



**City of Kingston
Information Report to Council
Report Number 19-173**

To:	Mayor and Council
From:	Lanie Hurdle, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Resource Staff:	Holly Wilson, Manager of Intergovernmental Relations
Date of Meeting:	June 18, 2019
Subject:	2019 Ontario Budget Overview

Executive Summary:

On April 11, 2019, Premier Doug Ford and the Conservative Government released their 2019 Ontario budget bill, the first of their four year mandate. There are several aspects to this budget that could have an impact on the City's municipal programs and services. However there are still many details that are unknown or shifting. The cornerstone items to this budget were significant changes to the delivery of public health moving from 35 service managers across the Province to 10, as well as changes to the delivery of paramedic services and various changes to provincial/municipal child care initiatives.

As of the timing of this information, the budget and the initiatives included have now passed. It received first reading on April 11, 2019 and royal assent on May 29, 2019. Also on May 29, 2019, the Premier announced a 'pause' to in-year cuts to public health, paramedic and child care services. The government recently announced the Audit and Accountability Fund to encourage large urban municipalities to look for efficiencies in their budgets and operations. The Audit and Accountability Fund matter was brought to Council on June 4th, 2019.

This information report provides an overview of the provincial budget, details on initiatives where available and some information on the Premier's recent announcement to 'pause' in-year cuts to public health, paramedic and child care services. Again, several of these provincial initiatives do not have substantial details and City staff will provide additional information as more is known over the next several months as regulations are released.

Staff have attempted to quantify the known financial impacts for the City and agencies for 2019. It is estimated that there will be an impact of about \$1M this year based on known changes announced by the Province so far. It is important to note that there is still outstanding information for 2019 which could impact the estimated financial implications included in this

June 18, 2019

Page 2 of 15

report. Staff are anticipating that the financial impacts for 2020 will most likely be higher than 2019 as they will include paramedics and public health changes.

City staff continue to stay connected to the legislation associated with the budget through other municipal organizations like the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Association of Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), Municipal Finance Officers Ontario Association (MFOA), Municipal Government Relations Network (MGRN), and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA). Kingston, like many municipalities across Ontario, is struggling to keep up with the pace of changes, the speed of the legislation in the House and the ability to provide meaningful input on proposed changes.

Over the next several months, City staff will also be attempting to participate in any consultations around the future of public health, paramedic, social services, and child care services. Again it is unclear at this stage what the Province intends to do with the 'pause' to these in-year cuts but City staff are hopeful for more consultation and involvement on these proposed changes.

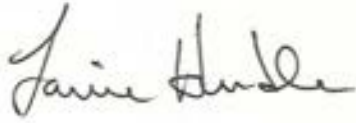
Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

June 18, 2019

Page 3 of 15

Authorizing Signatures:



**Lanie Hurdle, Acting Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Gary Dyke, Commissioner, Corporate Enterprise Services



Peter Huigenbos, Acting Commissioner, Community Services



Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston

Not required

Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer



Sheila Kidd, Commissioner, Transportation & Public Works



June 18, 2019

Page 4 of 15

Options/Discussion:**2019 Provincial Budget Overview****Public Health Restructuring**

The Province is proposing to restructure public health from 35 service managers to 10 by 2020/21. As part of this work, the government will adjust the provincial-municipal cost sharing of public health funding. The actual financial implication to the City is not yet known. By 2020-2021, the government intends to implement 10 regional public health entities, 10 new regional boards of health with one common governance model each and a local government approach as it relates to performance and local accountability.

There will also be changes through modernization and regionalization of the public health laboratory system and a streamlining of Public Health Ontario.

It is anticipated that the Province will graduate the cost-sharing changes over the next 3 years. The cost-sharing formula will also apply to all 100% provincial programs currently funded by the Province.

The cost sharing formula is expected to vary by population size of the new Regional Public Health Entities. By 2021-22, the funding formula is expected to be 60% (provincial) / 40% (municipal) for Regional Public Health Entities with populations over one M; and 70% (provincial) / 30% (municipal) for Regional Public Health Entities with populations under one M.

Notwithstanding the announcement that the previously announced cuts to provincial funding would be put on hold for 2019, Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Public Health has not yet received confirmation of its 2019 funding allocation. While the current provincial/municipal cost share is 75%/25%, the total municipal share of the 2019 budget requisition from KFL&A Public Health was 38.6%. The City's share of the 2019 budget requisition was \$3,990,103.

