

FULL REPORT:

Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board

2024 / 2025 Annual Update

Executive Summary 2024

Police Governance Transition

In 2024, significant changes were implemented to the structure and governance of local police oversight in accordance with provincial legislation.

- Effective **April 1, 2024**, the former **Red Lake Police Services Board** was dissolved, and the **Red Lake–Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board** was formally established.
- Board members were appointed by each municipality, including **Council representatives and community representatives**, to ensure balanced local representation. **Jennifer Franczak** was appointed as the **Provincial Representative**.
- The respective municipalities determined **remuneration** for their appointed representatives and the Provincial Representative, and jointly established **budget allocations** to support the operation of the OPP Detachment Board.
- The Board secured **insurance coverage** and formally adopted an **Abuse Policy**, as required under the Board's insurance and governance obligations.
- All Board members successfully completed **mandatory Board training and thematic training**, ensuring compliance with provincial requirements and supporting effective, informed oversight.

These foundational steps established the governance framework required for the Board to begin operations and set the stage for the Board's accomplishments and priorities in 2025.

The Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board continues to provide local oversight and community input into policing priorities under the **Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)**. The Board's role is to ensure that policing services reflect the needs and priorities of our northern communities while promoting accountability, collaboration, and transparency between the OPP and municipalities.

Executive Summary 2025

For 2025, the Board identified five priority areas that align with local and provincial objectives:

- **Crime:**
Support continuous focus on reducing drug crime and trafficking-related offences. To address and prevent violent crime in the detachment area.

- **Traffic Enforcement (Roadways, Waterways and Trails):**
Support OPP initiatives aimed at reducing high-risk driving behaviours through targeted enforcement, education, and community awareness campaigns addressing impaired, distracted, and aggressive driving.
- **Community Engagement:**
Enhance visibility and connection between officers and the public through increased **foot patrols, school visits, and participation in community events**. The Board also encourages **youth engagement** initiatives that build trust and open communication between officers and residents, fostering a safer and more inclusive community.
- **Mental Health Response:**
Strengthen collaboration between the OPP and local health and social service partners to improve response to individuals in crisis, emphasizing early intervention, de-escalation, and referral to appropriate supports.
- **Education and Awareness:**
Promote public education on crime prevention, online safety, and youth engagement through community outreach and school-based programming.

Looking Ahead:

Throughout 2026, the Board will continue to strengthen communication with Council and the public, monitor detachment performance, and support community safety and well-being plan. The Board will also review local data, community feedback, and policing trends to refine future priorities and ensure services remain proactive, transparent, and responsive to community needs.

Key Achievements and Initiatives – 2025

2025 marked significant progress for the Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board as it continued to establish a strong foundation for effective local police governance and collaboration.

Key accomplishments include:

- **Board Formation:** Successfully established the Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board under the *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)*, formalizing the governance structure for local police oversight.
 - **Jennifer Franczak (Provincial Representative, Chair)**
 - **Doug Woolsey (Ear Falls Council Representative)**
 - **Dale Butterfield (Red Lake Community Representative)**
 - **Kylie Sutton (Ear Falls Community Representative, Vice Chair)**
 - **Jamie Kristoff (Red Lake Council Representative)**
 - **Inspector Adam Illman (Ontario Provincial Police Representative)**
 - **Christine Goulet (Administrator)**

- **Identity and Branding:** Developed and approved a **Board name and logo**, creating a recognizable identity that reflects the partnership between the two municipalities.
- **Operational Readiness:** Secured **insurance coverage** and established administrative and procedural frameworks to support efficient operations.
- **Effective Meetings and Engagement:** Held regular, informed, and productive meetings focused on community priorities, policing performance, and long-term planning.
- **Strong Partnerships:** Built **positive working relationships** with members of the OPP, particularly through active collaboration and open communication with the **Detachment Commander** and **detachment personnel**. These partnerships have enhanced coordination on local safety priorities.
- **Active Participation:** Maintained consistent engagement in community safety discussions, ensuring local perspectives and concerns are represented in policing decisions.

The Board's accomplishments in 2025 have strengthened its governance capacity and positioned it as an effective partner in advancing community safety across Red Lake and Ear Falls detachment area. Through the commitment of the detachment Commander and the members of the police force, a significant and positive impact has been made on the communities and their commitment to excellence has strengthened operational effectiveness and fostered meaningful engagement.

Next Steps – 2026

Looking ahead, the Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board will continue building on its strong foundation by focusing on the following priorities:

- **Public Engagement:** Increase visibility through open meetings, public updates, and community participation to build trust and awareness of the Board's role.
- **Strategic Priorities:** Continue to support initiatives related to crime prevention, traffic safety, mental health response, youth education, and community outreach.
- **Performance and Reporting:** Collaborate with the Detachment Commander to review and report on local policing data, ensuring accountability and transparency in outcomes.
- **Governance Development:** Provide training opportunities for Board members and refine procedures to align with best practices in police governance.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Explore opportunities to connect with neighbouring Detachment Boards to share knowledge and strengthen oversight across Northern Ontario.

The Board remains committed to promoting safe, inclusive, and well-connected communities through strong partnerships, open communication, and effective oversight in 2026 and beyond.

