



*First Annual*

# ONTARIO POLICE SUICIDE MEMORIAL

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*Honouring Heroes*

*Remembering Service*

CANADA  
*Beyond*  
THE BLUE

June 23rd, 2024

Queen's Park Crescent

[www.canadabeyondtheblue.com](http://www.canadabeyondtheblue.com)



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*Dedicated to Our  
Families of the Fallen*

May this memorial offer you SOLACE knowing that  
your loved one will forever be remembered for their  
dignified service to the community



Support **O**utreach Love **A**ssistance **C**onnection **E**mpowerment

**SOLACE** is a supportive network for families of bereaved police members, offering a space where they can come together, heal, and share in their grief. It provides a comforting community where loved ones find understanding and strength through shared experiences and mutual support.

Please connect through our website.

CANADA  
*Beyond*   
THE BLUE

# OUR JOURNEY HERE



**“SHOW ME A HERO, AND I WILL WRITE YOU A TRAGEDY”  
- F. SCOTT FITZGERALD**

Advocacy is a challenging journey that requires determination and resilience, with hope shining even in the darkest moments. For those who dared to advocate alongside us for a memorial honouring the silent sacrifice of police members - thank you.

For our grieving families, we see you. Our road was fraught with obstacles, but Beyond the Blue's resolve remained unyielding.

In 2019, through a virtual online remembrance, we began a journey of change.

Today, June 23rd, 2024, we make history. On this day, the province of Ontario stands united to honour the first-ever provincial ceremony for police members who died because of the line of duty.

As we gather to honour their memory, let us not only pay homage to the lives lost but also renew our commitment to fostering a culture of awareness, prevention, compassion, and understanding within the police profession.

May this memorial serve not only as a symbol of remembrance but as a beacon of hope and healing, guiding us toward a future where none of our heroes suffer in silence, and where the stigma of mental illness is broken.

In the quietude of reflection, amidst the whispers of the warm June wind, may their spirits find solace knowing that their journey, though fraught with pain, has paved the way for healing and transformation.

And may we, their surviving family, friends, colleagues, and community, carry forth their legacy with reverence and resolve, and share their story to connect with others who may be struggling.

Let us draw those who are suffering alone out of the darkness and, together as a community of trauma-informed advocates, commit to real changes in how we treat each other, view mental health, and shape formal policy.

# AWARENESS

## **“Because of the Line of Duty”**

The dangers of police work are frequently acknowledged but few can be prepared for the death of a friend, colleague or loved one. When that death is by suicide, many among us privately acknowledge that the member died because of the line of duty yet, until now, there was no formal way for the policing family to memorialize these tragedies.

Canada Beyond the Blue is committed to ensuring these individuals are never forgotten and that their names are spoken aloud and recorded in order to honour their service.

Canada Beyond the Blue, with the support of the OACP, PAO, OPP, OPPA, TPS and TPA is proud to plan a formal ceremony and lasting memorial to commemorate police members who have died because of the line of duty.

The relentless exposure to on-the-job trauma can significantly impact the mental health of police members. Establishing a distinct memorial not only dignifies their service but also prompts stakeholders to advocate for comprehensive policies addressing the mental well-being of police members and their families.



June 23rd, 2024

**A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DILNAZ GARDA**

As we gather together to commemorate this historic moment, I am filled with both reverence and hope. Today marks a significant milestone in our collective journey towards acknowledging the toll that a career in policing can have on the mental health and well-being of our brave police members and their families. It is with great pride and humility that I share with you the inaugural ceremony of the Ontario Police Suicide Memorial, a tangible symbol of our commitment to honouring those who have paid the ultimate price.

The phrase "because of the line of duty," coined by Beyond the Blue, has now become a part of common police rhetoric, serving as a powerful reminder of the unique challenges faced by law enforcement members and their loved ones. Through the creation of this ceremony, we aim to provide a space where families, colleagues, and friends of the fallen can seek solace, find comfort, and connect with others who understand their grief in ways that few others can.

We recognize that the impact of a policing career extends far beyond the individual police member, affecting the entire family unit. It is our sincere hope that the Ontario Police Suicide Memorial will serve as more than just a physical reminder, but as a beacon of support and understanding for all those who have been touched by the sacrifices made in service to our communities.

