



J.V.N. (Vince) Hawkes

Commissioner Le Commissaire

File #: 100-00

December 18, 2014

Mr. Joe Roberts
52 Draper Crescent
Barrie ON L4N 6B1

Dear Mr. Roberts:

It was a distinct pleasure meeting you at our Commissioner's Conference in Huntsville. The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is comprised of 9,000 civilian and uniform members who are dedicated to community safety throughout the Province of Ontario. Needless to say, we have many initiatives underway at any given time to ensure we accomplish our vision of "Safe Communities ... A Secure Ontario." Each year we receive over two million calls in our Communications Centres and, in recent years, we have noticed an increase in the calls pertaining to individuals who are suffering from a mental health illness.

As you can imagine, our members encounter a myriad of situations that often require help for individuals that policing cannot provide – counselling, medication, special programs, temporary/permanent shelter, clothing, food, etc., are just a few examples. OPP members are community catalysts and we do everything we can to develop strong partnerships with community service agencies, mental health experts, etc., to ensure those we encounter who are suffering get the help they need. Partnerships are key, and as our Mental Health Strategy evolves and matures, working with individuals, such as you, will help us tremendously. I am not only interested, but excited and committed to forming a stronger partnership with you as you prepare to embark on the "Push for Change" campaign.

As mentioned above, members of the OPP are catalysts in the communities we are privileged to serve. I will ensure that when the "Push for Change" arrives in Ontario, the OPP will be there to fully support you and that OPP members will help in making sure communities across Ontario hear your vitally important message.

Let me close by saying that your presentation to those in attendance at our Commissioner's Conference was absolutely thought provoking, powerful and very moving. It was very motivational for the group to hear what happens when "things go right." I heard personally from numerous officers in attendance that they were emotionally impacted by your message and so very proud to be a police officer, and specifically a member of the OPP due to our organization's link to your life experience.

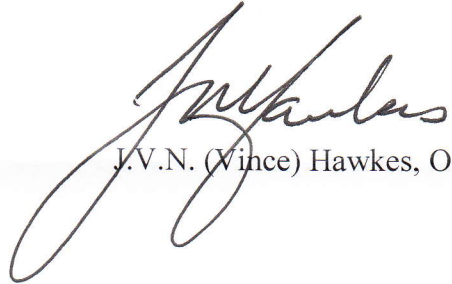
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Once again, it was a great pleasure to meet you and hear your message. I look forward to supporting you with the "Push for Change."

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J.V.N. Hawkes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

J.V.N. (Vince) Hawkes, O.O.M.

/rb