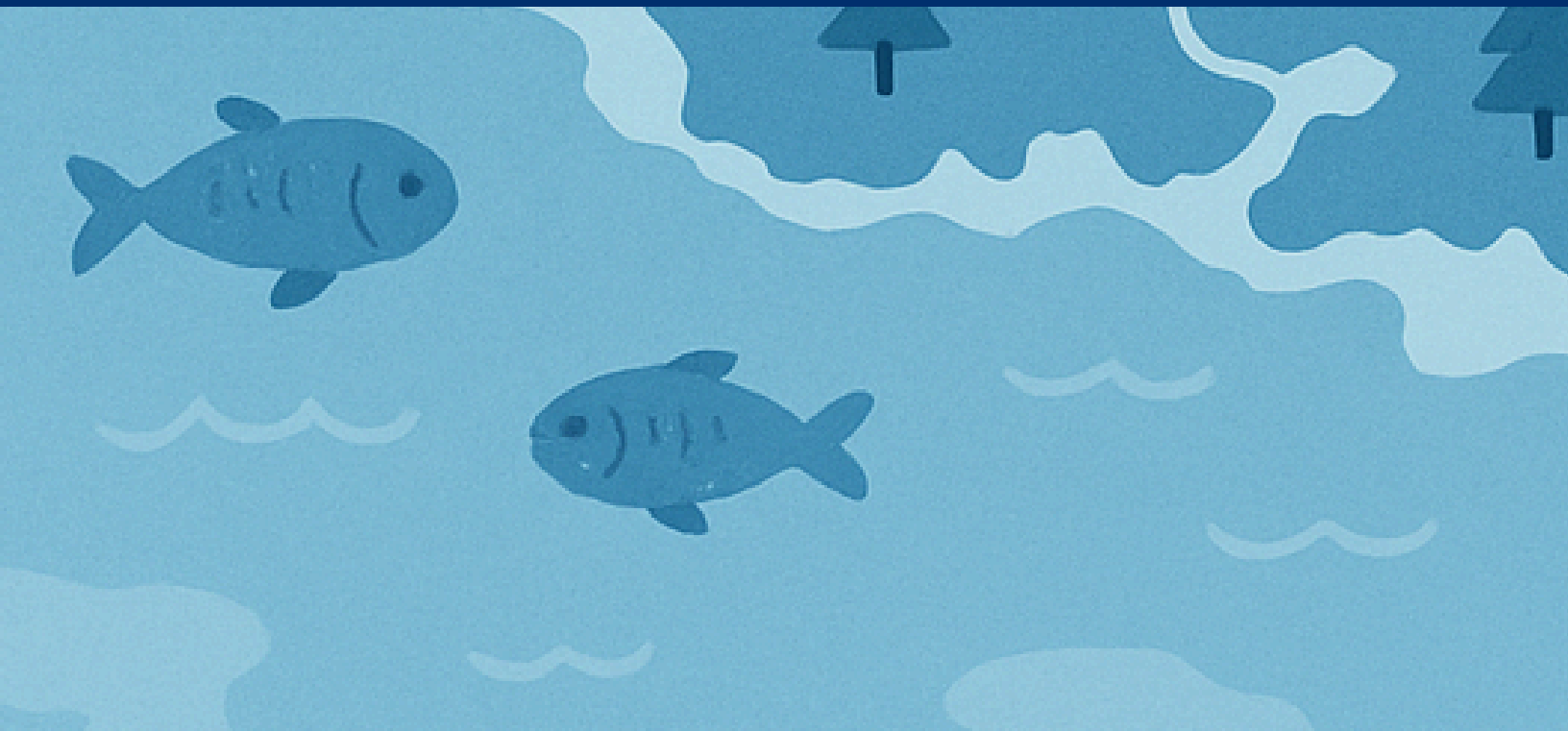




RAINY RIVER DISTRICT WEST OPP DETACHMENT BOARD

January - December 2025
Annual Report





Forward from Board Chair and Vice-Chair

On behalf of the Rainy River District West OPP Detachment Board, we are proud to release this year's annual report, highlighting the achievements of the past year. As we continue to grow and learn, the board members are managing the new Detachment Board as legislated under the Community Safety and Policing Act 2019 (CSPA).

