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September 19, 2012

Chief Eric Jolliffe
York Regional Police
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4W5

Dear Eric,

Thank you for making me aware of the Private Member's Bill to be introduced by Mr. Frank Klees (MPP – Newmarket-Aurora) to designate May 1st of each year as First Responders Day in Ontario. I understand that Mr. Klees' Bill will be debated on Thursday, September 27th. I regret that a previous commitment prevents me from attending the debate in the legislature.

As Ontario's police leaders, members of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) know that the men and women who serve in police organizations and with other emergency responders put their lives on the line every day to serve all Ontarians. Police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders are dedicated to keeping their fellow citizens safe and help build a strong, safe, and vibrant Ontario. We know that public support is vital for us to do our jobs professionally and efficiently. Thus, we never take for granted the public's support.

Efforts to show public support for police officers and other first responders are always appreciated and valued. That's why the OACP welcomes Mr. Klees' Private Member's Bill. We look forward to its consideration by our province's elected representatives.

Please pass along to Mr. Klees our thanks for his support for policing and emergency responders. It is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Steve Tanner
Chief of Police, Halton Regional Police Service
President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

ST/jc

- c. The Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
The Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Mr. Tim Hudak, Leader of the Official Opposition
Ms. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario