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Brad Blair threatens to sue Ford over alleged defamation

[Canadian Press](#)

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OPP's Brad Blair (CNW Group/Ontario Provincial Police)

One of Ontario's highest-ranking police officers is threatening to sue Premier Doug Ford, accusing him of defamation.

In a notice of intent to sue filed last month, lawyers for Ontario Provincial Police Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair allege that Ford damaged the officer's reputation when he accused him of breaking the Police Services Act by speaking out against the hiring of a Ford family friend for the force's top job.

Blair's lawyer Julian Falconer further alleges that Ford's comments were meant to intimidate his client, who publicly criticized Toronto police superintendent Ron Taverner's appointment as OPP commissioner.

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Toronto Police Supt. Ron Taverner is pictured speaking to the media in November 2018. (Ernest Doroszuk, Toronto Sun)

"Specifically, it is alleged that you intentionally, deliberately, and maliciously made statements you knew or ought to have known to be false," Falconer said in a letter to Ford.

Falconer said Ford told media that Blair had allegedly violated the act, when there is no evidence the veteran officer did so at any time during his career.

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"The preparation, distribution and publication of these defamatory words have caused extensive harm to Deputy Commissioner Blair's professional and personal reputation, as well as other damages to be specified at a later date," Falconer said.

In December, Blair said OPP officers had expressed concerns the selection process which resulted in Taverner's appointment was unfair and could raise doubts about the police service's independence.

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Blair, who was also in the running for the commissioner's job, also suggested that Taverner's appointment be delayed until an investigation could be conducted by the province's ombudsman.

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After the ombudsman declined to investigate, Blair launched a legal challenge in an attempt to force the watchdog to probe the hiring. Ontario's Divisional Court is expected to hear the case in April.

The court documents filed in the case also contain more details about Blair's allegations that Ford's chief of staff asked the OPP to purchase a "larger camper type vehicle" and have it modified to the specifications of the premier's office, with the costs associated with the vehicle "kept off the books."

The documents show the cost to taxpayers for the van remodel would be over \$50,000, not including the cost of the vehicle itself. The custom features were to include a 32-inch television with Blu-Ray player, a mini-fridge, black leather captain's chairs and a reclining leather sofa bench, the documents said.

A spokesman for Ford said Monday that the premier asked the OPP to look into obtaining a "cost-effective used van" for him to work and travel in across the province.

"The emails sent to the OPP from a member of the premier's office staff are not an official procurement of a van, instead they are a cost estimate and reveal an effort to minimize expense," Simon Jefferies said in an email.

Blair's lawyers said they filed the notice of intent to sue for defamation after the government failed to respond to four letters seeking to clarify if Blair was under a Police Services Act investigation.



Doug Ford, left, at the 2016 Reena Foundation gala with Toronto Police Supt. Ron Taverner. (Kevin Viner, Elevator Digital)

Jefferies denied Ford's statements were a reprisal against Blair.

"Mr. Blair is an unsuccessful candidate, and still appears to be clearly upset that he did not get the job," he said, adding that the premier would respond to any legal proceedings through his counsel if necessary.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath called Ford's actions "shameful" and said his comments were an attempt to intimidate Blair.

"I think it's another indicator of this government's desire to put a chill on anybody that's going to speak out against them," she said.

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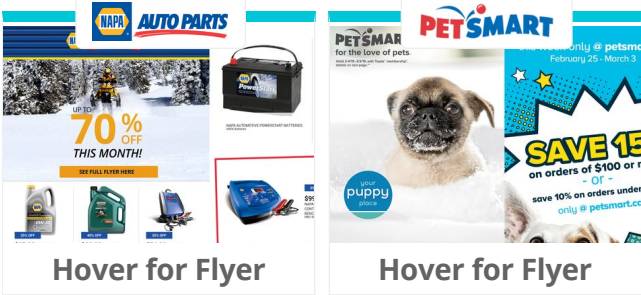
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- Brian Thoman**
Blair is a civil servant and nothing more. He had better watch himself, or he will be right out the door for insubordination.
Like · Reply · 35 · 1d
- Brian Stewart**
Correction. Blair is a Simple Serpent. He like Wernick are far too partisan to be allowed to remain in their positions. Taverner's first job is to fire Blair
Like · Reply · 31 · 1d
- Brian Thoman**
Brian Stewart - hahaha - you got me Bri, and right you are! Far too partisan to be in public office.
Like · Reply · 10 · 22h · Edited
- Dave Downey**
Blair must be a Liberal because he feels entitled to the position.
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- Jim Weir**
I would like to see the list of the candidates, their qualifications, the questions asked and what made Blair stand out above the rest to become Deputy Commissioner. I say what he wants but there are always politics involved in these appointments and I'm certain there were politics at play in his appointment. I have not seen Blair display anything approaching leadership qualities. As for Taverner, he would do more for policing in one year than Blair would do in his entire career
Like · Reply · 32 · 1d
- Rodger Lucas**
Brad Blair's lifeless blank facial expression is not that of a Chief of Police.
Like · Reply · 6 · 21h
- Ken Gee**
@ Jim Weir