The detachment board participated in the local Detachment's action plan for the coming years, and we continue to look forward to reviewing the Rainy River District's Community Safety & Well-Being Plan so that we may align our goals with it.

To be completely transparent about all actions of the detachment board, a Facebook page is in place where all documents can be retrieved.

This is only our second year in existence and the year continued to be a building process. 2026 will be an election year and the board has the possibility of seeing significant turnover. Please be assured that a strong foundation has been built for the future to provide a seamless transfer.

Over the past year, the Board completed a performance review of Inspector Given as required by the CSPA, Board members attended the annual OAPSB AGM and conference, area meetings, and Zoom meetings to receive training and updates. Members attended many of the presentations delivered to individual municipalities by the detachment commander.

We've received input from some municipalities and always welcome more comments as we build and move forward in development of the board and its ongoing governance.

At the end of 2025 we bid farewell to Inspector Given and we welcomed Inspector Mills as detachment commander. The Board is excited to work with Inspector Mills as we embark on 2026 with a new action plan in place. Working alongside the Detachment Commander, our goals are to improve the well-being and safety of all citizens in the West Rainy River District. We look forward to what we can accomplish in the future! As we continue to serve our communities, we hope that we can move forward and make positive progress through action.

Sincerely,

J. McTaggart and L. Kempf
Board Chair and Vice-Chair



John McTaggart, Board Chair



Lewis Kempf, Board Vice-Chair

Board Members



John McTaggart, Chair,
Elected Official appointed
by the Town of Fort Frances



Lewis Kempf, Vice-Chair,
Elected Official appointed
by the municipalities of
Chapple, Dawson, Lake of
the Woods, Morley, and Rainy
River



Andrew Hallikas, Elected
Official appointed by the
Town of Fort Frances



Shawn Spence, Elected
Official appointed by the
municipalities of Alberton,
Emo, and La Vallee

Board Members



**Gary Rogozinski, Provincial
Appointee**



**Travis McCormick, Citizen
Representative** appointed by
the municipalities of Alberton,
Chapple, Dawson, Emo, Lake
of the Woods, La Vallee,
Morley, and Rainy River



**Sylvia Smeeth, Citizen
Representative** appointed
by the Town of Fort Frances

History of the Board

The Rainy River District West OPP Detachment Board was officially established on April 1, 2024, under Ontario’s Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019. This new governance model replaced the former Fort Frances Police Services Board and brought together the municipalities of Alberton, Chapple, Dawson, Emo, Fort Frances, La Vallee, Lake of the Woods, Morley, and Rainy River into a unified civilian oversight body.

The shift followed provincial direction to streamline police governance by aligning one board per OPP detachment. Local discussions began as early as 2021, led by Fort Frances and the OPP, culminating in provincial approval in 2023. The Board now ensures balanced representation across both urban and rural communities in the western Rainy River District.

This Board supports and advises the local OPP detachment commander on policing priorities, with membership including elected officials, community representatives, and a provincial appointee. It oversees an expansive and diverse geographic area, including international border crossings, major highways, and remote communities.



Establishing the Board

The formation of the Rainy River District West OPP Detachment Board was the result of a coordinated, multi-municipality effort. The process required significant planning, consultation, and collaboration across all municipalities served by the Fort Frances OPP Detachment.

Initial steps focused on engaging each municipality to confirm participation and ensure that representation would reflect the full scope of the detachment's jurisdiction. This was followed by determining how the Board would be administered. It was important from the outset that the Board function independently and not be tied to the operations or identity of any one municipality.

An operating budget was developed to support the Board's activities, including meeting, administrative, travel, professional development, conference, and insurance costs.

The appointment process included both elected and community representatives, selected through council nominations and an open application process. This ensured a balanced membership structure aligned with the requirements of the Community Safety and Policing Act.

Throughout the process, regular consultation with the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ontario Provincial Police provided necessary oversight and guidance, ensuring the Board was compliant with legislative standards and operational best practices.

