

**MEMORANDUM TO:** All Chiefs of Police and  
Commissioner Thomas Carrique  
Chairs, Police Services Boards

**FROM:** Ken Weatherill  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division

**SUBJECT:** Changes to the Special Constable Appointments  
Process Under the *Police Services Act*

<b>DATE OF ISSUE:</b>	<b>March 15, 2024</b>
<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>	<b>General Information</b>
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The Ministry of the Solicitor General is working to support the policing sector during the transition from the *Police Services Act* (PSA) to the new legislative and regulatory framework under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA).

While the PSA is still in force, the ministry will be considering the [O. Reg. 396/23: Matters Respecting the Appointment and Functions of Special Constables and the Authorization of Special Constable Employers](#) under the CSPA when assessing whether to provide approval to a board to appoint a special constable pursuant to section 53 of PSA.

All pending requests submitted to the ministry since January 8, 2024, will be reviewed under these criteria. This is to ensure that special constables appointed under the PSA have similar purposes and powers as permitted under the CSPA framework.

When submitting new requests for approval, please aim to ensure there is alignment with the CSPA regulation and explain any deviations from the CSPA regulation.

On April 1, 2024, the CSPA will come into force, and police service boards or the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police may appoint special constables, pursuant to section 92 of the CSPA, without the need to seek approval from the Solicitor General. These appointments will need to comply with the CSPA and [O. Reg. 396/23](#).

All requests for Solicitor General approval may continue to be submitted to Denise Lim, Appointments Officer, at [denise.lim@ontario.ca](mailto:denise.lim@ontario.ca) until March 28, 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Weatherill', written in a cursive style.

Ken Weatherill  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division

c: Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M.  
Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety

Creed Atkinson  
Chief of Staff, Ministry of the Solicitor General