Early estimates show that based solely on the change to a 60% Provincial / 40% Municipal cost sharing formula, the City's share could increase by approximately \$860K; however the Province is hoping to achieve some efficiencies through regionalization that may offset impacts. The effects of restructuring on the funding models are unknown at this time.

Paramedic

The Province is proposing to streamline paramedic operations and dispatch services by integrating Ontario's 59 emergency health services operators into 10 (52 Emergency Medical Services, 6 First Nations, Ornge patient transfer, and 22 provincial dispatch communications centres).

The government will be exploring new models of care and delivery of emergency health services to improve care and reduce duplication. If the government implements a model with 10

June 18, 2019

Page 5 of 15

operators, it is unclear how this would impact the County of Frontenac service delivery model and the related cost share that is currently being paid by the City. In 2018, the City paid \$7.2M to the County of Frontenac for land ambulance services representing 78% of the County's net budget for land ambulance services. Potential additional costs for paramedics are not yet known as it will depend on service structure and future funding levels.

Tailgating

The Province did not introduce legislation but instead passed an amendment to the Liquor License Act to permit municipal governments to designate public areas, such as parks for the consumption of alcohol. There are other alcohol reforms contained in the budget such as the creation of a tailgating permit for eligible sporting events and extending hours of service in licensed establishments to a 9:00 a.m. start, seven days a week. Below are the highlights:

These changes took effect May 6, 2019

- The regulation establishes a new class of special occasion permit (SOP) for tailgating events: "held at outdoor premises that are at ground level, where the event is held in connection with, and in proximity to, a professional, semi-professional or post-secondary sporting event."
- "Premises must be readily distinguishable from adjacent premises to which the permit does not apply." Previously the SOP regulation required a partition at least 0.9m high to define the permitted premises. That language is deleted.
- The regulation continues to have 11 a.m. as the beginning of alcohol service. The Ontario budget suggested that changes would be made to allow licensed establishments and SOP service to begin at 9 a.m. These changes may be forthcoming.
- The permit holder shall permit patrons to bring liquor to, and to consume liquor at, the premises of a tailgate event.
- Patrons may only remove unconsumed liquor from the premises in a closed container, or if leaving in a motor vehicle, in a sealed and unopened container or packed in baggage that is closed and not readily available to any person in the vehicle.
- Provisions in the existing regulation requiring that food be served are revoked, and provisions in the regulation requiring that non-alcoholic beverages be sold or served will not apply to tailgate events.
- Persons under 19 years of age will not be permitted to consume alcohol at the event.

The implication of this policy amendment is not yet fully known. City staff will continue to monitor for any developments or applications on a go forward basis.

June 18, 2019

Page 6 of 15

Municipal Transfer Payments / Reducing Regulatory Burden

The Province has made it clear that it is dedicated to ‘finding efficiencies through collaboration across the sector’. The budget documents also state specifically that “growth in transfer payments has been unsustainable” and that the government is focused on ‘value for money’.

The budget warns municipalities to look for efficiencies in our operations and that the government anticipates reducing transfer payments in the future. The budget also reiterates reducing the reporting burden on municipalities. This supports the Province’s plan to reduce the regulatory burden it places on all sectors and the commitment made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to move forward on this.

On May 27, 2019 the Premier announced the creation of the Audit and Accountability Fund directed toward large urban municipalities and school boards to find efficiencies in operations and budgets. This \$7.35 M program is a one-time conditional grant from the Province of up to \$250,000 per applicant. Report [19-182](#) outlining the details of the fund and the City’s approach was approved by City Council on June 4, 2019.

Childcare Access and Additional Spaces

The government is proposing a new Ontario Childcare Access and Relief from Expenses (CARE) tax credit. This new tax credit could provide about 300,000 families with up to 75 per cent of their eligible child care expenses and could allow families to access a broad range of child care options, including care in centres, homes and camps.

Ministry of Education staff has confirmed the CARE tax credit will be provided on top of fee subsidies and is not to replace fee subsidies. Clients that receive a partial fee subsidy will be eligible to claim their parental fee contribution through CARE.