This collaborative approach resulted in a fully formed and operational civilian oversight board that reflects the priorities of the region and supports accountable, community-based policing in the west end of the Rainy River District.

Member Requirements

To be a member of the Board, clean **Criminal Record Checks** are required. As volunteers of the OPP Detachment Board, the Ontario Provincial Police waive the fee for these checks.

Mandatory training is required of all members. This has been administered through the Ministry of the Solicitor General. Training includes:

- OPP Detachment Board Member Training
- Municipal Police Service Board Training
- Human Rights
- Systemic Racism
- Ontario's Diverse, Multiracial & Multicultural Society
- The Rights and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples

Members **cannot be**:

- A judge
- A justice of the peace
- A member (past or present) of the Ontario Provincial Police
- A current member of any other police service in Ontario
- A former member of any other police service in Ontario unless they ceased to be a member for at least one year
- A special constable
- A First Nation Officer
- A person who practices criminal law as a defence counsel or as a prosecutor
- A director, officer, or employee of a prescribed policing provider or any other prescribed person

Lastly, members **must be**:

- Eighteen (18) years of age or older
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of the area served by the OPP detachment

What We Do

Here's what our Board is responsible for:

- Set local policing priorities, objectives, and performance targets
- Monitor police performance and community outcomes
- Review and receive regular reports from the Detachment Commander
- Support community engagement and ensure public concerns are considered in policing strategies
- Oversee board governance, policies, and compliance with provincial legislation
- Completing the Detachment Commander's performance review
- Participate in the recruitment and selection of the Detachment Commander (when required)
- Manage the board's own budget and administrative operations
- Attend training as mandated by the province for board members
- Communicate with member municipalities on key board activities and decisions
- Representing the Board as appointed members, appearing before municipalities upon request for presentations, questions, and concerns.

What We've Done in 2025

Here's some of what our Board has done:

- Appointed the full complement of Board members, including municipal, provincial, and community representatives
- Completed required member onboarding, including mandatory training and criminal record checks
- Had a total of 7 board meetings for the year of 2025
- Established the Board's operating budget for 2026
- Secured Board liability insurance
- Adopted a Procedural By-law to guide Board operations
- Developed and approved an Abuse, Violence, and Harassment Policy
- Launched a Board Facebook page to support transparency and communications
- Reviewed OPP Detachment Commander reports from June, 2025 to December, 2025
- Received presentations from OPP agency partners to support Board education and collaboration
- Participated in the 2025 OAPSB Annual Conference for provincial training and engagement
- Bid farewell to Detachment Commander Inspector Givens, and welcomed the new Detachment Commander Mills

Board Budget

As mandated by the Provincial legislation, the nine municipalities that make up the Board must pay for the budget of the Board. The Board discussed fairness of payment, and chose to distribute costs per municipality by the 2021 Stats Canada population figures of each municipality.

The budget looks as follows for 2026:

2026 Budget - Breakdown

OAPSB Membership	\$ 2,000.00
Zone Fees	\$ 150.00
Conferences and Courses	\$ 6,000.00
Mileage	\$ 1,500.00
Insurance	\$ 4,000.00
Public Relations	\$ 300.00
Remuneration	\$ 8,800.00
Town of Fort Frances proposed Admin Fee	\$ 3,500.00
Contingency	\$ 1,000.00
Website & Marketing	\$ 1,000.00
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	\$ 28,250.00
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Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Under Part XVI of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, all municipalities in Ontario are required to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan. These plans are designed to proactively address root causes of crime and social issues by improving access to services and enhancing overall community well-being.

The CSWB Plan is a collaborative strategy that involves a wide range of sectors, including but not limited to:

- Police services
- Municipal representatives
- Health and mental health providers
- Education and social services
- Community and Indigenous organizations

The role of OPP Detachment Boards is to support the implementation and monitoring of these plans. While the Board does not author the CSWB Plan, it works closely with municipalities and partners to ensure alignment between local policing priorities and broader community safety objectives. OPP Detachment Commanders also use CSWB Plans to inform operational planning, resource allocation, and community engagement efforts.

