



ROMA CONFERENCE UPDATE

Operational Demands

- More people + more buildings + more cars = more calls
- Modern fires are more dangerous due to the high heat release rates of synthetic materials & impacts of lightweight construction
- Lithium-Ion Batteries pose an emerging challenge
- The housing crisis has also had a profound impact



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Level of Service Decisions

- Community Risk Assessment



- Level of Service Decisions



- Establishing & Regulating Bylaw



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Level of Service Decisions

- It is imperative that elected officials make the decision, based on the needs and circumstances of the municipality, of what the fire department level of service will be, and resource the Fire Chief appropriately.



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Cost Escalations

- Fire departments are capital heavy, with major assets including stations, apparatus, radio systems, self-contained breathing apparatus, protective clothing & equipment and more
- Given how safety sensitive firefighting is, it is imperative that protective clothing and equipment (bunker gear, SCBA, helmets etc.) and front-line equipment (hose, nozzles, ladders etc.) continue to be replaced as required



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Cost Escalations

- Apparatus replacement cycles are established through the Fire Underwriters Survey, and while they are not legislated, failure to adhere to them will negatively impact insurance ratings and may have safety impacts on firefighters



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Cost Escalations

- Municipalities should explore options including use of the Infrastructure Ontario Infrastructure Lending Program and leasing apparatus and equipment
- Formal replacement forecasts need to be established and adhered to as part of a larger asset management program



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Training & Certification

- Mandatory NFPA certification is required by July 1, 2026/2028
- Most fire departments have this well in hand, if your fire department not on track to meet target dates then solution-driven work plans need to be developed.
- Certification is simply testing (provided free of charge) that reinforces training that was always required



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Health & Safety

- The two biggest issues continue to be occupational cancer and mental health (preventing PTSD & suicide)
- Cancer prevention
 - Use the MLITSD Firefighter Cancer Prevention Checklist
 - Supported by the Fire Protection Grant
- Mental health
 - Recent announcement of \$32 million in funding



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What If Volunteer Firefighters



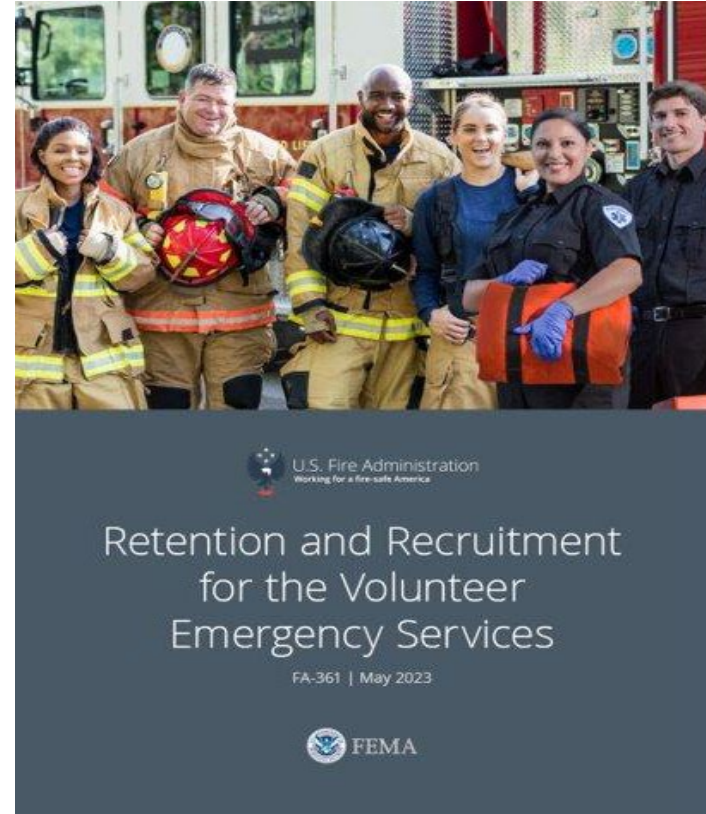
Didn't Volunteer?



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Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment & Retention

- 405 of 437 Ontario Fire Departments rely on volunteer firefighters
- Volunteerism across all sectors is down, but the volunteer fire service has been significantly impacted
- Important for fire departments to modernize their programs



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ROMA 2025: Rural Routes

January 20, 2025

WHO ARE WE?

The Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs is the voice of paramedic leadership in Ontario.

Our organization promotes a culture of change surrounding paramedicine that is guided by evidence-based decision-making and seeks best practices in the provision of paramedic services.



WHO ARE WE?

The OAPC represents the Paramedic Services leadership across 57 regional, county and municipal governments, District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), Ornge, and First Nations across Ontario.

OAPC members oversee the work of 12,500 primary, advanced and critical care paramedics operating nearly 1300 ambulances and 500 emergency response vehicles across the province.





Human Health Resources (HHR)

- Ongoing challenges d/t shortage of paramedics – profound in Northern Ontario
- Shortfall of 300 college program graduates annually
- Continue to increase the number of college seats, expand learn and stay grant to all areas of Ontario



Human Health Resources (HHR)

- 10% to 15% of the workforce is off on OSI at any time
- Streamline and reduce red tape to approve WSIB claims. Set clear standards for what is covered that includes rehabilitation, and reduce the number of time-wasting appeals
- Lower the unreduced WSIB retirement age to the employee's earliest unreduced retirement date



Self-Regulation

- Self-regulation exists in all provinces but Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick
- Cost-savings for Government
- Makes it easier for qualified paramedics from other provinces to work in Ontario
- Greater flexibility to meet objectives of Government

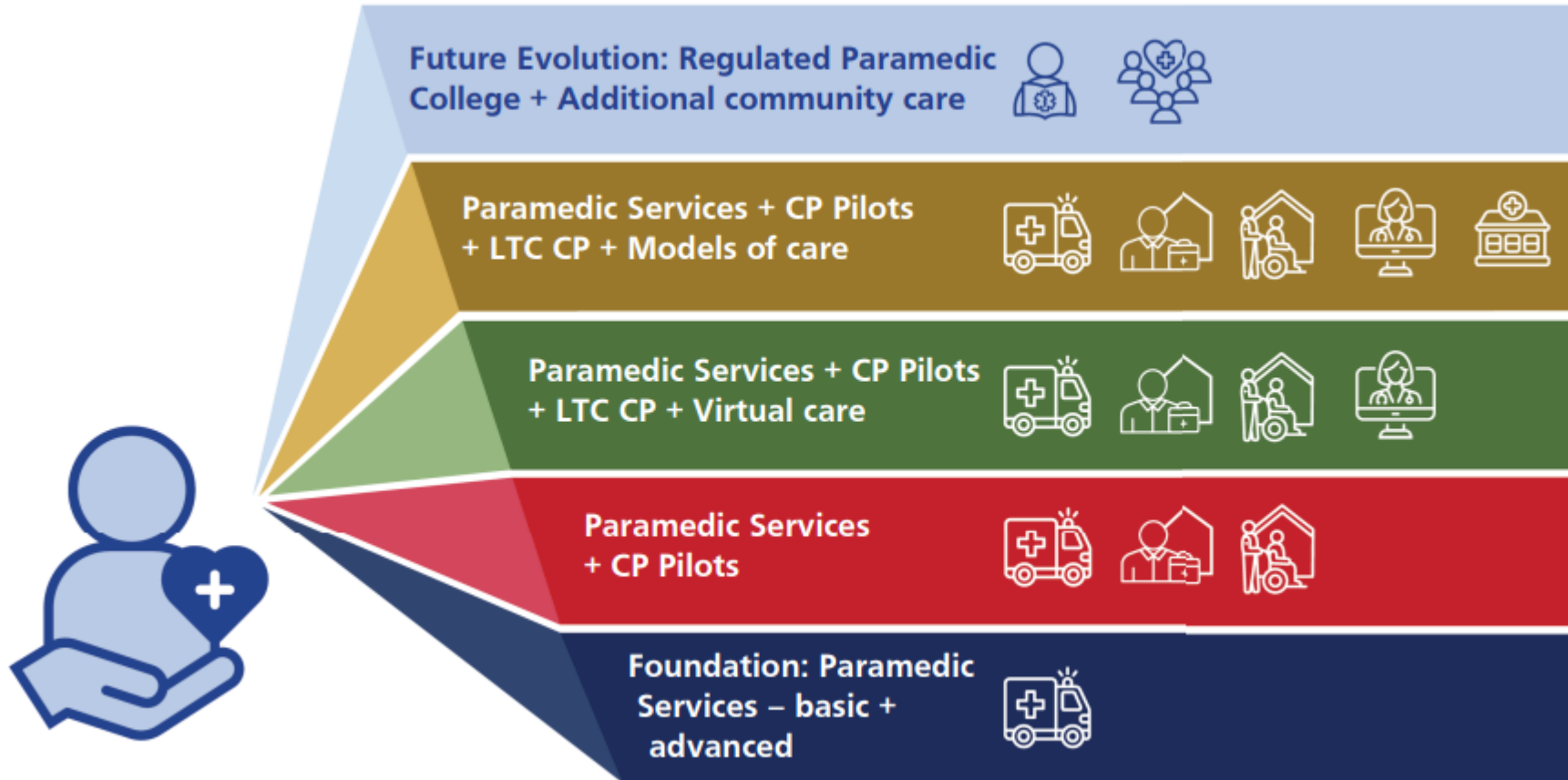


Community Paramedicine

- Strong track record since 2014
- 5:1 ROI on investment
- Integrate with ambulance dispatch system
- Homelessness, mental health and addictions role
- Work with MOH, MLTC, Ontario Health:
 - 100% sustainable provincial funding for permanent CP programs
 - Standardization of program delivery
 - Legislative inclusion – short and long term



Evolution of Paramedic Services





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Rural Ontario
Municipal Association

Rural Policing in Ontario



Ontario
Association of
Police Service
Boards

Providing Adequate and Effective Policing
when One Size Doesn't Fit All
January 2025

Policing Across Ontario

- 40% of the Nation's Police Services are in Ontario
- Range from the largest municipal Service – Toronto
- The largest Provincial Services – OPP
- Some of the smallest in the country
- Also includes 9 Indigenous Police Services
- Budgets also range from over \$1 billion to tens of thousands of dollars



Challenge

Challenge to provide adequate and effective services when there is such disparity in size and budget

Province funds OPP through the Treasury Board for provincial responsibilities and municipal policing (municipalities policed by the OPP)

Grant funding available to municipal services at approximately \$500 million annually