Together, let us honour the memory of our fallen heroes and reaffirm our commitment to supporting one another and breaking the silence. Thank you for joining us on this important journey.

With deepest gratitude,

Dilnaz Garda  
President, Beyond the Blue





**Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario**

June 23rd, 2024

## **A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD**

I am honoured to extend warm greetings to everyone taking part in Canada Beyond The Blue - Ontario Police Suicide Memorial Ceremony.

Today, we remember and honour the heroic police members who lost their lives because of the line of duty. Being a police officer is a tough job, with its long hours, constant threat of danger, and relentless exposure to on-the-job trauma. Our unprecedented times have brought new demands on the already challenging job of policing.

As we know, all of this can significantly impact the mental health of police members. Today's memorial not only dignifies the service of these fallen officers, but also prompts us to pay attention and address the mental well-being of police members and their families. We owe a debt to these officers that can never be repaid, and we must never forget their service and sacrifice. To the families, friends and colleagues of the fallen, I want you to know that our government and the people of Ontario are here for you.

Our government continues to stand by our police members – with improved supports for their mental health and wellness, and investments to provide police with additional tools to combat the pressing criminal issues of our time, such as gun and gang violence, as well as human trafficking.

I want to thank the wonderful team behind Canada Beyond The Blue for hosting this ceremony to ensure that no police officer in Ontario is forgotten. I offer my sympathies to the families and friends of our departed officers and my sincere gratitude to all our province's men and women in uniform.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Ford'.

**Doug Ford**  
**Premier**

June 23rd, 2024

## **A MESSAGE FROM SOLICITOR GENERAL MICHAEL KERZNER**

Being a member of the policing community is one of the most noble, rewarding experiences you can have. Police members put service over self. They save lives. They build relationships with the community. They support the most vulnerable. Yet we often overlook how vulnerable they are to mental health challenges because of the very work they do.

That is why the support that Beyond the Blue offers its members and their families is invaluable. Dedicated, mental health supports are required to ensure our police members come home safe each and every day. The mental health challenges they face will never go unappreciated by our government under Premier Doug Ford. With Beyond the Blue's partnership, our government will continue advocating for the wellbeing of police members and ending mental health stigmas.

We must also recognize all those that we have lost because of the line of duty. Today's ceremony is important because it reminds us that such a rewarding career comes with consequences for those who serve in it. They paid the ultimate sacrifice. As Solicitor General, I have prioritized an investment of more than \$3 million into the Ontario Immediate Family Wellness Program. This program provides crucial mental health services to the families of our fallen heroes because they cannot be left to grieve without support.

Everyone has the right to come home safely with the motivation to keep moving forward. We are committed to supporting police members when they need it most.



**Michael Kerzner**  
**Solicitor General**



June 23rd, 2024

**A MESSAGE FROM MINISTER OF LABOUR, IMMIGRATION,  
TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT DAVID PICCINI**

I am honoured to recognize the heartbreaking loss of police officers who have died by suicide. I join the families in mourning these fallen heroes.

Our government is grateful for the dedication of Ontario's police officers and their service to our communities. This enduring memorial will help ensure that these officers are never forgotten and honours their service and courage.

As we gather to pay tribute, I extend my heartfelt condolences to their families, colleagues and loved ones.

Please accept my thanks for the work Canada Beyond the Blue does to raise awareness and offer education, peer support, mental health resources and practical tools for police members and law enforcement families, as well as establishing this deeply moving memorial.

Sincerely,

David Piccini

Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development



**Police  
Association  
of Ontario**

June 23rd, 2024

### **A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARK BAXTER**

As President of the Police Association of Ontario, it is with both solemn reverence and unwavering dedication that I provide this message as we gather today on this significant occasion—the inaugural Ontario Police Suicide Memorial Ceremony.

Today, we gather not only to mourn the loss of our fallen comrades who have died because of the line of duty but also to honour their memory, their sacrifice, and the enduring legacy they leave behind. Each of these heroes represents a life dedicated to serving and protecting others—a noble calling that often demands everything from those who answer.

