



The deplorable actions of the Minneapolis officers involved in the death of Mr. George Floyd blatantly oppose the core values and principles that the policing profession was built on. The Police Association of Ontario sends our condolences to Mr. Floyd's loved ones and those who mourn his passing.

The PAO supports the peaceful protests that are taking place in our communities, province, country and internationally that aim to bring attention to important issues and advocate for change. Conversely, we strongly condemn the small factions who are engaging in violent and criminal activities in an attempt to take away from the purpose behind these protests.

Systemic racism has no borders. Unconscious biases exist within our institutions and society as a whole. We all have a responsibility to listen, learn and do better.

The majority of Ontario's municipalities utilize a community-policing model focused on working collaboratively with individuals, local organizations and stakeholders to create positive changes and implement solutions. When horrific incidents like this occur, it understandably shakes the public's confidence in this work and in their overall perspective of law enforcement. The policing profession must now begin rebuilding that trust and committing to be a part of the change that is needed in our communities.

The discrimination of anyone because of their age, race, orientation, religion, socio-economics, or experience is disrespectful and damaging. The PAO condemns prejudice in all of its manifestations, and expects our province's municipal police personnel to actively uphold and advocate for equity and tolerance.

Our members chose a career in policing to make a positive difference. They receive a thorough and diverse range of training, both during their time at the Ontario Police College and regularly while on the job, focused on appropriate de-escalation techniques, effective communication tools, community engagement, inclusiveness, and much more. That being said, we are never done learning, and the opportunity to improve always exists.

The PAO recognizes that this statement will not stand alone – actions speak louder than words. As the provincial representative body for 18,000 sworn and civilian police personnel from 47 municipal police associations across Ontario, we believe this is an important first step to becoming an active part of the conversation and advocating for meaningful change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BCH', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bruce Chapman, President  
Police Association of Ontario