The government is also planning to commit \$1 billion over the next five years to create up to 30,000 child care spaces in schools, including approximately 10,000 spaces in new schools. The City of Kingston (Service Manager) is currently supporting 800 to 850 families with full or partial fee subsidies to attend 34 licensed child cares at 74 locations throughout the City and the County.

The City has received its funding allocation for 2019 at this time. Initially, the total allocated to all Child Care and Early Years programs was \$13.2M which was a reduction of \$1.2M from the \$14.4M received in 2018. On June 7th the City received a revised funding allocation from the Province following the announced “pause” in changes to child care. This revised funding allocation indicates a reduction of \$400K for a total of \$14M. The City receives funding for 17 separate programs and each is cost shared differently with the Province. Due to this late change in the Provincial funding allocation and only receiving the detailed program and funding guidelines on June 7th, City staff have not been able to analyze the full impact on the City’s budget or its child care programming.

June 18, 2019

Page 7 of 15

Dental Coverage for Low Income Seniors

Individual seniors with annual incomes of \$19,300 or less, or senior couples with combined annual incomes of less than \$32,300, will be able to receive dental services in public health units, community health centres and Aboriginal Health Access Centres across the Province.

The City initiated an Extended Health Benefits Pilot Program in 2018. This program is offered as part of the larger Municipal Fee Assistance Program (MFAP) administered by the Housing and Social Services Department. This benefit offers a maximum \$800 dental benefit for those whose income is below the Low Income Cut Off (LICO) which is \$17,758 for a one person household in 2019. The City has budgeted \$100K per year for this program that is currently funded from the Social Services Stabilization Reserve.

This new Provincial program may provide a small amount of budget relief to the City. The City will be reviewing its Extended Health Benefit Program and related budget.

Changes to Employment Services

The municipal Ontario Works employment services will be integrated into the provincial Employment Ontario network. Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) currently provide employment services for Ontario Works clients and make referrals to other employment agencies. While the Province has announced its intent to integrate employment services, there are no details yet on what services CMSMs will still be required to provide on an ongoing basis. Without this information, it is difficult to speculate on service delivery and budgetary implications.

Wrap-around supports will also be provided to help vulnerable social assistance recipients address barriers and access employment supports. There will be strengthened accountability of both social assistance service system managers and the planned employment service system managers to help people achieve employment goals.

Support for Mental Health

The government is investing \$3.8 billion for mental health, addictions and housing supports over 10 years, beginning with the creation of a mental health and addictions system. In 2019–2020, a \$174M investment will support community mental health and addictions services, mental health and justice services, supportive housing and acute mental health inpatient beds.

It is not clear what the implication is for the City and if the Province will be looking at a municipal based model for supportive housing. The City has identified supportive housing as a critical gap in service in its update to the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan and will continue to stay connected to this initiative as it moves forward.

June 18, 2019

Page 8 of 15

Housing / Homelessness

The government committed to introduce the Housing Supply Action Plan and Community Housing Renewal Strategy on April 17, 2019. The strategy creates incentives for community housing providers to continue to provide housing and improve sustainability, as well as simplify rent-g geared-to-income calculations.

- The Province will also undertake a comprehensive review to identify opportunities to streamline and improve coordination of the Province's supportive housing programs.
- Invest \$4 billion in federal and provincial funding for the Ontario housing sector over the next nine years through the National Housing Strategy bilateral agreement between the federal government and the Province of Ontario.
- Under the National Housing Strategy, the Province will also be negotiating and co-designing the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to create a housing benefit that would address housing affordability.

On April 19, 2019 the City received a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with its funding allocations and the continuation of programming. The Community Homeless Prevention Initiative (CHPI) program which funds homelessness at \$4.1M is being kept to 2018 level which represents a loss of \$40K in 2019. In 2020, CHPI increases by \$40K but flat lines again for 2021. This is manageable through the Homelessness Reserve which has approximately \$1M to maintain the City's agreements and services.

Federal Step Down Funding

The City will receive \$114K in 2019, \$271K in 2020 and \$715K in 2021 to make up for the planned loss of federal funding for social housing, as long as the City can show matching funding. This is not an issue as the City currently spends \$11M of municipal funds each year on social housing.

The Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) program set to expire in 2019 has been replaced with the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI). This new program will provide funding for the next three years which will range between \$700K and \$1.3M per year. This program has been used mainly for capital projects for new affordable housing and to expand the rent supplement program.

