



BY-LAW NO. 312 – 2011

**A BY-LAW RESPECTING
VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE
(VA-001)**

1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 WHEREAS subsection 31(1) of the *Police Services Act* provides that a Board is responsible for the provision of police services and for law enforcement and crime prevention in the municipality and shall:
- b. generally determine after consultation with the Chief of Police, objectives and priorities with respect to police service in the municipality;
 - c. establish priorities for the effective management of the police service, and
 - e. direct the Chief of Police and monitor his or her performance;
- 1.2 AND whereas subsection 31(6) of the *Police Services Act* provides that the Board may, by by-law, make rules for the effective management of the police service;
- 1.3 AND whereas O. Reg. 3/99 prescribes standards for adequacy and effectiveness of police services;
- 1.4 AND whereas section 17 of O. Reg. 3/99 requires the Chief of Police to establish procedures on providing assistance to victims that reflect the principles of the *Victims' Bill of Rights, 1995* and sets out the roles and responsibilities of members for providing victims' assistance;
- 1.5 AND whereas section 29 of O. Reg. 3/99 requires a police services board to have a policy on victims' assistance;
- 1.6 AND whereas Part VA-001 of the Policing Standards Manual (2000), a copy of which is attached as Appendix A, contains guidelines directing the Chief and the police service relative to victims' assistance.

NOW THEREFORE THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

2 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 "Act" means *Police Services Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.15, as amended;
- 2.2 "Board" means the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board;

- 2.3 "Chief" means the Chief of the Niagara Regional Police Service;
- 2.4 "Manual" means the Policing Standards Manual published by the Ministry of the Solicitor General;
- 2.5 "Member" means a member of the Niagara Regional Police Service;
- 2.6 "Service" means the Niagara Regional Police Service.

3 BOARD POLICY

- 3.1 The Board recognizes that issues relating to victims' assistance form an important part of policing, and it is therefore the policy of this Board that victims' assistance issues be dealt with in a professional and thorough manner, and in accordance with procedures established by the Chief as directed in this By-law.

4 DIRECTION TO THE CHIEF

4.1 PROCEDURES

- 4.1.1 The Chief shall establish procedures on providing assistance to victims in accordance with Appendix A.

4.2 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

- 4.2.1 The Chief shall work in partnership with the victim/witness assistance program (VWAP) and the victim crisis and referral service (VCARS), where available, and municipalities, community and social service agencies and other local organizations, to promote the development of an integrated service delivery framework for providing assistance to victims, including safety planning.

4.3 TRAINING

- 4.3.1 The Chief shall ensure that Members are aware of victims' service providers or a victim referral service available in the area.
- 4.3.2 The Chief shall ensure that Members are aware of the provisions of the *Victims Bill of Rights, 1995*, and are kept informed of changes in the law relating to victims' assistance.

5 REPORT TO THE BOARD

- 5.1 The Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of victims' assistance. The report shall include:
- a. a summary of the written procedures concerning victims' assistance; and
 - b. the status of Service compliance with the said procedures.

6 IMPLEMENTATION

- 6.1 By-law No. 238-2000 and all other By-laws, and sections of By-laws inconsistent with the provisions of this By-law are hereby repealed.
- 6.2 This By-law shall come into force upon the date of its passage.
- 6.3 The Chief shall implement this By-law, where applicable, through general order.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 15th day of December, 2011.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

Board Chair

Executive Director