Our profession is one of courage, sacrifice, and resilience, but it is also fraught with unique challenges and burdens that can weigh heavily on the hearts and minds of those who wear its badge. The relentless demands, the relentless exposure to trauma, and the relentless pressure to remain strong in the face of adversity can take an immeasurable toll. Yet, amidst the darkness, there is light—a beacon of hope that shines brightly in the unity and solidarity of our law enforcement community. In moments like these, when we stand shoulder to shoulder, united in purpose and resolve, we find solace, strength, and the courage to carry on.

Today, as we pay tribute to those we have lost, let us also recommit ourselves to the cause they held dear—to creating a future where the stigma surrounding mental health is shattered, where resources and support are readily available, and where no member ever feels alone or forgotten.

To the families and loved ones of our fallen heroes, we extend our deepest sympathies, unwavering support, and heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifices you have made and continue to make each day. May this memorial serve as a testament to the lives we honour, the legacies we cherish, and the enduring spirit of the Ontario law enforcement community.

Mark Baxter, President  
Police Association of Ontario



June 23rd, 2024

### **A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JAMES MACSWEEN**

On behalf of Ontario's police leaders, I am pleased to welcome everyone taking part in the Canada Beyond the Blue - Ontario Police Suicide Memorial.

The death of any police member is tragic and one we must all mourn. A ceremony and memorial to commemorate police members who have died by suicide related to their duties offers us an opportunity to both honour their service and come together to acknowledge the immense sense of loss their families, friends, and colleagues feel.

Policing is an honourable profession. It is also one with many challenges. It is vital that all police members feel supported as they deal with not only the challenges inherent in the job, but also when they are dealing with the challenges of living in today's world.

Let us resolve to ensure police members and their families are supported wherever they are on their journey. Let us also ensure that the memories of our loved ones are never forgotten.

Chief Jim MacSween, President  
Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

# ONTARIO POLICE SUICIDE MEMORIAL

## STEERING COMMITTEE

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the inaugural steering committee for their tireless dedication and unwavering commitment in bringing the Ontario Police Suicide Memorial to realization. Through their collaborative efforts, passion, and vision, they have transformed an idea into a reality, ensuring that the brave men and women of law enforcement who tragically lost their lives to suicide are honoured and remembered with dignity and respect. Their leadership and perseverance have been instrumental in laying the foundation for this important memorial, which will serve as a lasting tribute to the profound sacrifices made by our police community. We are deeply thankful for their invaluable contributions and unwavering support.

**Mark Baxter, President Police Association of Ontario**  
**Commissioner Thomas Carrique, Ontario Provincial Police**  
**Michael Duffy, Police Association of Ontario**  
**Dilnaz Garda, Co-founder Beyond the Blue**  
**Pete Grande, Director Toronto Police Association**  
**Kristal Jones, Co-founder Beyond the Blue**  
**Superintendent Mike McDonell, Ontario Provincial Police**  
**Inspector Stefan Prentice, Toronto Police Service**  
**Rick Robson, Director London Police Association**

# ONTARIO POLICE SUICIDE MEMORIAL

## OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

We extend our sincere appreciation to the operational committee for their diligent efforts in ensuring that every detail of the day unfolds seamlessly. Comprised of dedicated individuals committed to excellence, their meticulous planning and execution have been instrumental in making this memorial ceremony a fitting tribute to our fallen heroes.

**Dilnaz Garda, Co-founder Beyond the Blue**  
**Pete Grande, Director Toronto Police Association**  
**Kristal Jones, Co-founder Beyond the Blue**  
**Superintendent Tyrone Hilton, Toronto Police Service**  
**Cheryl Lam, Director Beyond the Blue**  
**Jim Mulligan, Hamilton Police Association**  
**Inspector Stefan Prentice, Toronto Police Service**

## SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have been integral to this journey contributing in meaningful ways to the realization of this inaugural ceremony. Your unwavering support, dedication, and commitment have been invaluable in honoring the memory of our fallen heroes and ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

**Creed Atkinson, Jaimi Bannon, Thomas Comeau, Matthew Cox, Chief  
Myron Demkiw, Sean James, Terri-Ann James, Dr. Vivien Lee, Scott Mills,  
Andrew Nanton**

# HONOURING HEROES & REMEMBERING SERVICE

## DARIUS GARDA

Honouring the memory of PC Darius Garda serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges our law enforcement community faces and the importance of fostering a culture of support and understanding. Beyond the Blue stands as a beacon of hope, striving to amplify the voices of families who have lost loved ones and to provide unwavering support to current police members. May PC Darius Garda's legacy serve as a guiding light in our mission to create a safer, healthier environment for all those who dedicate their lives to protecting others.