A report to Council is required by the Province by the fall to allocate the OPHI funding into allowable areas such as capital, rent supplements, etc. Guidelines for this new program have not been provided and are expected in summer 2019. As part of the Council strategic priorities, City staff have identified this funding to support the construction of 90 new affordable housing units at 1316 Princess Street. A Council report will be brought with details and recommendations within the next few months.

June 18, 2019

Page 9 of 15

Social Assistance System Reform and the Ontario Works Budget

The government is proposing extensive social assistance reform with an estimated annual saving of over \$1 billion at maturity by simplifying the rate structure, reducing administration, cutting unnecessary rules, and providing greater opportunities to achieve better employment outcomes.

The Ontario Works contract which includes this funding must be entered into by July 31, 2019 and is a two year contract, even though no funding commitment has been made yet for 2020. "Budget submissions for 2019 funding should not exceed the previous year's actuals unless there is a clear evidence-based rationale negotiated with the Program Supervisor and documented in the 2019 OW service plan". This is quoted directly from the Ministry of Children Community and Social Services to all Service Managers in Ontario.

Due primarily to staff vacancies in 2018, the difference between 2018 actuals and the 2019 approved budget for Ontario Works administration costs equates to a loss of approximately \$300K in provincial funding for 2019.

Housing & Social Services staff will be developing a case for the maintenance of the already budgeted 2019 funding with the Ministry of Children Community, and Social Services. Assuming the Province holds to its announcement to keep funding at the 2018 actuals for 2019, this will result in the City funding more than 50% of the administration costs for 2019 which has been the established formula since the provincial download.

Cannabis

The Ontario Cannabis Store (OCS) lost \$25M in 2018-2019 mostly due to supply issues but it expected to turn a profit of \$10M, \$25M and \$40M in 2019-2020 to 2021-2022. Ontario took in \$17M in cannabis excise tax in 2018-2019 and is anticipating this revenue to grow between \$70M and \$80M each year over the next three years.

If these projections are accurate, there will be no additional cannabis funding to municipalities for 2019-2020 (beyond the \$40M already allocated) as the threshold of \$100M of cannabis excise tax would not be reached.

The City received a one-time payment of approximately \$335K from the \$40M Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund to support the implementation of cannabis legislation. Council directed that the majority of these funds be transferred to Kingston Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health and Kingston Police to support implementation costs related to a public education campaign and to cover costs related to police officers training and equipment. As revenue for cannabis increases municipalities will be looking to the Province for a share of the profit.

June 18, 2019

Page 10 of 15

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) Changes

The Province is proposing changes to property assessment, by doing a review to:

- “Enhance the accuracy and stability of property assessments;
- Support a competitive business environment;
- Provide relief to residents”; and

The Province is also proposing changes to the Board of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to increase the representation of property taxpayers. This modification of the board structure would increase taxpayer representatives by three thereby diluting municipal representation on the Board (currently seven municipal representatives out of 13). It is unclear how these changes will be implemented and what if any consultation will take place with local government.

Broadband Strategy

The Province committed \$315M over the next five years to support rural high speed broadband and cellular services in regional and “shovel ready” projects.

For reference, the recent federal Budget noted a federal investment of \$5 - 6 billion (including leveraged private investment) over 10 years for all of Canada.

On May 19, 2019 the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced that the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) will receive \$71M of this funding for their broadband project in Eastern Ontario. The City had previously committed \$955K to support this initiative.

Provincial Gas Tax

The Province will not move forward with its campaign promise to increase the municipal share of the provincial gas tax funds from 2 cents/litre to 4 cents in 2021-2022. The program is also being evaluated to identify ‘opportunities for improvement’.

The City had budgeted for an increase of the gas tax over time in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. The reduction in funding will create a gap in the operating budget of approximately \$500,000 in 2021, and \$1.5M in 2022.

The government has said it will consult with municipalities to review the program parameters and identify opportunities for improvement. No timeframe for this consultation has been set but City staff will continue to stay connected to any developments and provide information to Council as necessary.

Environmental Assessment (EA) Act Modernization

The Province will modernize the EA Act making infrastructure projects faster and providing a risk threshold/financial threshold for projects which could reduce building time for many public

June 18, 2019

Page 11 of 15

works.