Taverner did quite well keeping Rob Ford out of jail.
That's got to be worth something on a resume.
Like · Reply · 19h
- Suzanne Lilly**
If anyone should sue for defamation and loss of salary etc it's Ron Taverner. He should sue Blair. I am in for \$50 to Ford's defense crowd fund.
Like · Reply · 32 · 1d
- Chip Anderson**
Brianna Bell another libtard here folks , nothing to see move on
Like · Reply · 8 · 1d
- Chip Anderson**
Brianna Bell fake profile
Like · Reply · 3 · 1d

**Andrew Dee**

Chip Anderson libtard! Lol, so clever. How about liboron, Libiot, libtellectually libsabled! Lol now I'm so clever

Like · Reply · 6 · 23h

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**Doug Chappell**

Guy's nose is out of joint.... boo hoo the OPP was in the Liberal's pockets for 15 years of really good pay raises. Would you give one of them the jobI know if I w Ford's place I would not, I would want someone I know is fair. Look at the USA with the FBI being part of the Democratic Party and what Trump has had to fight agains

Like · Reply · 27 · 1d

**Rodger Lucas**

You are more correct about the OPP than you know. Look at ORNGE for example.

Like · Reply · 4 · 21h · Edited

**Geoff Rothwell**

The FBI part of the Democratic Party? Dougie, did you skip Civics in high school? Newsflash: Law enforcement do not exist to fulfill the whims of elected politi Doug doesn't realize this yet either. Just because Blair wouldn't sign off on the secret deal to pimp a special vehicle for Doug doesn't make him corrupt or inef shows he has the honesty to stand up to a premier who is used to doing whatever he wants as head of a family company.

Like · Reply · 3 · 20h

**Ken Gee**

@ Geoff Rothwell

Wondering if Dougie's \$50,000 Pimp Mobile comes with a Coke dispenser (you know, The Real Thing).

Like · Reply · 1 · 19h · Edited

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**Rudy Verstraeten**

Is this cry baby related to old T.O police chief know nothing Blair ???

Like · Reply · 25 · 1d

**Brian Stewart**

yes he is, what a suprise

Like · Reply · 14 · 1d

**Andrew Dee**

Brian Stewart Wow, so interesting! Bigger surprise: he's also related to Tony Blair, Linda Blair, and Blair Thornton (rock on BTO!)

Like · Reply · 3 · 1d

**Charles Steiner**

Blair thinks he was elected to the OPP...he also thinks the OPP order the government around...message to Blair: we don't live in a police state yet.

Like · Reply · 20 · 1d

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**Owen Burmania**

Another Blair targeting another Ford.....

The last one used a cool Million plus of Toronto police service dollars to try to catch Rob Ford using drugs by having him followed in a surveillance Cessna aircraft.....

What is this political hopeful capable of doing?

Like · Reply · 12 · 1d

**Andrew Dee**

Yeah, so ridiculous to try to catch a crack smoking mayor smoking crack

Like · Reply · 1 · 1d

**Dave Robbins**

Andrew Dee if we followed your mother around 24x7, you would soon find out that your the bi-product of a john.

Like · Reply · 13 · 23h

**Mark Black**

Andrew Dee And here comes the off topic, deflactive 'propabaiting' from the SnowFlake bot troll.

Your political masters are having a time of it, being exposed as trolls, much like you. Your time as a Liberal paid, programmed troll is coming to a end and so is MSM

Like · Reply · 9 · 23h · Edited

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**Nick Samaras**

Just move on already, you are embarrassing yourself.

Like · Reply · 12 · 23h

**Mark Black**

We all welcome the lawsuit, Blair. When you lose, we all want a class-action countersuit

Like · Reply · 17 · 1d

**John Lucas**

He shot himself in the foot the first time, and now he just shot himself in the other foot. His career was ended the first shot. And he did breach the Police Services Act by revealing confidential information. What is he thinking?

Like · Reply · 10 · 21h

**Sandra Penner**

Sounds like Blair is a whiney crybaby....and he just proved it. Ford didn't have to do anything to make him look bad, his own actions more than cover that position.

Like · Reply · 13 · 23h

**Mark Black**

Just now?! He questioned the integrity of the hiring process without understanding how the process works. He has lobbied the board to remove his intern title he has dragged his job seeking through the media with questionable conduct that leaves him open to countersuit.

Blair's hissy fit, Ford Derangement Syndrome, SnowFlake meltdown won't subside and it is due to blind hatred of those who call the shots that put your place in perspective.

Ontario isn't a meadow for the sheep and it certainly will never be a safe space for SnowFlakes, used to having it their way. It's for all of Ontarians. A populist understands that

Like · Reply · 4 · 22h

**Geoff Rothwell**

Sounds like Ford has Paranoia...He thinks anyone who dares to call him to account is dangerous or corrupt. This comes from his privileged upbringing...hand of a company with no training or qualifications.

Like · Reply · 20h

**Mark Black**

Geoff Rothwell Your fake profile has nothing but posts about Trump and Ford. Thanks for keeping up the tradition of your programmer stalking me, SnowFlake

Like · Reply · 2 · 19h

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