



STATEMENT FROM B.W (BRAD) BLAIR

Yesterday early morning, I was personally served with a termination letter by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Mr. Mario Di Tommaso, at the OPP Headquarters in Orillia. This brings to an end my nearly-33 years of service with the Ontario Provincial Police ("OPP"). Ministry officials involved in my termination were also the subject of my December 11, 2018, complaint to the Provincial Ombudsman.

In my nearly-33 years of service, I have had the privilege of seeing this province in its entirety. I have experienced its beauty and appreciated its incredible diversity. It is as diverse in its geography as it is in its people, and we should be thankful for that. In particular, I have been privileged to work with many Indigenous communities and I want to thank these communities for their patience, trust and teachings.

To the People of Ontario: I brought the serious issues of real and/or perceived political interference with the independent operations of the OPP to the Provincial Ombudsman, because the cost of a compromised OPP is too great a price to pay. The OPP can be called in to investigate provincial politicians, and the citizens of Ontario need to have faith that the OPP is truly independent, above political interference, and free from abuses of power. I have sought transparency, in both my professional capacity as a former interim Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the OPP and in my personal capacity. Raising such concerns has not come without its costs, but I remain steadfast in the belief that it was the right thing to do.

To My OPP Family: As difficult and as confusing as this might be, I ask you to stay focused on the task at hand in providing public safety to the people of the province of Ontario and those who visit us. The work that the OPP does on a daily basis in keeping our communities and highways safe is recognized and appreciated. Your contributions as employees serve to maintain the OPP's reputation as one of the finest police services in North America and contributes to the public trust you and the OPP enjoy.

From my first posting in Red Lake to my last in Orillia, I have been blessed with working alongside some of the most dedicated people that exist in the profession, regardless of rank or title. The OPP's diversity of people is what makes the organization great and positions it well for whatever challenges lie ahead.

In 1986, when I was hired, I felt that I owed the organization and the people of Ontario a debt of gratitude – a debt that would take me just shy of 33 years to repay. I leave the organization as I entered - humbled and appreciative of the opportunity to have served with you and for you.

