



School Resource Officer Program



**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA**

*Working together for a safer community
La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe*

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to introduce you to the **Ottawa Police Service's School Resource Officer (SRO) Program**. The Program is coordinated centrally out of the Youth Intervention & Diversion Unit. The purpose of the SRO Program is to liaise with schools within the four public school boards, as well as private schools, in the City of Ottawa.

Every school in the City of Ottawa is currently assigned a specific SRO as their personal police contact. The role of the School Resource Officer is to provide support to your school community as a whole, which includes students, parents, school staff, and administrators. SROs provide this support by answering calls for service regarding incidents occurring in schools during school hours. Additionally, SROs support schools by providing law and safety related lectures, as well as providing guidance on school issues. Incidents that occur when students are on the way to school or home after the school day may also be dealt with by the SRO. When School Resource Officers deal with a school incident, it may be resolved by a verbal caution, counseling, mediation, diversion to an Intervention program, or a charge. School Resource Officers also support the school Administration's use of the *Safe Schools Act*.

School Resource Officers work closely with families and schools to resolve incidents with the student's best interest in mind. Often schools may request an SRO make contact with a parent in need of help, in order to be a resource and provide referrals, for issues that are occurring in the family home. The SRO may then provide support and reassurance to that family and help them get the assistance they require.

School Resource Officers work on building healthy and trusting relationships with children of all ages and backgrounds by becoming a familiar presence in their school experiences.

For years the School Resource Officer Program has partnered successfully with Ottawa area schools and their related communities alike and looks forward to continued success. If you have any questions or would like any further information about the School Resource Officer Program, please contact the Ottawa Police Youth Intervention and Diversion Unit at 236-1222, extension 5355, or contact your child's school and ask for the name of your School Resource Officer.