



## LANARK COUNTY OPP DETACHMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

9:00 AM

Lanark County Council Chambers, 99 Christie Lake Road, Perth

**Present:**

Ed McPherson, Chair, Town of Perth  
Dena Comley, Council Representative, Town of Carleton Place  
Denzil Ferguson, Council Representative, Municipality of Mississippi Mills  
Ron Closs, Council Representative, Township of Lanark Highlands  
Karen Jennings, Council Representative, Township of Montague  
Rodney Bowes, Community Representative  
Michel Vermette, Community Representative

**Others:**

Stephanie Gray, Lanark County OPP Detachment Board Support Coordinator  
Inspector Kerlous Tawdrous, Lanark County OPP

**Absent:**

Steve Fournier, Council Representative, Township of Drummond/North Elmsley  
Greg Hallam, Council Representative, Tay Valley Township  
Richard Kidd, Council Representative, Beckwith Township

### 1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.  
A quorum was present.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION #CS-2026-01**

**MOVED BY:** D. Ferguson      **SECONDED BY:** K. Jennings

*Suggested Motion:*

**THAT** the agenda be adopted as circulated and read.

**ADOPTED**

**3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST/CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None at this time.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION #CS-2026-02**

**MOVED BY:** D. Comley      **SECONDED BY:** R. Bowes

*Suggested Motion:*

**THAT** the minutes of the Lanark County OPP Detachment Board held on Dec. 1, 2025 be approved as circulated and read.

**ADOPTED**

**5. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

i) Q4 Statistics

**Inspector Kerlous Tawdrous, Lanark County OPP**

Insp. Tawdrous provided an overview of the statistics and commended officers involved in a recent fatal collision. Criminal charges are up 16%. Traffic is down 13% and is affected by so many other calls coming in. A decrease in property crimes is being seen across the province with organized crime being targeted. Clearance rates for violent offences are high. Insp. Tawdrous outlined training for officers. He noted patrol hours are up and the DOC program is helping reduce paperwork for officers. He said there was an increase in mental health calls for

2025 and reviewed the MCRT complement, noting every mental health call requires at least two officers. Insp. Tawdrous responded to questions about notetaking and electronic notebooks, AI policy, criminality related to mental health calls, the nature of public complaints, and the role of a proactive unit, body-worn cameras and in-car cameras in resolving complaints. There was a discussion about officer time spent at hospitals. Insp. Tawdrous said a new hospital transfer program has been helpful. Chair McPherson said the ROMA delegation with the Ministry of the Solicitor General about base funding for MCRT was well-received. There will be more follow-up from the county. He said Perth met with SOLGEN regarding court security costs, and the Minister advised this should be taken to county council. In response to a question about the federal gun buy-back program, Insp. Tawdrous said they are awaiting direction from the Commissioner.

**MOTION #CS-2026-03**

**MOVED BY:** K. Jennings      **SECONDED BY:** D. Ferguson

*Suggested Motion:*

**THAT** the Lanark County Detachment Q4 Statistics be received as information.

**ADOPTED**

ii) RIDE Grants  
**Inspector Kerlous Tawdrous, Lanark County OPP**

Insp. Tawdrous indicated Lanark has received about \$35,000 per year for four years, which is more than requested and will allow them to hit all communities and do different forms of RIDE, e.g. for snowmobiles, ATVs and waterways throughout the year. He asked members to contact him if there is an area in their community that could use more focus. There is a change in how the funding is administered, with more funding now for officers to be in the community. In response to a question about breath samples, Insp. Tawdrous said the law has changed so that police don't need any grounds if someone is behind the wheel. He said mandatory breath screening will come to the community, which will take more officers.

