



Resolution 2013-03

Ontario Tri-Service Public Safety Communications Interoperability Approved at the 62nd Annual General Meeting June 2013

Preamble:

This resolution calls for the Public Safety Communications Interoperability to be named as a priority for Province of Ontario and Tri-Service Chiefs Associations.

WHEREAS the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, and Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs have passed or are in the process of passing a resolution similar to this, and

WHEREAS the safety, security and prosperity of Ontarians including firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and other emergency service providers depends upon effective communications between public safety agencies, and

WHEREAS a coordinated provincial partnership amongst all levels of government should be based on all five lanes of the Canadian Communications Interoperability Continuum (governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training and exercises, and usage), and

WHEREAS international studies and Canadian public safety responder experience show that the lack of adequate public safety communications interoperability negatively impacts emergency response and increases the associated casualties, severity of injuries, number of lives lost, and economic impact of emergency incidents, and

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada joined in issuing a joint resolution in 2008 on the issue of public safety communications interoperability calling upon the Government of Canada to take action to improve public safety communications interoperability, and

WHEREAS this joint Tri-Service resolution led to the creation of the Communications Interoperability Strategy for Canada, signed in Toronto in January 2011 by the Government of Canada and all Provinces & Territories and supported by the National Tri-Service Chiefs Associations, and

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada have consolidated efforts to improve communications interoperability by creating the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) as a Federally Incorporated Not-for-Profit

Corporation supporting over 100,000 public safety personnel as the “One Vision – One Voice” of public safety agencies, and

WHEREAS numerous reports, studies and both National and regional workshops held in Ontario over the past five years have recommended that the Government of Ontario provide Provincial vision, leadership and funding to improve public safety communications interoperability, and

WHEREAS the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs created the Ontario Tri-Service Interoperability Committee in 2010 as a joint interoperability committee that is committed to cooperatively addressing the challenge of public safety communications interoperability in accordance with the Canadian Communications Interoperability Continuum, and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario launched the Province of Ontario Interoperability Task Group (POINT) in 2010.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Government of Ontario to recognize the Ontario Tri-Service Interoperability Committee as our lead group to support and improve public safety communications interoperability in Ontario.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Government of Ontario to designate the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services as the lead agency, in partnership with the Ontario Tri-Service Interoperability Committee and other key stakeholders in developing and supporting a whole of government Ontario Public Safety Communications Interoperability Strategy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Government of Ontario to commit financial, policy, and other human resources within the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and in partnership with the Ontario Tri-Service Interoperability Committee to provide the vision and leadership required to achieve communications interoperability amongst public safety agencies across Ontario.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Ministry of Health to conduct an immediate review of its policy prohibiting member services of the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs from communicating via their current and future communications systems with local public safety emergency responders with a view to ensuring that all responders can communicate “as required and as authorized.”