

## Chief anxious over changes

• from DON'T on page 13

Mr. LaCourse agrees and says the concerns of the Who Does What panel are unfounded. It has been his experience that service board members appointed by the province do, in fact, take their duties seriously and are very responsible.

Mr. Crombie's report says the province should continue to oversee policing in Ontario, develop standards and ensure those standards are met by retaining current budget appeal procedures.

Chief Campbell took this one step further and said he is a "strong proponent" of the need to establish detailed basic standards for every community in Ontario. Only then can a true definition of "adequacy" be created and municipalities compare levels of service to each other.

Once fundamental standards are set, Chief Campbell said municipalities could then add levels of services as they see fit to accommodate the particular needs of their constituents.

In Halton, the board has had discussions about "differential service," or the ability of the region's municipalities to opt for - then pay for - additional police services.

"The recommendations, if implemented, will no longer ensure policing standards are maintained across the province," said Ms Lloyst. "Compromising these standards is clearly not in the public interest."


As for Mr. Crombie's call to share resources, Chief Campbell said the Halton force has been involved with various initiatives for years. Marine patrol, the canine unit and polygraph services, for example, are currently being shared with Hamilton-Wentworth. "We are exploring others as well," said Chief Campbell.

Who Does What also looked at possibly integrating police, fire and ambulance services but did not recommend this at the "front line level." Instead, it called for sharing facilities and services such as emergency dispatch.

Chief Campbell said he and Halton's four fire chiefs have been discussing this and other issues for almost a year now. In fact, they met last Friday with the heads of the four fire associations and the Halton Regional Police Association.

Chief Campbell — who said he supports the recommendations stemming from the Green Ribbon Task Force inquiry — also concurs with Mr. Crombie's assertion that police forces must co-operate while investigating major crimes. "I couldn't agree more than we must work together closely."

When all is said and done, however, Chief Campbell cautioned that Mr. Crombie's statements are only recommendations and so he must wait and see how the province reacts to them before commenting further.



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