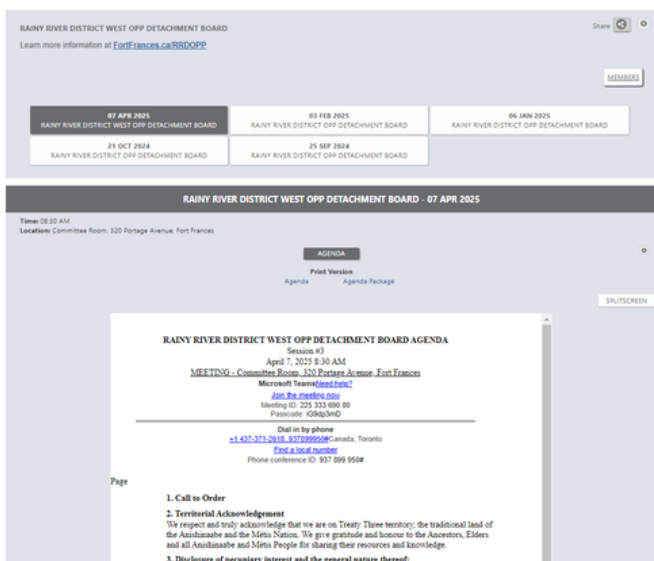
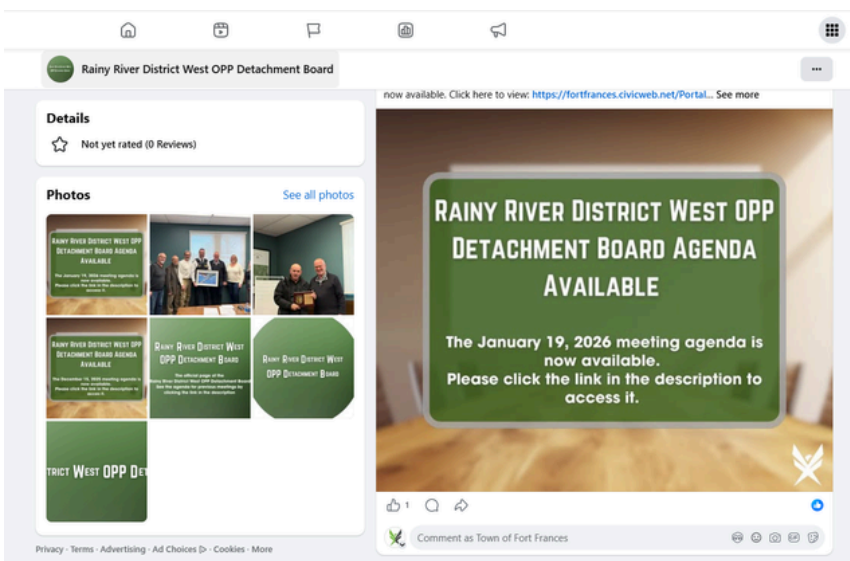
In the Rainy River District, work has begun on revising and updating the current CSWB Plan. This process is initially being led district-wide with participation from municipalities and service providers. The goal is to develop a plan that reflects the current realities and emerging priorities of our district, and to strengthen collaboration across sectors in addressing key issues that we face. Currently, the municipalities are looking at partnerships in the renewal plan, with the District of Rainy River Services Board assisting.

The current plan can be found at: www.fortfrances.ca/cswp

Communications

The Rainy River District West OPP Detachment Board communicates with the public primarily through the Town of Fort Frances and its meeting portal, where meeting agendas and minutes are posted www.fortfrances.ca/rrdwopp. The Board also created its own Facebook Page where the link to upcoming meeting agendas is posted after publication.

Board meetings are open to the public, and residents can attend in person or virtually through Microsoft Teams. Access details are included in each meeting agenda.



Board Administration

Board Administration is currently undertaken by administrative staff of the Town of Fort Frances. If your municipality would like to submit a request for one of the Board members or for the Board itself, please contact the Board Administrator.

Alexandra Lewis
Board Administrator

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