Council Briefing Document

Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board – 2024 / 2025 Update

Executive Summary

The Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board continues to provide local oversight and community input into policing priorities under the **Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)**. The Board's role is to ensure that policing services reflect the needs and priorities of our northern communities while promoting accountability, collaboration, and transparency between the OPP and municipalities.

For 2024:

- **April 1, 2024**, the former **Red Lake Police Services Board** was dissolved, and the **Red Lake–Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board** was formally established.
- Board members were appointed by each municipality, including **Council representatives and community representatives**, to ensure balanced local representation. **Jennifer Franczak** was appointed as the **Provincial Representative**.
- The respective municipalities determined **remuneration** for their appointed representatives and the Provincial Representative, and jointly established **budget allocations** to support the operation of the OPP Detachment Board.
- The Board secured **insurance coverage** and formally adopted an **Abuse Policy**, as required under the Board's insurance and governance obligations.
- All Board members successfully completed **mandatory Board training and thematic training**, ensuring compliance with provincial requirements and supporting effective, informed oversight.

For 2025, the Board has identified five key priority areas:

- **Crime:**
Support continuous focus on reducing drug crime and trafficking-related offences. To address and prevent violent crime in the detachment area.
- **Traffic Enforcement (Roadways, Waterways and Trails):**
Support OPP initiatives aimed at reducing high-risk driving behaviours through targeted enforcement, education, and community awareness campaigns addressing impaired, distracted, and aggressive driving.
- **Community Engagement:**
Enhance visibility and connection between officers and the public through increased **foot patrols, school visits, and participation in community events**. The Board supports efforts to **engage youth** through positive interactions and educational programming,

building trust and encouraging dialogue between officers and residents. Strengthening these relationships helps foster a safer and more inclusive community.

- **Mental Health Response:**

Encourage continued collaboration between the OPP and local health and social service partners to improve response to individuals in crisis, emphasizing early intervention, de-escalation, and referral to appropriate supports.

- **Education and Awareness:**

Promote community safety through public education initiatives focused on crime prevention, online safety, drug awareness, and youth engagement programs in schools and community spaces.

Looking Ahead:

In 2026, the Board will continue to strengthen communication with Council and the public, monitor detachment performance, and support community safety and well-being plan. The Board will also review local data, community feedback, and policing trends to refine future priorities and ensure services remain proactive, transparent, and responsive to community needs.

Key Achievements and Initiatives – 2025

2025 marked significant progress for the Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board as it continued to establish a strong foundation for effective local police governance and collaboration.

Key accomplishments include:

- **Board Formation:** Successfully established the Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board under the new provincial policing framework, formalizing the structure and governance required under the *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)*.
 - **Jennifer Franczak (Provincial Representative, Chair)**
 - **Doug Woolsey (Ear Falls Council Representative)**
 - **Dale Butterfield (Red Lake Community Representative)**
 - **Kylie Sutton (Ear Falls Community Representative, Vice Chair)**
 - **Jamie Kristoff (Red Lake Council Representative)**
 - **Inspector Adam Illman (Ontario Provincial Police Representative)**
 - **Christine Goulet (Administrator)**
- **Identity and Branding:** Developed and approved a **Board name and logo**, creating a recognizable identity that reflects local pride and partnership between the two municipalities.
- **Operational Readiness:** Secured **insurance coverage** and established the administrative and procedural groundwork to support ongoing operations.
- **Effective Meetings and Engagement:** Held regular, well-informed, and productive meetings focused on community priorities, policing performance, and strategic planning.
- **Strong Partnerships:** Built **positive working relationships** with members of the OPP, particularly through ongoing collaboration and open communication with the

Detachment Commander and detachment staff. These relationships have strengthened mutual understanding and enhanced coordination on local safety priorities.

- **Active Participation:** Demonstrated strong engagement and commitment to the shared goal of safe and resilient communities, ensuring that local perspectives and concerns are consistently represented in discussions with the OPP.

The Board's work throughout 2025 has laid a solid foundation for continued collaboration, accountability, and transparency in community policing. These achievements position the Board for further growth and meaningful impact in the years ahead. Through the commitment of the detachment Commander and the members of the police force, a significant and positive impact has been made on the communities and their commitment to excellence has strengthened operational effectiveness and fostered meaningful engagement.

Next Steps – 2026

Looking ahead, the Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board will continue to build on the successes of 2025 by focusing on key areas of growth and community impact:

- **Public Engagement:** Increase visibility through regular community updates, open meetings, and participation in local events to strengthen public trust and awareness of the Board's role.
- **Strategic Priorities:** Continue to support initiatives focused on traffic enforcement, mental health response, education, inclusion, and community outreach, ensuring these remain responsive to evolving local needs.
- **Performance and Reporting:** Enhance collaboration with the Detachment Commander to review data, trends, and outcomes related to policing priorities and community safety indicators.
- **Governance and Development:** Advance training and development opportunities for Board members to ensure ongoing alignment with provincial standards and best practices in police governance.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Explore opportunities for joint initiatives or shared resources with other Northern Ontario Boards to promote consistent and effective policing oversight.

The Board remains committed to supporting safe, inclusive, and well-connected communities through strong partnerships, transparency, and responsive leadership in 2026 and beyond.