Majority of police funding through municipal funds

Very limited ability for meaningful cost recovery of services

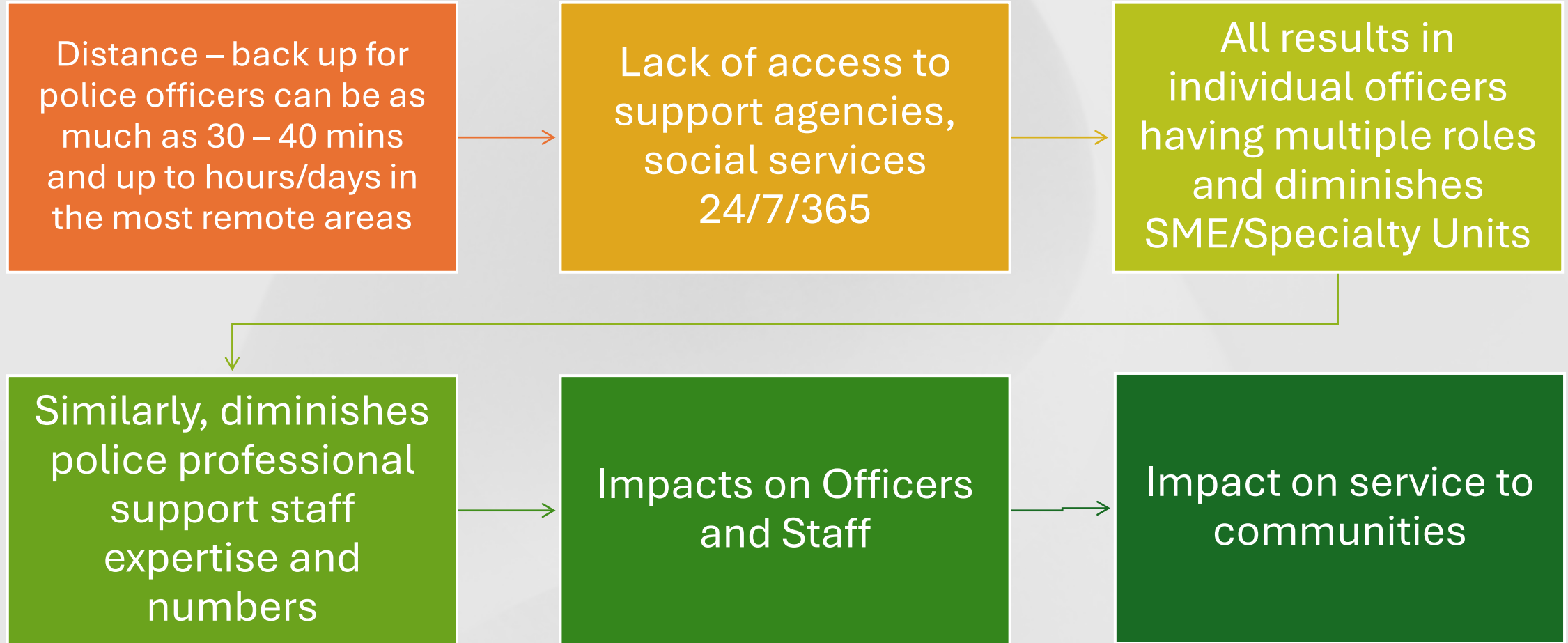


Size Matters

Social Disorder Issues in the North

- Issues with respect to addictions, isolation, overdose deaths, unemployment, etc. felt uniquely in the North
- Net impact is people falling prey to drug trafficking, human trafficking, violence
- Often multi-jurisdictional investigations
- Always complex major case investigations

Uniqueness of Rural Ontario



The Police Services Act (PSA)



Community Safety and Policing Act

Change in Language for Policing
Responsibility

Increased Accountability

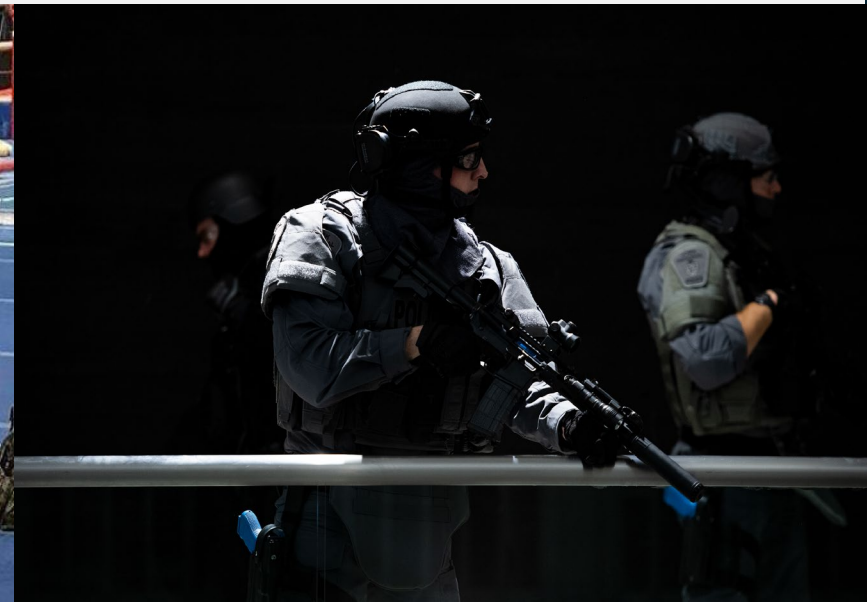




Not All Created Equal

Agreements for Provisions of Policing Under CSPA

- Section 14 – between boards or board and commissioner to provide a policing function.
- Section 19 – Request from Chief to Chief/Commissioner
 - Notice as soon as practicable to Board/Minister.





OPP Policed Municipalities



OPP Policed Municipalities

Under PSA

- Municipal Contract (PSA section 10) – Police Services Board
- “Pay as you go” (PSA section 5.1)
- Grant Funding
- Numerous meetings for Detachment Commanders with limited scope.

OPP Policed Municipalities

Under the CSPA

Detachment Board

- Focus is supporting community needs and applying the local lens to how adequate and effective policing is being delivered to your communities.



Success Factors

