



\$100,000 FUNDING FOR NEW VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT

DURHAM — The Ontario Government is providing \$100,000 to the Durham Regional Police Service to expand its video surveillance systems and better protect the community against crime and the threat of gun and gang violence. Funding is being delivered through the Ontario Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Grant Program and can be used to replace outdated equipment, expand or enhance current technology, and install new or additional CCTV surveillance cameras in areas where gun and gang violence and correlated crimes, such as drug and human trafficking, are most prevalent. "CCTV Surveillance systems are an important tool of the DRPS' work to detect, prevent and deter criminal activity,

especially in areas of gun & gang violence and other serious crimes," said Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby. "Through this grant program, our government led by Premier Ford is ensuring police services have the tools and resources they need to help protect their community and keep Ontario safe." "Public safety is our highest priority, and this investment in advanced surveillance technology is a vital step in keeping our streets safe," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP for Pickering-Uxbridge. "By equipping Durham Regional Police with tools to combat gun and gang violence, we're sending a clear message: criminal activity will not be tolerated." Launched in August 2020, the Ontario CCTV Grant program is part of Ontario's Guns,

Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy. The funding being provided to Durham Regional Police Service supports one of 14 projects across the province, for a total investment of \$2 million for 2024-2025. "We greatly appreciate the Province's ongoing commitment to community safety. This funding allows us to continue operating our CCTV program which is an additional tool that deters crime and assists us in criminal investigations." - Peter Moreira, Chief, Durham Regional Police Service. The grant funding covers 50 per cent of project costs up to a maximum of \$300,000 for each successful project.

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Students from St. Joseph Catholic School in Oshawa Win National Student Songwriting Contest

Congratulations to Elysha M., Sierra R., and Laritza A., from St. Joseph Catholic School in Oshawa on winning the Coalition for Music Education Tune Up: Student Songwriting Contest in the Intermediate Category! The Tune Up contest celebrates the musical talents, creativity and passion of young Canadian songwriters.

Elysha wrote "Hey Mama" and was joined by Sierra and Laritza who performed in the song. Take a listen to the incredible talent of these amazing Grade 7 and Grade 8 students: <https://youtu.be/z7z4Hume1hs>

(from left to right) are: Laritza Alvarez Noyes (Gr. 7), Elysha Morrison (Gr. 8) and Sierra Rodriguez (Gr. 8).

"I enjoy writing songs, especially with other people. The first line in the song is "caterpillars from your cocoon," which sparked the idea of a love letter or thank you letter to a parent. We had fun writing this. I write a lot of songs, but this is my first time recording one of my songs. Recording it, with the help of my friends, made it even better!" – Elysha M., Grade 8 student

"I am in awe of the amazing musical talents and creativity of our students at St. Joseph Catholic School. Elysha, Sierra and Laritza were courageous enough to showcase their songwriter skills through the Tune Up contest, and it is such an honour for them to be recognized nationally for their efforts. I want to offer our sincere congratulations to our incredible students, and I want to thank our staff and families for their ongoing partnership in support of our students." – Jennifer Principe, Principal, St. Joseph Catholic School (Oshawa)



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