

David Orazietti, M.P.P. Sault Ste. Marie news release_

For Immediate Release
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ORAZIETTI ANNOUNCES \$96,750 FOR SAULT COMMUNITY COURT *McGuinty Government Delivering Front-Line Policing Grants To Support Local Programs*

Sault Ste. Marie – The McGuinty government is investing \$96,750 to develop and the Sault Community Court, which is a Mental Health Court that provides legal services for individuals with mental illness who come into conflict with the law, David Orazietti, MPP announced today.

“This funding will allow the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service to develop and improve an important program and provide much needed services that will aid individuals who have a right to equal access and treatment by the justice system,” said Orazietti.

The Sault Community Court is a collaborative effort between the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service and the Canadian Mental Health Association of Sault Ste. Marie. Nordik Institute of Algoma University is a partner in this project as well as the Algoma District Crown Attorney’s office, the judiciary of the Sault Ste. Marie court house and local defence lawyers.

“We hope that the Mental Health Court will divert offenders with mental illness from incarceration to judicial supervision and individualized treatment that will provide them with tools and motivation necessary to achieve and maintain timely and durable recovery,” said Inspector Romano Carlucci of the Investigation Services Department of the Sault Ste. Marie Police Services.

The Community Court project consists of three initiatives:

- The development and enhancement of a Community Court with the goal to serve 100 unique individuals by the end of the project funding period

- Research by Nordik Institute to determine future needs and gaps in services
- Delivery of an enhanced training program for a core group of front line police officers to increase their skills and abilities to deal with the mentally ill. These officers will respond to calls or act as a resource for fellow officers on the road when they are dealing with individuals with a mental illness

The funding for today's announcement comes from proceeds of crime seized by the province. Under federal legislation police and prosecutors can seize assets obtained through criminal activities. Ontario's Proceeds of Crime (POC) Front Line Policing (FLP) Grant Program makes these funds available to municipal police services, First Nations police services and Ontario Provincial Police to fund crime prevention initiatives.

The province is investing \$494,162 to fund three initiatives of the Asset Forfeiture Unit – a partnership of the OPP and 17 police services, including the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service. The funding will provide resources in forensic accounting, financial intelligence and asset management to help police services identify, seize and manage the proceeds of crime in their communities.

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