**MOTION #CS-2026-04**

**MOVED BY:** D. Comley      **SECONDED BY:** R. Bowes

*Suggested Motion:*

**THAT** the RIDE Grant update be received as information.

**ADOPTED**

- iii) Lanark County Situation Table 10-Year Anniversary  
**Stephanie Gray, Coordinator**

S. Gray presented on the 10-year anniversary of the Lanark County Situation Table, including statistics and success stories. In response to questions, she discussed the complexity of referrals that have been coming to the table and that many people may have multiple police calls for service. She suggested a main issue to tackle connects back to a large risk identified in the Community Plan for Safety and Well-being, which is affordability and quality of life. Addressing housing, income and food security can help to improve health/mental health and reduce crime.

**MOTION #CS-2026-05**

**MOVED BY:** M. Vermette      **SECONDED BY:** R. Closs

*Suggested Motion:*

**THAT** the Lanark County Situation Table 10-Year Anniversary presentation be received as information.

**ADOPTED**

**6. REPORTS**

- i) Coordinator Activity Report  
**Stephanie Gray, Coordinator**

S. Gray noted the Detachment Commander performance feedback form has been submitted to Region. The CSWB

Advisory committee meets Jan. 29. Three grants will be completed as of March 31. The debrief regarding the unsuccessful Victim Support Grant revealed funding had been reduced and Lanark's application was good but was slightly below the benchmark; there will be an opportunity to apply for items in another upcoming grant cycle.

**MOTION #CS-2026-06**

**MOVED BY:** D. Ferguson      **SECONDED BY:** R. Closs

*Suggested Motion:*

**THAT** the Coordinator Activity Report for November and December 2025 be received as information.

**ADOPTED**

- ii) 2026 Board Workplan and Priorities  
**Stephanie Gray, Coordinator**

S. Gray provided an overview of the draft workplan. Members discussed ideas for board priorities, including community engagement and inviting community partners to make presentations. Insp. Tawdrous suggested including hearing from board members about needs and priorities in their communities and that this forum is a place to advocate for municipalities. He suggested inviting an IPV survivor and the Victim Advocate to talk to the Board. S. Gray will compile a list based on the discussion and members are encouraged to contact her and the Chair with ideas. It was also suggested that the agenda package be copied to all municipal clerks.

**MOTION #CS-2026-07**

**MOVED BY:** M. Vermette      **SECONDED BY:** R. Bowes

*Suggested Motion:*

**THAT** the 2026 Lanark County OPP Detachment Board Work Plan be adopted.

**ADOPTED**

- iii) Detachment Board Policy Direction  
**Stephanie Gray, Coordinator**

S. Gray outlined the existing and required policies for the Board. Chair McPherson proposed the process of completing and adopting the policies take place over the next few months.

**MOTION #CS-2026-08**

**MOVED BY:** D. Comley      **SECONDED BY:** K. Jennings

*Suggestion Motion:*

**THAT** the Detachment Board direct staff to develop the policies as detailed in the Detachment Board Policy Direction Report.

**ADOPTED**

**7. EXTERNAL ORGANIZATION UPDATES**

**8. MOTIONS**

**9. BY-LAWS**

**10. INFORMATION LISTING**

- i) Inspector General Memo #8 - Public Release of the First Decisions by the Inspector General of Policing
- ii) New Governance Tools Now Available for Boards and Administrators
- iii) Year End Reflections, Holiday Wishes and What to Expect in 2026
- iv) Quarterly Newsletter Edition 4 2025
- v) New Year Update: Legislative Changes and Discussion Groups Now Open

- vi) Submission of Detachment Commander Performance Feedback - Lanark

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

- i) Annual Appointment of Secretary-Treasurer  
**Chair Ed McPherson**

**MOTION #CS-2026-09**

**MOVED BY:** M. Vermette      **SECONDED BY:** K. Jennings

*Suggested Motion:*

**THAT** Stephanie Gray be appointed as the Lanark County OPP Detachment Board for 2026.

**ADOPTED**

**12. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**14. CLOSED SESSION**

**15. RISE AND REPORT**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #CS-2026-10**

**MOVED BY:** K. Jennings      **SECONDED BY:** D. Ferguson

*Suggested Motion:*

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**ADOPTED**