

**WEST NIPISSING POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
CONSEIL DES SERVICES POLICIERES DE NIPISSING OUEST**



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2018-11-16

The West Nipissing Police Services Board held its regular monthly meeting last evening, the costing judgment and the media release circulated by Mr. Barbeau were discussed. The Board is disappointed with the ruling and very concerned with how the media release was circulated and the misinformation in it.

The media release insinuates that the court action is completed and the OPP transition commences. This statement is inaccurate and article 69 of the ruling clearly specifies that Judge Kirk's stay of proceeding will continue for 30 days from the judgment date (November 14). Our understanding is that all activities associated to the costing process will be held in abeyance until the stay expires.

This thirty-day stay allows the Board to determine whether an appeal will be filed in relation to this judgment.

The Board is also concerned in the manner, which the message was released. Mr. Barbeau did not provide the Board with sufficient time to inform its employee of the situation. "The media is not the right way for employees to hear about the judgment," says Mr. Bertrand. The Board believes that Mr. Barbeau's hastiness in delivering the message demonstrated a lack of professionalism "he should know better" says Mr. Bertrand.

With respect to Mr. Barbeau's claim that unnecessary costs to taxpayers resulted from this action, the Board maintains that the overall Police Services budget, as approved by council in early 2018, will not increase.

Barry Bertrand  
Board Chair

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In early October, the West Nipissing Police Services Board received correspondence from then Minister M. Tibollo in response to the Board's concerns related to the costing process. In it, Mr. Tibollo only addresses one of the issues identified to him.

The Minister's comments concerning the temporary facility should the transition to the Ontario Provincial Police move forward are a serious concern to this Board. Mr. Tibollo states, "The proposed location is limited to temporary use such as reporting for duty, picking up equipment and vehicles, completing reports, or meeting with individuals of the community. Administrative staff will not be working at this location and the facility will not be used for any operational purposes."

In essence, this means the people of West Nipissing will not have a functional police station for at least 1-2 years. Should they require support, they will have to drive to either Warren, or Noelville, "when open" or Sudbury.

The Board disagrees with Mr. Tibollo's final statement whereby he states; "the OPP will continue to work diligently with municipal stakeholders to ensure effective, efficient and sustainable police services in Ontario."

If the municipality knew, there would not be a suitable police facility why was this not disclosed, and if they did not know, this supports the Board contention that a proper process would have identified the issue.

Barry Bertrand  
Board Chair