

NEW BILLING MODEL FOR MUNICIPALITIES POLICED BY THE RCMP UNDER THE PPSA



NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | JULY 2026 | *Credible. Clear. Inclusive. Helpful.*



This is not simply a billing change. It is a foundational public safety investment.

HOW THE NEW BILLING MODEL WORKS

A more balanced, service-based funding mechanism.

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A Cost base and context
Under the PPSA, Canada contributes 30% of eligible costs and the Province is responsible for 70%. Municipalities contribute through a provincially administered framework.
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B Allocation factors
Municipalities will no longer pay strictly by officer count. The model considers population, uniform assessment/property value, officer assignment, shared services, and a Crime Severity Index-related subsidy.
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C Stability protections
The model includes protections against sudden cost instability: a phased cap over the first five years, and after five years annual increased capped at 5%.
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D Administration and local input
The Department of Justice will administer, monitor and annually recalibrate the model. Municipalities will continue to identify local priorities and operational realities.



WHAT INFORMED THIS WORK?

The Comprehensive Nova Scotia Police Review has assisted the Province to better understand the state of police resourcing across the province. This includes workload pressures, geographic coverage, response demands, proactive capacity, and the operational sustainability of local detachments.

OVERALL IMPACTS

The new model is intended to make policing funding more transparent, equitable, and connected to actual service demand.



Predictability

Clearer, more stable municipal planning for policing costs.



Adequacy

Supports the Province in meeting responsibilities for adequate and effective policing.



Rural equity

Stronger support for rural, remote, and high-need communities.



Officer wellness

Reduced operational strain, overtime pressure, and burnout risk over time.



Demand alignment

Funding better reflects population, assessment, staffing, and public safety pressures.



Flexibility

Reduces rigid municipal ownership of assigned resources and supports deployment where needed.



Visibility

Improved proactive capacity, community presence, and response sustainability.



Layered policing

Creates fiscal space to reinvest in complementary community service initiatives.

TIMELINE

- 1 Letter** →



On July 29, 2026, a letter was provided to municipalities notifying them of their estimated cost
- 2 One-on-ones** →



DoJ staff are meeting with every municipality to discuss their billing model through August and September
- 3 Agreement** →



An agreement to guide cost recovery will be provided, and the DoJ will work with municipalities through that process.
- 4 Implementation**



The billing model will be implemented by October 1, 2026, retroactive to April 1, 2026.

COST BREAKDOWN



Step 1 - Cost Base Identification

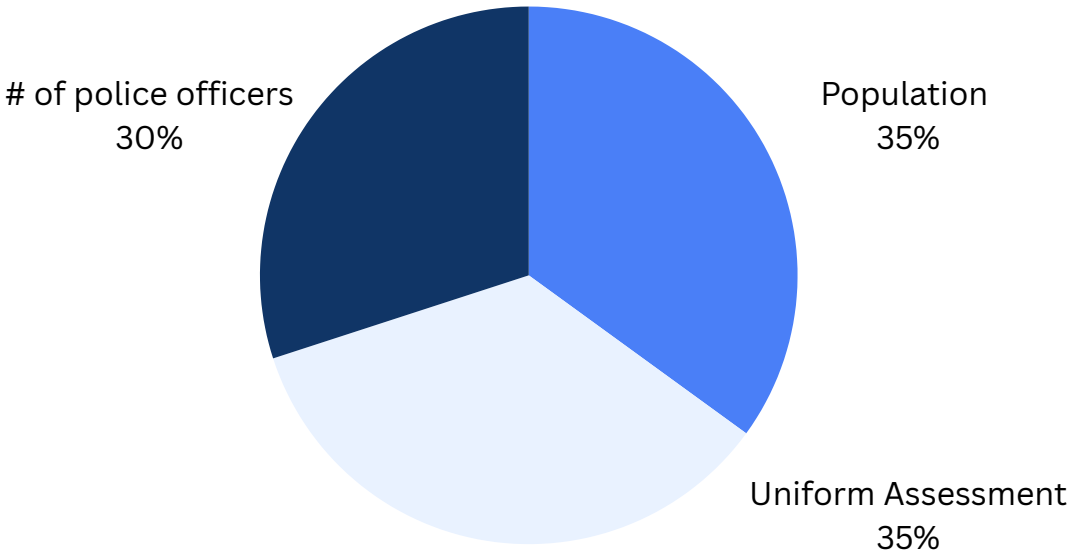
Based on the RCMP's report, municipal policing costs are distinguished from costs associated with centralized or shared policing services. The province is providing additional financial support to reduce the cost base which will be recovered from municipalities.

In FY 2026-27, this additional provincial support includes approximately \$16.3 million.

Step 2 - Cost Allocation

The remaining municipal costs are allocated among all participating municipalities using a weighted formula.

Allocation Formula



Sources for 2026/27:

- Population was derived from the 2021 Census Data
- Uniform Assessment was derived from the Provincial Uniform Assessment data as of February 24, 2026
- Resources are approved RCMP resources for the 2026/27 fiscal year



Step 3 - Shared Services & CSI Subsidies



Shared service costs will continue to be allocated between the province and municipalities under both PPSA and MPSA. The allocation is generally based on the number of RCMP resources within each municipality.



The Province will set aside approximately 1% of total municipal policing costs as a subsidy, which is approx. 1.3 million for FY26-27. The purpose is to recognize that some municipalities have higher crime severity and potentially greater policing demand. Each municipality receives a CSI factor by comparing its 3-year CSI with the provincial three-year average.



Step 4 - CAP Adjustment

To support a gradual and predictable transition to the new municipal policing billing mechanism, a phased cap adjustment will apply during the first five years of implementation.

The cap adjustment is always based on the previous year's amount.

Implementation Year	Minimum Annual Adjustment	Maximum Annual Adjustment
Year 1	-25%	0%
Year 2	-20%	5%
Year 3	-15%	5%
Year 4	-10%	5%
Year 5	-5%	5%



Step 5 - Agreements & Reinvestment of Savings



The objective is not just to reduce costs, it's to **create flexibility** for municipalities to **invest in public safety** in ways that make sense for their communities using alternative approaches to traditional policing.

The Province will be entering into dedicated agreements with each municipality in order to lay out the **roles and responsibilities of both parties** (municipality and province) and the costs associated with RCMP service provision and investments in public safety initiatives.