

Audit of the Ottawa Police Service's Response to the Convoy Protest – The Role of the OPSB - Highlights



Office of the
Auditor General
City of Ottawa



Why we did this audit

Given the significant impact that the convoy protest had on the City of Ottawa and its residents, the Auditor General accepted a request from the Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB or the Board) to conduct a review of the response of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS). This audit focused exclusively on assessing whether the OPSB undertook all necessary and appropriate actions leading up to and during the convoy protest to fulfill its mandate of providing adequate and effective police services in Ottawa.



What we found

We found that in the early stages of the protest, the Board did not clearly understand its role relative to a major event but sought out legal expertise and support to guide them through the rapidly changing event. As time went on and, in an attempt, to fulfill its mandate, the Board took steps to request operational information and asked questions of the Chief of Police; however, for most of the three-week convoy protest, this information was not provided, which impacted their ability to effectively undertake their oversight responsibilities.

Further, we noted that elements of the infrastructure supporting the Board have the potential to impact their overall effectiveness, including: skills and expertise, orientation and training and support available to Board members.



We made 11 recommendations to ensure that:

- Expectations are clarified on the collaboration between the Board and the Chief of Police during a major event;
- There is sufficient due diligence and transparency when a non-standard hiring process is employed;
- Expectations are clear related to dissemination of information by the Chair to the full Board;
- All activities and decisions are executed in accordance with legislative and procedural requirements; and,
- Board members have the skills, competencies, time commitments and support needed to effectively govern.

For more details on this report please visit our [website](#).

613 580-9602 | OAG@ottawa.ca