



Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Safety and security for all Canadians through innovative police leadership

Statement – The approval of roadside drug screening devices – August 2018

On August 27, 2018, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada approved the first roadside drug screening device to assist police in combating drug-impaired driving on our roadways. Police services have worked collaboratively with the Government of Canada to assess the value of such devices and will continue to do so.

The CACP has continuously stated that such testers remain an additional tool to police officers but are only part of the overall solution. The use of Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) continue to be necessary in assessing drug-impaired driving. Police services throughout Canada continue to invest in further training of their officers.

The announcement by the Minister represents the first of what we anticipate will be many more. Police services will evaluate and determine the potential use of drug screening devices within their service while recognizing that the science and technology will continuously improve. This represents a positive start, but by no means represents an end.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police was established in 1905 and represents approximately 1,000 police leaders from across Canada. The Association is dedicated to the support and promotion of efficient law enforcement and to the protection and security of the people of Canada. Through its member police chiefs and other senior police executives, the CACP represents in excess of 90% of the police community in Canada which include federal, First Nations, provincial, regional and municipal, transportation and military police leaders.