

[On Minister's letterhead]

## MINISTER'S DIRECTIVE

**WHEREAS** under the Nova Scotia *Police Act*, the Minister of Justice is the constituted authority for the administration of justice within the Province and is responsible to ensure an adequate and effective level of policing is maintained throughout the Province;

**AND WHEREAS** for the purposes of so doing, the Minister may issue a directive to police;

**AND WHEREAS** a State of Emergency was declared across the Province of Nova Scotia on March 22, 2020;

**AND WHEREAS** following the declaration of the State of Emergency, subsequent Directions have been issued that, in part, direct the closing of all provincial and municipal parks and beaches and require all persons entering the Province to be checked at the border;

**AND WHEREAS** the Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a written Public Health Order, dated March 24, 2020, as amended, ordering, in part, all persons residing in or present in the Province of Nova Scotia to:

- (a) maintain a social distance of 2 metres or 6 feet;
- (b) limit social gatherings to 5 person or less;
- (c) self-quarantine or self-isolate, as required in accordance with the order;

**AND WHEREAS** some members of the public continue to disobey the above-noted directions and orders despite efforts aimed at public education and awareness;

**AND WHEREAS** police have authority to lay charges against offenders, including through the issuance of summary offence tickets under the *Emergency Management Act* and the *Health Protection Act* as a means of enforcing the directions and orders issued pursuant to those Acts;

**AND WHEREAS** the Minister is committed to ensuring adherence to all directions and orders issued since the State of Emergency was declared and the Public Health Order was issued, in an effort to protect the well-being of all Nova Scotians;

**I, MARK FUREY, MINISTER OF JUSTICE FOR NOVA SCOTIA DO HEREBY ISSUE THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIVE** to all municipal police forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in their capacity as the Provincial Police, across the Province:

### **DIRECTIVE:**

1. In an effort to ensure compliance with the Directions issued following the declaration of the State of Emergency under the *Emergency Management Act* and the Public Health Order

issued under the *Health Protection Act*, effective immediately, police shall escalate their efforts from public education to enforcement, in accordance with officer discretion.

2. Police enforcement shall focus on laying charges against offenders, including through the issuance of summary offence tickets (SOTs) for the following offences:

(a) Under Section 23 of the *Emergency Management Act*:

- (i) Failing to comply with direction, order or requirement made under the Act/regulations, (Section 23(b)).

(A) Police focus should be on the issuance of SOTs for failing to comply with the Minister's direction issued under Section 14 of the *Emergency Management Act* prohibiting all travel into provincial and municipal parks and beaches while closed during a state of emergency.

(b) Under Section 71 of the *Health Protection Act*:

- (i) Person failing to comply with Part I of Act or regulations or with order made under Part I of Act (specify), (Section 71);
- (ii) Corporation failing to comply with Part I of Act or regulations or with order made under Part I of Act (specify), (Section 71).

(A) Police focus should be on the issuance of SOTs for failing to comply with the Public Health Order issued by the Chief Medical Officer on March 24, 2020, as amended, ordering, in part, all persons residing in or present in the Province of Nova Scotia to:

(a) maintain a social distance of 2 metres or 6 feet;

(b) limit social gatherings to 5 person or less;

(c) self-quarantine or self-isolate, as required in accordance with the Chief Medical Officer's Public Health Order; or

(d) adhere to such other order as provided in the Chief Medical Officer's Public Health Order.

3. Police enforcement shall also focus on the issuance of parking tickets, SOTs or towage of vehicles found to be owned or operated by a person committing an offence to which this Directive relates where the parking ticket, SOT or towage is authorized under the *Motor*

*Vehicle Act* or other applicable law, and the police officer considers it warranted in the circumstances.

4. Senior leadership in all municipal police forces and the RCMP shall ensure that police officers adhere to this Directive.

**THIS DIRECTIVE** shall be in place until further notice and may be amended, revoked or replaced by me at any time.

**DATED** this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

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**Mark Furey**  
**Minister of Justice**