It proposes to modernize the environmental assessment program to focus on higher-risk projects by exempting very low-risk activities (e.g. snow plowing and de-icing operations, constructing roadside parks and adding bike lanes) from Class Environmental Assessments. These exempted activities have been classified as low-risk following a comprehensive consultation on the Class Environmental Assessment involving the Ministry, the public, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders.

Between 2012 and 2017, only two of the 172 requests for a higher level of assessment (i.e. bump-up requests) pertained to low-risk activities. As well, most of the activities to be exempted remain subject to environmental and planning permits and approvals.

Focusing the environmental assessment program on higher-risk projects is consistent with the approach currently taken by other jurisdictions in Canada, which do not have environmental assessment requirements to begin with. A list of low risk projects to be exempted and their associated Class Environmental Assessments is included below.

- Ensure timeliness and certainty for the review of requests to the Minister asking for a higher level of assessment on a project (i.e. “bump-up”), including:
 1. Clearly defining which matters bump-ups can be requested on, including matters related to Aboriginal or treaty rights and other matters of provincial importance as prescribed.
 2. Authorizing the creation of a regulation that would prescribe limits on when the Minister must make decisions on requests, and deadlines for requesting a bump-up to provide transparency for all involved in the process.
 3. Ensuring that Ontarians are given priority over other interests by limiting bump-up requests to only those that live in Ontario.
 4. Clarify the Minister’s authority to reconsider an approval of a project and ask for additional information on an individual environmental assessment, if deemed appropriate.

On April 25, 2019 the government released a discussion paper for 30 days on the Environmental Registry about changes to the EA process. City Engineering worked through the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) to review impacts and provide coordinated input to the Province.

The ministry will be consulting on regulations developed as a result of these changes to the *Environmental Assessment Act* at a later date – yet to be determined. Staff will continue to monitor this legislation and opportunities to participate in future consultations.

June 18, 2019

Page 12 of 15

Environment

The provincial government previously announced it will phase out of \$442M in conservation and energy efficiency programs. As previously released in November 2018, the 'Made-in-Ontario' Environment Plan outlines the Government's plan to protect Ontario air, land and water resources with:

- Online air pollution complaint platform and system;
- \$400M emissions reduction fund (unclear what this means and who can take advantage of it);
- Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment

Climate change is a City priority and considering this provincial announcement, City staff did not assume that there would be any provincial financial contribution to Council strategic priorities related to climate change. The government has announced its intention to create a \$400M emissions reduction fund but details are not yet known.

Utilities Kingston - Sewage Overflows

As outlined in the 'Made in Ontario Environmental Plan' the government is targeting sewage overflows into Ontario water bodies. Municipalities will be required to provide real-time reporting of sewage outflows. This is something that Utilities Kingston already does and therefore this new legislative requirement will not impact Utilities Kingston.

Conservation Authorities (CA)

CA's were told on April 12, 2019 that \$3.7M (50%) is to be cut from the annual \$7.4M transfer payment from the Hazard Program. This means that CA's can expect a 2019 in-year financial impact on their budgets. The Hazard Program protects life and property from *natural hazards, such as flooding and erosion*. It would appear that this action is an outcome of the provincial multi-year line by line financial review and was identified as "administrative savings".

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority has confirmed that this will equate to an annual funding reduction of \$55K. They have also confirmed that further funding reductions specific to the 50 Million Tree Program, Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure and student programs will result in an additional shortfall of up to \$82K.

The government also introduced some significant changes to Conservation Authorities and the mandates through Bill 108 – the More Homes More Choices legislation. City staff will continue to monitor any further developments and provide information to Council as necessary.

Making Ontario More Accessible

The government will partner with the Rick Hansen Foundation and invest \$1.3M over two years to launch the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification program in select communities across the Province to prepare accessibility assessments of businesses and public buildings

June 18, 2019

Page 13 of 15

and to remove any identified barriers for people with disabilities.

For now, the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* and its reporting requirements for employers do not appear to have been targeted. Currently it is unclear how communities will be selected to participate in the program but City staff will continue to stay engaged and report back to Council as necessary.

Immigration Pilot

The Province is proposing a pilot to disperse the benefits of immigration across Ontario. The budget also proposes changes to the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program aimed at modernizing the program to better address labour market shortages.

