



Peterborough Police Service Board

Policy Underwater Search and Recovery Units 2026-ER-026

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1.0 Authority

- 1.1 Subsection 37(1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1*, (“CSPA”) provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by section 10 of the CSPA;
- 1.2 Subsection 38(2) of the CSPA provides that a police service board may establish policies respecting matters related to the police service or the provision of policing;
- 1.3 O. Reg. 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing (General) (“the Adequacy Regulation”) prescribes standards for adequacy and effectiveness of police services;
- 1.4 The Board has deemed it appropriate that it establish a policy with respect to the services of the underwater search and recovery unit;
- 1.5 Section 10 of the Adequacy Regulation provides that every chief of police shall establish written procedures in relation to the functions of the underwater search and recovery unit;
- 1.6 The *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.0.1 as amended, sets out the responsibilities of employers, supervisors and workers for workplace

safety, the Board prescribes the Chief of Police shall establish procedures and processes with respect to the services of an underwater search and recovery unit;

- 1.7 The *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)* Diving Operations Regulation 629/94 prescribes further specific definitions and responsibilities that relate to all occupational diving operations;
- 1.8 The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) provides a *Competency Standard for Diving Operations CAN/CSA-Z275.4-02* and an *Occupational Safety Code for Diving Operations CAN/CSA-Z275.2-92*;

NOW THEREFORE THE PETERBOROUGH POLICE SERVICE BOARD APPROVES AND ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING:

2.0 Definitions

In this Policy:

- 2.1 **“Act” or “CSPA”** means the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, as amended;
- 2.2 **“Board”** means the Peterborough Police Service Board;
- 2.3 **“Chief”** means the Chief of the Peterborough Police Service;
- 2.4 **“Member”** means a member of the Peterborough Police Service;
- 2.5 **“Ministry”** means the Ministry of the Solicitor General;
- 2.6 **“OPP”** means the Ontario Provincial Police;
- 2.7 **“Service”** means the Peterborough Police Service.

3.0 Board Policy and Direction to Chief

- 3.1 The Board recognizes that an underwater search and recovery unit is an integral part of policing.
- 3.2 The Board further recognizes that the Service does not have an underwater search and recovery unit and therefore they have entered into an agreement with the Ontario Provincial Police for the provision of this function, in accordance with the CSPA (“the Assistance Agreement”).

- 3.3 The Chief shall ensure that the Assistance Agreement complies with Sections 9, 10, and 11 of the Adequacy Regulation in all aspects
- 3.4 The Board authorizes the Chief to retain another qualified agency to conduct underwater search and recovery in the event the OPP is unable to respond to the request for services in a timely manner.
- 3.4 It is therefore the policy of this Board to require the Chief to develop procedures that outline when an underwater search and recovery unit is to be engaged, and to facilitate early access to the Assistance Agreement with OPP, or another agency if necessary.

4.0 Report to the Board

- 4.1 The Chief shall report to the Board on the implementation of this policy as follows:
- a) In response to questions from the Board regarding Service procedures developed pursuant to the policy, either verbally at a meeting when the questions is asked, or in writing at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, as directed by the Board; and
 - b) The Chief shall report to the Board the circumstances requiring engaging the service of the Ontario Provincial Police, or other agency, for an underwater search and recovery operation.

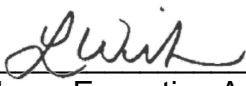
5.0 Implementation

- 5.1 That the Board approves and adopts this Policy #2026-ER-026 Underwater Search and Recovery Units which shall come into force on July 22, 2026.
- 5.2 That Policy #ER-009, enacted on October 20, 2014 and last revised March 23, 2016, is hereby repealed effective July 22, 2026.



Mary ten Doeschate, Chair
Peterborough Police Service Board

July 22, 2026
Date



Lisa Wilson, Executive Assistant
Peterborough Police Service Board

July 22, 2026
Date