

POLICY TITLE: Governance: Governmental Advocacy	POLICY NUMBER: GOV-008
DATE APPROVED: 20/05/2025	
DATE(s) REVIEWED:	DATE TO BE REVIEWED: 2027
DATE(s) AMENDED:	
LEGISLATION:	
RELATED PROCEDURES/POLICY:	

POLICY STATEMENT

The Thunder Bay Police Service Board (Board) is committed to proactive and strategic advocacy efforts to address policing challenges that require government action. This policy establishes the principles and processes guiding advocacy initiatives to ensure alignment with municipal and provincial priorities.

PURPOSE

This policy establishes a framework for when and how the Thunder Bay Police Service Board (Board) and Chief of the Thunder Bay Police Service (Chief) may engage in governmental advocacy, when seeking support from the City of Thunder Bay's Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Committee and other local boards, committees, and bodies. It also ensures alignment with governmental advocacy events and timely preparation of advocacy priorities.

a) Why Advocacy is Needed

The Board may face challenges requiring government action, including:

- Legislative or regulatory changes impacting policing.
- Funding gaps in public safety or community support services.
- Broader systemic issues such as homelessness, mental health, and addictions affecting policing and public safety.

By collaborating with the IGA Committee, and other local boards, committees, and bodies, the Board ensures its advocacy is well-prepared, aligned with municipal priorities, and effectively presented to government officials. This does not preclude the Board from advocating on their own.

SCOPE

This policy applies to advocacy initiatives undertaken by the Board, where collaboration is required with the City of Thunder Bay's IGA Committee and other local boards, committees, and bodies. It covers engagement with government officials, participation in advocacy events, and the development of supporting materials for advocacy efforts.

This policy also applies to ad-hoc opportunities for advocacy that the Board may be interested in pursuing beyond regular advocacy events.

POLICY

a) Advocacy Initiation

- "Advocacy Topics" will be added to the Board's May and October Board agendas annually to align with the request for delegations at the upcoming governmental advocacy events as well as on an ad-hoc basis, as necessary. During these meetings, the Board will:
 - Identify key advocacy priorities.
 - Discuss potential collaboration with the IGA Committee, municipal bodies, and community partners.

b) Board Resolution

- The Board passes a resolution at this meeting to confirm advocacy topics and request support from the IGA Committee and other municipal bodies and community partners, as appropriate.

c) Collaboration with Community Partners

- Upon approval, the Chief will:
 - Work with the Board, and other municipal bodies and community partners to develop detailed briefing notes.
 - Create supporting materials such as letters and presentations for governmental advocacy events.

d) Coordination for Advocacy Events

- The Board, Chief, and representatives of the City of Thunder Bay will collaborate to finalize advocacy strategies ahead of events such as the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards, Canadian Association of Police Governance, Association of Municipalities Ontario, and Rural Ontario Municipal Association meetings and conferences.

e) Follow-Up and Reporting

- The Board will request a report on the outcome of the meeting.
- Outcomes and lessons learned from each governmental advocacy event will be documented and reviewed to inform future strategies.