This could support the workforce development strategy work initiated by the City. City staff will continue to monitor this for any potential opportunities locally.

Library Support Services

City staff were notified by the Kingston Frontenac Public Library (KFPL) that the provincial government announced a 50% reduction in provincial funding for the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS), which provides inter-library loan services for libraries across Southern Ontario. As a result of the funding reduction, SOLS discontinued the inter-library loan services.

More recently, SOLS announced that the interlibrary loan service would be restored as of June 1, 2019 with a different delivery model. KFPL is currently reviewing the cost impact of the service delivery changes on its current operating budget and operations with a report going to the Board later this month to determine the future of inter-library loan service levels.

It is unknown whether any other provincial funding for library services will be at risk. KFPL receives operational funding of approximately \$300,000 annually from the province.

Police Services

The Province has created a new Community Safety and Policing (CSP) Grant effective 2019/20. This grant is described as outcomes-based with greater flexibility to implement programs addressing priority risks, and it will replace the following grant programs:

- the Policing Effectiveness and Modernization (PEM) Grant (a grant program initiated in 2017 to repurpose the longstanding Community Policing Partnerships Program, Safer Communities—1,000 Officers Partnership Program, and Provincial Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy grants); and
- the Supporting Police Response to Sexual Violence and Harassment Grant Program.

For a number of years, the Kingston Police received annual funding of \$950,581 under the grants repurposed under the PEM Grant and were also able to benefit from the Supporting Police Response to Sexual Violence and Harassment Grant Program. Under the new CSP

June 18, 2019

Page 14 of 15

Grant, the Kingston Police Services Board has been allocated \$712,936 (75% of the PEM Grant allocation). This means that the Kingston Police face a budget shortfall risk of \$237,645 for 2019.

There will also be \$3.9M available under the Provincial funding stream for the CSP Grant. Funding under the Provincial stream is allocated by way of a competitive application process, and applicants can apply for a funding amount based on their need. The Kingston Police have submitted an application under the Provincial stream and should know the outcome and budgetary impact within 60 days.

CSP Grants will be in place for three years, allowing for some certainty over the next three fiscal years. Additionally, police services will be able to access funding of up to \$5.1M through the Gun and Gang Specialized Investigations Fund, a completely separate funding stream under Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario. This fund will support joint forces operations that target crime areas related to gang operations such as drugs, guns, and organized human trafficking.

In addition to the reduction in guaranteed grant revenue, other provincially influenced budget pressures are being faced by the Kingston Police.

- A recent Superior Court of Ontario decision compels the Government of Ontario to change the way its provincial animal welfare legislation is enforced, i.e. it may no longer be enforced by the OSPCA, a private charity. The OSPCA is working to assist the Government of Ontario as it transitions to a new service delivery model, but, as it stands, wherever law enforcement agencies have the lead role in responding to cases of animal cruelty, the OSPCA will have no funding for enforcement support after June 28, 2019.
- The \$1.4M Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Grant has been approved for fiscal year 2019 only and it is unknown if this grant will continue in the future.
- Similar to other Ontario municipalities, the presumptive legislation related to PTSD for first responders is impacting staff resources at the Kingston Police.
- Municipalities have been mandated to create Community Safety and Well-Being Plans by January 1, 2021. There is no funding attached to meeting any outcomes associated with this plan and costs are yet to be determined.

Kingston Police staff members continue to review the Province's fiscal plans identifying current and future year operating budget impacts.

Next Steps

The true impacts on the budget will not fully be known until more details on some of these initiatives are known and understood. City staff will continue to participate in any future consultations to influence the direction of the legislation. Recently the City submitted comments to the Environmental Registry on Bill 108; however the Bill was passed five days after comments were due.

June 18, 2019

Page 15 of 15

City staff will also stay connected to municipal associations on legislative/programs details to better understand the financial and operational impacts if any. More details will be provided to Council as appropriate.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

N/A

Notice Provisions:

N/A

Accessibility Considerations:

N/A

Financial Considerations:

There will be financial implications related to the 2019 Ontario Budget Bill. They have been estimated at about \$1M for 2019 based on information received at this point. Staff recognize that there are still many unknowns that could further impact this estimate.

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Sheldon Laidman, Director, Housing and Social Services

Exhibits Attached:

N/A