



BULLETIN!

February 27, 2008

On Tuesday, February 26, 2008 Minister Stockwell Day called CAPB President, Ian Wilms to let him know of the creation of the “Police Officers Recruitment Fund” and that \$400 million was included in the 2008 Budget to encourage the provinces and territories to recruit 2,500 new front-line police officers. President Wilms is pleased the Government of Canada has finally made good on the promise made to Canadians in 2006 and he looks forward to collaborating with the provinces.

More details on the budget that may be of interest to CAPB members are included below.

Tackling Crime and Bolstering Security

The Speech from the Throne identified tackling crime and strengthening the security of Canadians as a priority. Budget 2008 provides funding to enhance protection for Canadian families and communities, including:

- Setting aside \$400 million for a Police Officers Recruitment Fund to encourage provinces and territories to recruit 2,500 new front-line police officers.
- Committing \$122 million over two years to ensure that the federal corrections system is on track to implement a new vision to achieve better public safety results.
- Providing \$32 million over two years to enhance the work of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada.
- Providing \$30 million per year to the National Crime Prevention Strategy.
- Facilitating compliance by waiving fees for firearms licence renewal until May 2009.

Creating a Police Officers Recruitment Fund

A paramount responsibility of government is to protect the right to safety and security. A Safer Communities strategy will be implemented, in part through effective law enforcement. The Government takes this responsibility seriously to help ensure every Canadian is safe and secure. Budget 2008 provides funding to provinces and territories to support

The BULLETIN! is a publication of the Canadian Association of Police Boards designed to provide member boards with important information in a rapid and timely fashion.

them in recruiting 2,500 new front-line police officers. It sets aside up to \$400 million in 2007–08 to be paid into a third-party trust for provinces and territories, allocated proportionately, to meet this objective.

Funding will be paid into the trust, once legislation has been passed, for those provinces and territories that have publicly committed by March 31, 2008 to participate in a national effort to hire an additional 2,500 police officers across the country and thus make communities safer. Provinces and territories will have the flexibility to draw down the funding as they require over the next five years. Provincial and territorial governments are encouraged to report directly to their residents on the expenditures financed and outcomes achieved with the funding provided through the Police Officers Recruitment Fund.

Strengthening the Public Prosecution Service of Canada

Getting tough on crime does not end with greater investments in enforcement. The whole criminal justice system must work together to ensure those who are charged with offences are brought to trial in a timely fashion. The Public Prosecution Service of Canada is responsible for prosecuting offences under more than 50 federal statutes and for providing prosecution-related legal advice to law enforcement agencies. To support the ongoing work of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Budget 2008 provides \$32 million over the next two years to prosecute drug cases more effectively and to provide greater support for Crown agents across Canada.

Funding a Strong National Crime Prevention Program

Budget 2008 provides \$60 million over the next two years, for the National Crime Prevention Strategy, in addition to the existing annual investment of \$33 million. National Crime Prevention Strategy efforts are focused on priorities established in partnership with community-based not-for-profit organizations. Priorities for funding include providing support for vulnerable families and children at risk, preventing youth gang and drug-related crime, and preventing recidivism among high-risk groups.

Firearms Action Plan

The BULLETIN! is a publication of the Canadian Association of Police Boards designed to provide member boards with important information in a rapid and timely fashion.

As part of the strategy on tackling crime, the Government is committed to effective gun control and action against those who use firearms for criminal purposes. Effective gun control requires the licensing of all individuals who legally possess guns. The Government will bring forward a short-term action plan which will include measures to facilitate compliance and the extension of the waiver on firearms renewal fees until May 2009.

Improving Canada's Borders

Our borders have to facilitate trade, travel and commerce while protecting us from external threats. This is why Budget 2008 is investing in borders by:

- _ Committing \$75 million over two years to ensure the Canada Border Services Agency has the resources it needs to effectively manage the border.
- _ Introducing a higher-security electronic passport by 2011.
- _ Doubling the validity period of Canadian passports to 10 years when this electronic passport is launched.
- _ Providing \$14 million over two years to expand the joint Canada-United States NEXUS program for low-risk frequent travellers across the border.
- _ Providing \$6 million over two years for federal activities to support provinces and territories planning to introduce enhanced driver's licences.
- _ Allocating \$26 million over two years to introduce the use of biometric data into visas issued to foreign nationals entering Canada.
- _ Providing \$15 million over two years to establish a permanent facility to enhance the security of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway region.
- _ Allocating \$29 million over two years to meet priorities under the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America.

World-Class Travel Documents

Better borders also require better travel documents that address concerns over document vulnerability. Budget 2008 takes the steps needed to introduce a higher-security electronic passport by 2011. The validity period of the new passport will be doubled to 10 years. Canada will join other countries that have taken steps to strengthen the security of their passports. Budget 2008 also invests \$14 million over the next two years to expand the joint Canada/United States NEXUS program by adding dedicated infrastructure, increasing the number of users from 160,000 to 350,000 and better targeting frequent travellers. The NEXUS program has been successful in reducing border transit times. Expediting crossings for low-risk frequent travellers will also free up resources to improve the clearance

of regular traffic, thereby improving border security and reducing border congestion.

Finally, Budget 2008 provides \$6 million over the next two years for federal activities to support provinces and territories planning to introduce enhanced driver's licences. Enhanced driver's licences are optional licences that denote citizenship and are expected to be recognized as a valid travel document for land entry into the United States under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. The United States is the primary travel and business destination for many Canadians who do not hold a passport, and many Americans visit and tour Canada every year without carrying a passport. The development of enhanced driver's licences by provinces, territories and U.S. states is intended to provide Canadians and Americans who do not hold a passport with an accessible and convenient alternative. British Columbia and the state of Washington are currently deploying and testing enhanced driver's licences. Other provinces and U.S. states are also in the process of developing enhanced driver's licences for their citizens. Taken together, these investments will facilitate the secure movement of Canadians across international borders by providing access to reliable and accessible travel documents, in line with evolving international standards. These investments will also ensure a smooth transition to the U.S. Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

New Funding for the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority

Continuing risk in aviation as a target for terrorist attacks underlies the importance of a secure air transportation system. A federal Crown corporation, the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA), is responsible for the security screening of air passengers and their baggage at Canada's airports. Significant operational pressures, including continuous growth in air traffic, will challenge CATSA's ability to deliver on its screening responsibilities over future years. Budget 2008 provides funding of \$147 million in 2008–09 to help CATSA address such pressures. The Air Travellers Security Charge (ATSC) will continue to provide funds for air travel security. ATSC rates will be reviewed and adjusted in future years, consistent with funding decisions for air travel security, to ensure that revenues from the ATSC and expenses for air travel security balance over time.

For further information: Jennifer Lanzon, Executive Director
Canadian Association of Police Boards
P.O. Box 4670, Station E
Ottawa, ON K1S 5H8
Tel: 819-682-1440, Fax: 819-682-4569
E-mail: jlanzon@capb.ca Website : www.capb.ca