

Sarnia Police Services Board Policy

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Policing First Nations and Protests	February 27, 2025	
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Approved By: Board Chair	Signature: Paul Wiersma	

A <u>Legislative Authority</u>

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by Section 10 and 11 (1) of the *CSPA*.

Subsection 38 (2) of the **CSPA** provides that a Police Service Board may establish policies respecting matters related to the Police Service or the provision of policing.

Subsection 39 (1) of the **CSPA** requires the Board's Strategic Plan include quantitative and qualitative performance objectives and indicators of outcomes relating to interactions with members of First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities.

Section 1 of the **CSPA** sets out principles for the provision of Police Services throughout Ontario, including:

- The need to ensure the safety and security of all persons and property in Ontario, including First Nation reserves;
- The importance of safeguarding the fundamental rights guaranteed by the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** and the **Human Rights Code**;
- The need for co-operation between policing providers and the communities they serve;
- The importance of respect for victims of crime and understanding of their needs;
- The need for sensitivity to the pluralistic, multiracial and multicultural character of

Ontario society;

- The need to be responsive to the unique histories and cultures of First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities;
- The need to ensure that Police Services and Police Service Boards are representative of the communities they serve; and
- The need to ensure that all parts of Ontario, including First Nation reserves, receive equitable levels of policing.

Section 82 (1) (a) of the CSPA states the duties of a police officer include, preserving the peace.

Section 82 (3) of the **CSPA** states a police officer has the powers and duties ascribed to a constable at common law.

Section 2 of the *Criminal Code* defines peace officer, referring to a duty to ensure the preservation and maintenance of the public peace.

B <u>Policy Statement</u>

1. The Sarnia Police Service Board recognizes the objective of policing First Nations occupations and protests is to preserve the peace, prevent offences, and enforce the law in a manner that respects the rights of all involved parties, and it is therefore the policy of this Board that the policing of First Nations occupations and protests be conducted professionally and thoroughly, and in accordance with procedures established by the Chief of Police.

C <u>Board Policy</u>

- 1. It is the policy of the Sarnia Police Service Board that the Chief of Police will develop written procedures that set out the policing of First Nations occupations and protests.
- 2. The Chief shall ensure the role of the police at First Nations occupations or protests is to preserve the peace, prevent offences, and enforce the law including offences against persons and property, in accordance with the powers and discretion available to a police officer under the law.
- 3. The Chief shall ensure the consideration of police actions at First Nations occupations or protests include preserving the peace, communication, negotiation and building trust with participating and affected communities.
- 4. The Chief shall develop and maintain procedures on:
 - (a) Communicating information in relation to police procedures on First Nations occupations and protests;

- (b) Training requirements for policing First Nations occupations and protests;
- (c) Fostering community understanding of the police response to the events;
- (d) The collection and analysis of information prior to and during events; and
- (e) Addressing the uniqueness of First Nations occupations and protests.
- 5. The Chief shall ensure that members receive the appropriate training and that members involved in policing First Nations occupations and protests have the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities and receive training on an ongoing basis.
- 6. The Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30th of each year in respect of policing First Nations occupations and protests. The report shall include:
 - (a) A summary of the procedures as required by this policy;
 - (b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures;
 - (c) A summary of the training given to members with respect to policing First Nations occupations and protests;
 - (d) A summary of any incidents of police response to First Nations occupations and protests; and
 - (e) A summary of the steps taken by the Service to monitor and evaluate response to First Nations occupations and protests.