

Public Security Commission Minority Report

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WHEREAS spending by the SPVM from 2006 to 2010 has climbed at over 3 times the rate of inflation. Expenses in 2006 were \$476,138,000; by 2010 expenses had climbed to \$607,900,000, an increase of 27.7%.

WHEREAS the net budget increase in 2011 is 8%, more than double the expected inflation rate.

WHEREAS the SPVM budgets have been exceeded each year, for the past four years, by an average amount of 6.5%.

WHEREAS there is new senior management at the SPVM and it is hoped that the poor budget performance of the past four years can be significantly improved under this new management team.

WHEREAS it is too late to reasonably reject the 2011 budget

R.1 It is recommended that the SPVM budget of 2011 be accepted, provided that the draft budget for 2012 be presented to this commission no later than September 1, 2011; that monthly reports be given to this commission, showing actual spending and revenues compared to budget projections, starting in February; and that the SPVM commit to taking all necessary steps to not exceed the 2011 budget.

WHEREAS Montreal has more police officers per 100,000 residents (241) than Toronto (212) and yet our major crime solution rate is lower.

WHEREAS according to the most recent annual Statistics Canada report, Montreal has the second worst solution rate of the 10 largest cities in Canada, just barely better than Vancouver.

WHEREAS Montreal's police cost per 100,000 residents is \$315 while it is \$348 in Toronto. However the cost of living in Toronto is 30% higher than in Montreal. Making the adjustment for this difference, the Montreal cost becomes \$409.50 which is 18% higher than the cost in Toronto.

WHEREAS the SPVM state that they provide more services than the Toronto police and that the crime solution statistics are misleading.

WHEREAS this commission cannot evaluate the performance of the SPVM relative to the cost, nor the reasonableness of its budgets, without knowing how the SPVM compares to Toronto and other large Canadian cities.

WHEREAS if it is true that the SPVM does more than the Toronto police, this commission should be able to examine the extra activities, relative to cost, and determine if these activities are justified and whether each activity is a good use of limited resources.

R.2 It is recommended that the SPVM provide a report showing the services rendered by the SPVM as compared to those provided in Toronto along with the comparative costs of each activity for both cities.

R.3 It is recommended that the SPVM provide reports comparing Montreal crime solution rates to other, large, Canadian cities.

WHEREAS the main force driving up policing costs is salaries and generous pension plan benefits.

WHEREAS the rules governing the pension plans can not be changed by the SPVM management.

R.4 It is recommended that Montreal ask the Quebec government to help find solutions to these problems as Montreal drives the Quebec economy and Agglomeration property taxpayers have limited means to pay constant increases in policing costs well above the rate of inflation.