



# The Thunder Bay Police Services Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BOARD DECISION ON EXTENSION APPLICATION FOR NOTICE OF HEARING**

THUNDER BAY, ON, August 24, 2022 — The Thunder Bay Police Services Board has granted an extension in serving a notice of hearing in respect to charges against Staff Sergeant Shawn Harrison, Sergeant Justin Dubuc and Constable Colin Woods regarding allegations of misconduct.

The Police Services Act (PSA) requires that a board decision on application for notice of hearing is required to be served in six months, however an exemption can be granted in certain circumstances.

Upon a review of evidence provided, in the Board's opinion, the six-month period began shortly after November 4, 2021. On this date, the Chief became aware of the allegations and internal investigations were undertaken. It was determined that the allegations warranted an investigation. The internal investigation took approximately three months to complete.

It was recommended to the Board by the Chief that an outside police agency conduct the PSA investigation in February of 2022. The Board approved this recommendation in March 22, 2022.

On March 23, 2022, arrangements were made to have the Hamilton Police Service complete the PSA investigation. On June 21, 2022, the Hamilton Police Service returned its investigative report substantiating these allegations.

The Board made its decision to grant the extension for the following reasons:

- 1) The investigation by the initial investigator began promptly at the beginning of the six-month period and resulted in a report delivered on February 11, 2022.
- 2) The Board was then promptly asked to approve assignment of another police service. Approval was provided on March 22, 2022.
- 3) Arrangements with the Hamilton Police Service were then promptly made. The Hamilton Police Service reported substantiating allegations of misconduct.
- 4) Each of these steps were reasonable, indeed fully appropriate taking into account both fairness to all concerned and the public interest in accountability.

A date has yet to be set for the Police Service Act Hearing. More information about the decision can be found at this link: [Extension Application | Thunder Bay Police Service Board \(thunderbaypsb.ca\)](https://www.thunderbaypsb.ca/extension-application).

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