators** that reflect the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth in care. Data is available for each CAS site location, regional and provincial level: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/professionals/childwelfare/societies/publicreporting.aspx>
- **Poverty Reduction Strategy Annual Report (2018)** includes data on eleven (11) poverty indicators at the provincial level: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/poverty-reduction-strategy-annual-report-2018>
- **Towards a Better Understanding of NEET Youth in Ontario Report (2018)** provides an analysis of data to estimate the number, characteristics, and labour market status of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) available at the provincial and census metropolitan area level: <https://blueprint-ade.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/NEET-Youth-Research-Initiative.pdf>
- **Violence Against Women (VAW) Service Provider Survey** highlights feedback on service delivery in the VAW sector available at the regional and provincial levels. For data, please email [REU@ontario.ca](mailto:REU@ontario.ca)
- **Employment Ontario Geo-Hub** contains datasets related to social assistance, including data on Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program recipients. Some datasets are available by Consolidated Municipal Service Manager or District Social Services Administration Board: <http://www.eo-geohub.com/>

### Justice

- **Risk-driven Tracking Database (RTD)**: Communities that have been on-boarded to the RTD have access to their own local data. For a copy of the RTD Annual Reports (which outlines regional and provincial data), please email [SafetyPlanning@ontario.ca](mailto:SafetyPlanning@ontario.ca)
- **Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Community Satisfaction Survey**: Contact your local Detachment Commander for local detachment data. 2018 provincial report available online: [http://www.opp.ca/tms/entrydata.php?fnc=3&\\_id=5afae17aaf4f9348be57b7c4](http://www.opp.ca/tms/entrydata.php?fnc=3&_id=5afae17aaf4f9348be57b7c4)
- **OPP Statistical Crime and Traffic data**: Contact your local Detachment Commander for local detachment data. 2018 provincial report available online: <https://www.opp.ca/index.php?&lng=en&id=115&entryid=5d0bdebf241f6e18586f0913>
- **Ontario Court of Justice Criminal Justice Modernization Committee Dashboard** outlines statistical information for various types of metrics, including offence-based statistics available at local court, regional and provincial levels: <http://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/stats-crim-mod/>
- **Ontario Court of Justice Criminal Court Offence-Based Statistics** outlines the number of new criminal cases filed available at local court, regional and provincial levels: <http://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/stats-crim/>
- **Inmate Data**, including reviews of inmates in segregation with possible mental health conditions available at the institutional and regional levels: <https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Corrections/JahnSettlement/CSDatainmatesOntario.html>

### Health

- **Health data**: For regional or provincial level health data/requests, please email [IMsupport@ontario.ca](mailto:IMsupport@ontario.ca)

## Data Sources to Support Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Planning

### Municipal Affairs and Housing

- **Financial Information Return** outlines municipal financial data, including expenses, revenues and debt per municipality: <https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/fir/Welcome.htm>
- **Homeless Enumeration** outlines data on the number of people experiencing homelessness over a specific time period available at the Service Manager level. Contact your local Service Managers to obtain local data. To determine the appropriate Service Manager, please visit: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/page1202.aspx>
- **Affordable House Price and Rent Tables** highlight data on house/rent affordability for different household incomes available at the Service Manager and provincial levels. For data, please email [Housing.Research@ontario.ca](mailto:Housing.Research@ontario.ca)

### Additional Data Sources

#### Statistics Canada and Other National Sources

- **Census Profile 2016:** <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>
  - Examples of CSWB indicators include educational attainment, low income and unemployment
  - Canadian Socio-Economic Information Management System (CANSIM) tables (customized data tables by Ontario regions/communities for specific indicators)
- **Crime/Justice related statistics** through various surveys including:
  - Uniform Crime Reporting Survey: <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3302>
  - Homicide Survey: <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3315>
  - Adult Correctional Services Survey: <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3306>
- **Socio-economic/Health statistics** through various surveys including:
  - Labour Force Survey: <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3701>
  - Canadian Community Health Survey: <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3226>
  - Aboriginal Peoples Survey: <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3250>
  - General Social Survey (Canadian's Safety): <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4504>
- **Visualization tools** such as the Census Program Data Viewer which allows for the visualization of data by provinces/territories, and census metropolitan areas/subdivision: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/interact/datavis>
- **Government of Canada - Open Government's Portal:** <https://open.canada.ca/en/open-data>
- **Canadian Institute for Health Information**, including Ontario Mental Health Reporting System, Discharge Abstract Database, National Ambulatory Care Reporting System, etc.: <https://www.cihi.ca/en/access-data-and-reports>
- **First Nations Information Governance Centre**, including the First Nations Regional Health Survey and First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey: <http://fnigc.ca/dataonline/>
- **First Nation Profiles** (available through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada): <https://open.canada.ca/en/suggested-datasets/indigenous-and-northern-affairs-canada-first-nation-profiles>
- **Community Well-being Index** (available through Indigenous Services Canada): <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/56578f58-a775-44ea-9cc5-9bf7c78410e6>

#### Local Sector-Specific Data Sources

- Police services (e.g., data on calls for service, offence occurrences)
- Municipal offices (e.g., data on economic development, services available)
- Local non-profit organizations and/or service providers (e.g., Vital Signs Report)
- School boards (e.g., truancy rates, graduation rates, school violence incidences)
- Hospitals (e.g., ER visits, waitlists for mental health/addictions services)
- Community-wide strategies or reports (e.g., Mental Health and Addictions, Drugs, Homelessness)
- Multi-sectoral tables (e.g., Situation Tables, Local Developmental Services System Planning Tables)

**Note:** This document includes examples of available data sources and does not represent an exhaustive list.