

Subject: Limit Police Spending to 10% of a Municipality's Annual Budget

There are different ways of Limiting Police Budgets. Maybe all the options should be tried. The time for police reform is now. It would be a shame to waste this opportunity.

Personally, I would advocate that community spending on policing and security should never exceed 10% of a municipality's annual budget.

If a police force can't do it's job within 10% of a city's annual budget, perhaps that police force should be removed, and new officers hired who can do the job within the city's 10% budget limit.

Setting a limit on policing is important, because there is no other way to balance police demands. Police do good work but they are an unbalanced organization. ie. There's no mechanism in place to balance their demands. The Police Association is always first in line, at budget time, and always gets what it wants, which is more than everybody else.

As Jean Chretien said about the military, "They would spend every penny the government has, if we let them." The same is true for policing of municipalities. Public Security Budget demands are insatiable, at all levels of government, but police budgets can be limited.

The city has many public services which desperately need more funding, like child care, seniors care, education and health, highways and public transit. It's not fair that police services always get to be first in line for the city's money at budget time, simply because the police union has the strongest lobby, and the biggest budget for public relations.

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