

Ontario government authorizes use of tasers by front-line officers

The Provincial Government has authorized the use of Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs), also known by their trade name TASER, by front line police officers. The Shelburne Police Service has been using CEWs for several years, however until now have only been carried by supervisors. Due to the change in legislation all police services will now be permitted to expand the use of CEWs to include front-line patrol officers.

As Chief of Police I support equipping our front-line officers with CEWs and plan to discuss this with the Police Service Board, said Chief Kent Moore. Based on our experience the CEW has been a very effective use of force option and expanding its use only makes sense.

Madeleine Meilleur, Ontario Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, made the announcement Tuesday. Funding for training and any additional purchase costs will be borne by the Police Service.

Police leaders in Ontario, through the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) have long supported an expanded role for Conducted Energy Weapons.