



PRESS ADVISORY
OPP COMMISSIONER BLAIR SEEKS REVIEW AND ENFORCEMENT OF
OMBUDSMAN'S JURISDICTION BEFORE DIVISIONAL COURT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday December 14, 2018

Commissioner Brad Blair of the Ontario Provincial Police (“OPP”) has today filed an application before Ontario’s Divisional Court, to determine and enforce the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman to review the OPP Commissioner hiring process.

FALCONERS LLP WILL BE HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE BY CONFERENCE CALL AT 5PM EST.

CALL-IN INFORMATION IS: Local Dial in: 647-427-2364 / Toll free dial in: 1-866-830-9434

Access Code: 1323205

On December 11, 2018, Commissioner Blair sought the Ombudsman’s review of the hiring process for the position of Commissioner of the OPP. On two separate occasions (December 12, 2018 and December 13, 2018) the Ombudsman refused to exercise his jurisdiction to review Commissioner Blair’s request.

Under section 14(5) the *Ombudsman Act*, where there is a question about whether the Ombudsman has the jurisdiction to investigate any case, the Ombudsman or a directly affected person may apply to the Divisional Court for a declaration. Commissioner Blair has filed this application today.

The application states: “If the Ombudsman does not review the complaint, the independence of the OPP will continue to operate under a cloud of suspicion. This is a serious matter as the independence of the OPP – a body that can be called in to investigate provincial politicians – must be seen as legitimate in the eyes of the citizenry. As stated in the Ipperwash Inquiry Report, ‘even though there may not be actual interference by politicians in police operations, the public’s perception of non-interference by the government is a fundamental principle that the Premier, Ministers, and other politicians must adhere to.’”

For further information, please access our website at www.falconers.ca or contact Odi Dashsambuu of Falconers LLP during business hours at 416-964-0495, extension 248.

