July 6, 2026

A Message to CACP and CPA Members

Dear colleagues,

Last week, we wrote jointly to Canada's police personnel following an extraordinarily painful period for the policing community. We did so because the deaths of Sergeant Anaïs Fortin-Cozzens, Constable Tarun Bali, Constable Marc Pinizzotto, and Constable Mohamed Lamine Benredouane, together with recent attempted murders of police officers, demanded a clear and united message from both association and executive ranks.

That message was first and foremost about our people. It was about the impact these deaths are having on sworn and civilian police personnel, communications professionals, families, police associations, and police services across the country. It was about making clear that it is okay to not be okay, and that the supports we have worked hard to build must be used, reinforced, and treated as essential to the health and safety of our profession.

Today, we are writing again because grieving together and supporting one another, while necessary, cannot be the end of our response.

The recent murders and attempted murders of police officers in Canada should be setting off alarm bells. They should be prompting serious public discussion, careful analysis, and concrete action. We hope sincerely that the events of the past several weeks are isolated, and that this terrible trend stops now. But hope is not a safety plan, and concern alone is not an action plan.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) and the Canadian Police Association (CPA) believe this moment requires a coordinated response from across the policing community. We need to bring association representatives, police executives, services, and partners together, not simply to reflect on what has happened, but to identify what can be done next.

To that end, the CACP and the CPA intend to convene a **Joint Summit on Police Safety and Line-of-Duty Violence**, focused specifically on police line-of-duty deaths, violence against police, and the broader environment in which policing is being carried out in Canada.

The purpose of this summit will be practical. We want to build on work that is already underway, bring the right people into the same conversation, and identify concrete steps that police associations, police services, governments, and justice partners can collectively follow up on in the months ahead.

This is not about assigning blame, putting anyone on the defensive, or suggesting that one part of the broader public safety and justice environment has all the answers while another carries all the responsibility.

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Associations and executives have a shared responsibility for, and a common interest in, the safety and well-being of police personnel, their families, and the communities they serve, and that common ground matters, because the issues we need to discuss are serious.

First, we need to examine how we communicate about policing, public safety, and violence against police. Too often, police associations and police services are responding to narratives that are not grounded in fact, that lack operational context, or that leave the public with an incomplete picture of the realities police personnel face. We have an opportunity and responsibility to be more coordinated, more proactive, and more effective in explaining policing to the public, while remaining accountable and open to legitimate scrutiny.

Second, we need to place these events in the broader context of policing in Canada. Police personnel serve a large, diverse, complex country with significant geographic, social, cultural, linguistic, and operational challenges. They respond to increasing calls for service, rising disorder, mental health and addiction crises, violence, firearms, repeat offenders, and situations where police are often the only available public service able to respond in real time. Any serious discussion about police safety must begin with a clear understanding of what police personnel are actually being asked to do.

Third, we need to examine the role of oversight, accountability, and public commentary in shaping public understanding of policing. Oversight is an important part of public confidence, and accountability is essential to legitimate policing. At the same time, discussions about police conduct often happen without sufficient context, without meaningful analysis of underlying systemic issues, and without a clear understanding of why police are called into certain situations in the first place. That gap matters, because it affects public confidence, morale, recruitment, retention, and the safety of police personnel and the public.

Fourth, we need to discuss the legislative and justice system response to violence against police. This includes access to illegal firearms, and how assaults against police officers are treated by police services, Crown prosecutors, courts, and governments. It includes the frequency with which serious charges are reduced, resolved, or pled away in ways that may weaken denunciation and deterrence. It also includes broader questions around sentencing when a police officer or other first responder is assaulted or killed in the line of duty, including whether Canada needs a stronger and clearer sentencing framework for those cases.

Fifth, a meaningful discussion regarding effective treatment for substance abuse and mental health disorders that prioritize public safety and holds offenders accountable for their actions is necessary.

Finally, we need to connect these themes to the practical supports required for police personnel and their families. Safety is not only about equipment, tactics, legislation, or sentencing. It is also about mental health, trauma supports, peer support, family support, workplace culture, and making sure our people know that their service, their risks, and their sacrifices are understood.

Recent attention from political leaders, including Premier Ford’s call for Premiers to focus on this issue, underscores that this discussion cannot remain internal to policing. Governments have a role to play. So do justice partners, oversight bodies, police boards and commissions, community leaders, and the public. But those of us with responsibility for representing, supporting, and directing police personnel also have a responsibility to help set the table clearly, constructively, and urgently.

Our intent is to begin that work now.

More details will follow on timing, format, participation, and the specific questions we will ask participants to consider. At this stage, we wanted to advise you directly that the CACP and the CPA are moving forward with this initiative and that we see it as an important next step following the events of the past several weeks.

There will be different perspectives around the table, as there should be. Police associations and police executives will not always approach these issues from the same starting point, and no single meeting will resolve every challenge facing policing in Canada; however, this is a moment where we need to gather, listen carefully, identify where there is agreement, and turn that agreement into practical steps we can pursue together.

This moment requires urgency, but it also requires focus. It requires leadership, but it also requires collaboration. Most importantly, it requires that we translate the grief, anger, and concern of recent weeks into practical action.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you all on this important initiative.

Regards,





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