



## Media Release:

### Police Association of Ontario Condemns Appalling Act of Vandalism to Ontario Police Memorial

June 22, 2020

As President of the Police Association of Ontario (PAO), I am appalled and saddened to learn that the Ontario Police Memorial at Queen's Park was vandalized on Saturday evening.

The Ontario Police Memorial pays tribute to our province's heroic police personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice and fell in the line of duty. It is a place for remembrance and mourning.

This act of vandalism is completely disrespectful to the fallen officers, their loved ones, and the policing profession as a whole, all of whom deserve to have a place where the lives and careers of their colleagues and loved ones are honoured – not defaced.

We acknowledge this is a challenging time for relations between police and the public. We hear those within our communities who do not feel that their police service appropriately serves them. The PAO and our 47 local police association members throughout the province – from Owen Sound to Timmins to Waterloo – are committed to advocating for positive systemic changes that will allow our police personnel to continue effectively upholding public safety while responding to their local community's needs.

The PAO respects the public's right to peaceful protest for change and we look forward to being a part of provincial and local conversations about how to end institutional racism and discrimination as a whole. However, we strongly condemn groups and individuals who are diverting attention away from the real issues by engaging in violent, criminal and disrespectful acts, such as vandalizing a monument that pays tribute to Ontario's fallen police heroes.

Blatantly disrespecting those who gave their lives for this province is not the way to advocate for change. I am shocked this despicable incident has taken place, and our members province-wide are collectively and understandably upset that such an important memorial for our profession has been deliberately damaged.

We encourage anyone with information regarding the suspect described and pictured in the Ontario Provincial Police's release to please contact them directly (1.888.310.1122), or call Crime Stoppers (1.800.222.TIPS) if you would like to remain anonymous.

Bruce Chapman, President  
Police Association of Ontario