## THE MEMORIAL PIN

The memorial pin, embellished with the colour green symbolizes mental health awareness and is inscribed with our motto. Wear this pin with pride, and let it serve as a powerful beacon of hope and solidarity, spreading awareness and fostering conversations about mental health within our ranks and beyond.

## SILENT MARCH

The Silent March holds profound symbolism as police members, families, and community partners come together in quiet reflection to honour the memory of those we have lost. This collective silence speaks volumes, reminding us of the solemnity of the occasion and the depth of our grief. Yet, it is also symbolic of a broader message: the breaking of this silence represents the urgent need to notice, listen, and connect. In the realm of mental health, this act serves as a call to action. By breaking this silence, we affirm our commitment to providing the help and support needed to address the challenges faced by our policing community. Together, let us listen and stand in solidarity, ensuring that no one suffers in silence.



# ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS



## **10:50 SILENT MARCH**

Led by Superintendent Tyrone Hilton

## **HOST**

Inspector Stefan Prentice

## **10:55 BREAKING OF THE SILENCE**

Remarks by Rick Robson

## **11:00 ENTRY OF COLOUR/FLAG PARTY**

Land acknowledgement by Insp. Prentice

National anthem by PC Barrett Mucci

## **11:10 REMARKS**

Opening remarks by Insp. Prentice

Guest Remarks

Dilnaz Garda, President Canada Beyond the Blue

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Commissioner Carrique, Ontario Provincial Police

Mark Baxter, President Police Association of Ontario



## **11:30 READING OF NAMES**

Honour roll by Pete Grande

## **11:40 LAYING OF WREATHS**

On behalf of Government – Premier Doug Ford

On behalf of Police – Chief Myron Demkiw

On behalf of Families – Loan & Mai-Linh de Bock

On behalf of Associations – President Jaimi Bannon

On behalf of Community Partners – VP Kristal Jones



# CEREMONY SIGNIFICANCE



## **11:45 LAST POST**

Paul Breeze

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

## **11:50 LAMENT**

Piper

## **REVEILLE**

Paul Breeze

## **11:55 BENEDICTION**

Chaplain Curtis Hinds

## **12:00 CLOSING REMARKS**

Inspector Stefan Prentice



Last post – This is the signal that the day has come to an end and one's duties are complete. Additionally it symbolizes those who died in service.

Moment of Silence - Calls us into remembrance and quiet reflection on the sacrifice of those lost (symbolizing the night).

Lament – A chance for those present, or those listening from afar, to have a moment of reflection and quiet remembrance of the dead or the fallen.

Reveille - is a morning wake-up bugle call and symbolizes the awakening to a better world.



