

OPP DETACHMENT BOARD-JAMES BAY EAST

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY/TREASURER OPP DETACHMENT BOARD-JAMES BAY EAST

February 20, 2026

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

The Honourable Zee Hamid
Associate Solicitor General for Auto Theft and Bail Reform
Ministry of the Solicitor General
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MPP John Vanthof
Pinewood Centre, Unit 5
247 Whitewood Avenue
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

Dear Leaders,

On behalf of the OPP Detachment Board – James Bay East I am pleased to offer this letter in strong support of Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) agencies across the province and the development of a coordinated Provincial Bail Notification Program.

VCAO organizations are essential partners in community safety and well-being. They provide immediate, trauma-informed support to individuals and families affected by crime and tragic circumstances, often at the most vulnerable moments in their lives. Their staff and volunteers work closely with police services to ensure survivors receive timely safety planning, crisis intervention, and connections to critical supports. This partnership enhances our ability to respond effectively, reduces risk, and strengthens trust with those we serve.

Timely and reliable bail notification is a vital component of victim safety. The current system is inconsistent across jurisdictions and leaves survivors at risk when they are not informed of release conditions or bail decisions that may impact their safety planning. A province-wide bail notification program, led in partnership with VCAO agencies, will ensure victims receive clear, coordinated, and rapid notification, regardless of where the offence occurred or where the accused is released. This is not only a matter of safety but also an essential part of ensuring victims' rights, dignity, and confidence in the justice system.

The OPP Detachment Board- James Bay East fully supports:

1. Strengthened investment in VCAO agencies, recognizing them as critical frontline partners in community safety and in supporting survivors of crime.

2. A standardized, province-wide bail notification system, designed in partnership with police services, VCAOs, and justice partners to promote timely communication, reduce risk, and improve outcomes for victims.
3. Ongoing collaboration between police and VCAO, including shared training, coordinated response models, and information pathways that improve both public safety and victim care.

VCAO agencies deliver high-quality services that directly complement police response. A provincial bail notification program will further enhance our collective ability to keep communities safe and uphold the rights of survivors. We urge the Government of Ontario to move forward with the development, implementation, and sustainable funding of this program.

Thank you for your consideration. The OPP Detachment Board-James Bay East is committed to working collaboratively and constructively with our VCAO partners and with provincial ministries to support this important and urgently needed initiative.

Yours truly,

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All Ontario municipalities
All Ontario OPP Detachment Boards