



Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Safety and security for all Canadians through innovative police leadership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canadian Police Chiefs Launch the *Canadian Framework for Collaborative Police Response on Sexual Violence*

Barrie, Ontario – On this National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) is proud to launch the *Canadian Framework for Collaborative Police Response on Sexual Violence*, a framework that provides police services across Canada with leading practices that support evidence-based, trauma-informed, and victim-centered investigations. It also includes an approach to sexual violence case review and the governance of case review programs.

In April of 2017, the CACP committed to a three-pronged approach to addressing the gaps in police practices related to the investigation of sexual assaults. The first involved revising the classification of founded and unfounded criminal incidents in the *Uniform Crime Reporting Survey* to address data quality and reporting issues, a process that was completed in 2018. The second was to develop police training to help promote trauma-informed investigations, a process that is currently underway. And today, we deliver on the creation of a new framework of leading practices to support and improve the investigation of sexual violence.

While the framework was originally conceived by a working group in the province of Ontario to guide the work of police services in this jurisdiction, the framework has since been endorsed by the CACP as a national framework for each police service in Canada to adopt and adapt according to their respective legislative context.

Quotes:

“We know now that sexual violence investigations must be treated uniquely, to ensure investigative excellence, and a focus on victim and survivor support. We are working hard to ensure that the strength and courage shown by those who report sexual violence is reflected in our officers who are tasked with helping them find justice.” — CACP Vice-President, Chief Kimberley Greenwood from the Barrie Police Service

“Police services in their capacity as emergency first responders are often the first people victims interact with when they seek help and engage with the judicial process. Police services understand the complexity of the issues, as demonstrated by the work of the 14 Ontario police organizations that participated in the development of this framework. You recognized the need for change and embraced the opportunity to provide insight in creating a more fulsome police response to sexual violence.” — The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General of Ontario

“This framework includes a model for facilitating thorough case reviews by police and community advocates while protecting the privacy and dignity of victims and survivors. I am pleased my office was able to contribute to the development of this collaborative community-centered approach, one that balances privacy and access to improve outcomes for victims and survivors.” — Brian Beamish, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario

“The words used and the actions taken by first responders in dealing with investigations involving sexual violence have an enormous impact on the victims/survivors, as well as their families and their community. This type of framework to guide the work of police agencies is long overdue. We commend the police for acknowledging issues in their practices and for taking tangible steps to create a police culture of support and trust for victims of sexual violence.” — Sunny Marriner, Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Project Lead

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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 the police community in Canada which includes federal, First Nations, provincial, regional and municipal, transportation and military police leaders.