# HONOUR ROLL

**CHIEF JOHN CHISHOLM**

Toronto Police Service | 1958

**CPL. HUGH ARTHUR WRIGHT**

Ontario Provincial Police | 1980

**SGT. MICHAEL PEDLEY**

Toronto Police Service | 1987

**PC. DAVID G. BROWN**

Ontario Provincial Police | 1990

**PC. SHAWN WILSON**

Ottawa Police Service | 1995

**PC. PAUL OK**

Ottawa Police Service | 1997

**PC. KIMBERLEY DE SNAYER**

Ottawa Police Service | 1998

**PC. TEDDY BISSON**

Ottawa Police Service | 2001

**SC. RYAN GALLAGHER STEVENSON**

York Regional Police | 2004

**SSGT. EDWARD ADAMSON**

Toronto Police Service | 2005

**SGT. LAWRENCE JOHN PENFOLD**

Hamilton Police Service | 2005

**PC. ROY WILLIAM JONES**

Hamilton Police Service | 2006

**PC. MICHAEL EBY**

Belleville Police Service | 2008

**SGT. THOMAS WARNER**

Toronto Police Service | 2009

**PC. MARK DAVID TAYLOR**

Niagara Regional Police Service | 2010

**PC. J.W. MELNICK**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2011

**SC. DEB EDWARDS**

Hamilton Police Service | 2011

**PC. KENNETH ROBINSON**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2011

# HONOUR ROLL

**PC. DOUGLAS W. J. MARSHALL**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2012

**SSGT. IAN MATHEWS**

Hamilton Police Service | 2013

**PC. ANDREW KEATING**

North Bay Police Service | 2014

**SC. ROSARIO VELLA**

Toronto Police Service | 2014

**SSGT. KALID GHADBAN**

Ottawa Police Service | 2014

**PC. MARK DORIS**

York Regional Police | 2014

**PC. BRAD CLAUSE**

Hamilton Police Service | 2015

**PC. DARRYL ARCHER**

Hamilton Police Service | 2015

**DC. DAVID HERRINGTON**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2016

**PC. DARIUS GARDA**

Toronto Police Service | 2016

**PC. STEPHANE BILODEAU**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2017

**PC. STEVEN VLCKO**

York Regional Police | 2018

**SGT. SYLVAIN ROUTHIER**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2018

**D.INS P GORDON PAUL HORNE**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2018

**PC. JOSHUA DEBOCK**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2018

**PC. ANDREW LONG**

Niagara Regional Police Service | 2018

**PC. ROCH DURVIAGE**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2019

**PC. COSIMO RACCO**

Thunder Bay Police Service | 2019

# HONOUR ROLL

**PC. CHRISTOPHER LABRECHE**

Greater Sudbury Police Service | 2019

**PC. VADIM MARTSENYUK**

Toronto Police Service | 2019

**PC. THOMAS ROBERTS**

Royal Canadian Mounted Police | 2019

**SSGT. JEFFERY HARMER**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2019

**PC. MICHAEL JOHN AUSTIN**

Toronto Police Service | 2020

**PC. JIAN PENG LIANG**

Toronto Police Service | 2020

**PC. NELSON LIZOTTE**

Ottawa Police Service | 2020

**PC. CORY TRAINOR**

West Grey Police Service | 2020

**PC. GUY BOUCHER**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2021

**PCC. C02 DAVID FRANK CLEMENTS**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2021

**PC. MICHAEL BRODERICK**

Kawartha Lakes Police Service | 2021

**SGT. DAVID COLIN HARTLESS**

Hamilton Police Service | 2021

**PC. FRED WADDEN**

Toronto Police Service | 2023

**PC. GREGORY MILLS**

Hamilton Police Service | 2023

**PC. CLAUS LUEDKE**

Ontario Provincial Police | 2024

# DONOR RECOGNITION

The OPSM would like to recognize the following donors for their contribution and commitment to honouring the fallen police members and supporting their families.

## **GUARDIAN (\$15,000+)**

Gloves Up

Toronto Police Association

## **CHAMPION (\$5,000+)**

Hamilton Police Association

Ontario Provincial Police Association

Peel Regional Police Association

Police Credit Union

Toronto Police Service

## **ADVOCATE (\$1000+)**

Greater Sudbury Police Service & Association

Halton Regional Police Service

Niagara Regional Police Association

Police Association of Ontario

## **SUPPORTER (\$500)**

Brantford Police Service

Guelph Police Association

Halton Regional Police Association

Lindsay Police Association

London Police Service

Niagara Regional Police Service

Ottawa Police Association

Peel Regional Police Service

Thunder Bay Police Association

Thunder Bay Police Service

Waterloo Regional Police Association

# BLUE FOR OUR FALLEN

We are proud to announce that the CN Tower and Niagara Falls will be illuminated in vibrant blue lights in honor of the Ontario Police Suicide Memorial. As cherished symbols of Canada, the CN Tower's lighting program and The Illumination foundation proudly support Canadian charitable organizations, causes, and celebrations.

We are humbled to join in honoring the Memorial by illuminating iconic Canadian treasures the CN Tower and Niagara Falls in blue, a gesture that reflects our commitment to commemorating important occasions and supporting our community.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in celebrating moments that bring us together as a nation.



LA TOUR  
**CN**  
TOWER





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