



**Presentation to the Standing Committee
on Finance and Economic Affairs
by the
Police Association of Ontario**

**Bill 203, Safer Roads for a Safer Ontario
Act, 2007**

May 3, 2007

My name is Bruce Miller and I am the Chief Administrative Officer for the Police Association of Ontario (PAO). I was also a front-line police officer for over twenty years prior to taking on my current responsibilities.

The Police Association of Ontario represents over 30,000 police and civilian members from every municipal police association and the OPPA. We have included further information on our organization in our brief.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input into this important process. Safer roads is a goal that we all strive for and we support the following initiatives that are contained in Bill 203:

- Allowing the courts to take away vehicles from repeat drinking and driving offenders.
- Establishing an early ignition interlock program for Criminal Code offenders.
- Increasing roadside drivers licence suspensions for drivers with elevated blood alcohol concentrations.

- Taking drivers licences away from street racers and increasing fines.

As a front-line police officer I saw the tragedies that resulted from street racing and impaired driving. On May 31, 2002 the Chair of the Police Association of Ontario, Terry Ryan, was killed by a drunk driver. Terry left behind his wife Carol, two sons and three grandchildren.

I know that all Members at Queen's Park strive for safer roads and communities. The legislation has great value both in terms of enforcement and the ongoing need for public education.

One area that we would like to comment on is the provision that would allow police vehicles the exclusive right to use a combination of red and blue emergency flashing lights.

Since 1994, two-thirds of all police officer deaths in Ontario have been the result of traffic related accidents. Blue flashing lights are very visible at night. Red flashing lights are more visible in the daytime.

Ontario is the only jurisdiction in North America that does not permit the use of blue flashing lights on police vehicles. Our roads and highways are a sea of red tail-lights at night. We strongly believe that the use of blue and red lights will increase the visibility of police vehicles, reducing the number of deaths and injuries related to night collisions, for both police officers and members of the public.

We believe that the best way to illustrate this is to show you three short video clips that were done by the Peel Regional Police Service. Their members did a great deal of work on this issue.

...Three video clips shown...

We believe that the video clips show how a combination of blue and red lights can help to prevent tragedies. We would also point out that the use of blue and red lighting was supported by a Ministry working group of police and municipal stakeholders.

In closing we would like to thank the Government and Minister Cansfield for moving this legislation forward. We appreciate work done by Minister Kwinter in moving the blue and red light initiative forward. Finally we would like to thank all Members for their support and also recognize the efforts of MPP Frank Klees.

We would urge that this legislation be enacted as quickly as possible. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you again and we would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.



Mandate of the Association

The Police Association of Ontario (PAO) was founded in 1933 and is the official voice and representative body for Ontario's front-line police personnel. Our membership consists of over 30,000 police and civilian members from every municipal police association and the Ontario Provincial Police Association (see attached for a complete listing of member associations).

The Police Association of Ontario promotes the mutual interests of Ontario's front-line police personnel in order to uphold the honour of the police profession and elevate the standards of police services.

The core objectives of our Association are to:

- Provide progressive and effective leadership and representation on policing issues;
- Deliver flexible and innovative services providing resource and support to our member associations;
- Deliver training and educational programs to foster enhanced association leadership; and,
- Encourage cooperation and unity within our membership.

Community Service

The Police Association of Ontario and its affiliates across this province have a long history of community support and involvement. Whether through the work of our individual members or through the efforts of a local association, many charities, minor sports programs and assistance programs for people of all ages, have benefited from our efforts.

The PAO believes that our "Kids and Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Days" is another example of this community spirit. We have partnered with Fishing Forever, a non-profit organization, whose principal focus is recreational fisheries conservation and securing the future of fishing in Ontario. The PAO has committed over two hundred thousand dollars to this program over the last several years and to date have taken thousands of young people fishing for the day with police personnel. The PAO was honoured two years ago with the Rick Amsbury Memorial Award for its contribution to fishing and youth in Ontario.



Sharing Our Expertise

Our unified voice has always been a key resource to government on all matters related to policing. Building on our shared goal of making Ontario communities safer, we have worked with successive governments on a number of important policy files sharing our experience and expertise.

Notable amongst our past achievements is the revitalized Police Services Act. Our Association worked along side other police stakeholders including representatives of Ontario's Chiefs of Police, Police Services Boards and municipalities to forge a consensus on how best to transform Ontario's police services. Working with elected members on all sides of the Legislature on this important initiative was particularly rewarding.

In recent years, our Association has been advocating for a number of new initiatives that would improve community safety and protect police personnel including:

- Measures to address the escalating problem of violence in our communities posed by gangs, drugs and guns in particular;
- Implementation plans for the 1,000 new officers;
- Revitalizing the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) to better reflect the contribution of police and fire fighter personnel;
- Passage of the "pull to the left" law that requires vehicles to slow and pull to the left when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle.

Moving Forward: Developing The Work Plan

- While proud of our past accomplishments, we understand that police services are constantly in transition. By responding to changing public expectations, we can ensure that Ontario's police services remain responsive, effective and accountable.



PAO Member Associations

Amherstburg Aylmer Barrie Belleville Brantford Brockville Chatham-Kent Cobourg Cornwall Deep River Dryden Durham Regional Elliot Lake Espanola Essex Gananoque Guelph Halton Regional Hamilton Hanover Kenora	Kingston Kirkland Lake LaSalle Leamington Lindsay London Michipicoten Twp. Midland Niagara Parks Niagara Region North Bay Ontario Provincial Police Orangeville Orillia Ottawa Owen Sound Oxford Community Peel Regional Pembroke Perth Peterborough-Lakefield Port Hope	Sarnia Saugeen Shores Sault Ste. Marie Shelburne Smiths Falls South Simcoe St. Thomas Stratford Strathroy Stirling-Rawdon Sudbury Temiskaming Shores Thunder Bay Timmins Toronto Waterloo Regional West Grey West Nipissing Windsor Wingham York Regional
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The Police Association of Ontario – a Resource for Government

The PAO has a history of working with government to ensure safe communities. Our unified voice has always been a key resource to government on all matters related to policing. The PAO web site is located at www.pao.on.ca. It contains all of our media releases, position papers and other information on policing and community safety. We would also encourage you to contact our office should you need any further information. Some of the material includes:

- PAO federal and provincial submissions on pre-budget consultations.
 - Public opinion polling information on community safety issues.
 - Presentation to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy, Bill 128, Law Enforcement and Forfeited Property Management Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005.
 - Presentation to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy, Bill 159, An Act to revise the Private Investigators and Security Guards Act and to make a consequential amendment to the Licence Appeal Tribunal Act, 1999.
 - Presentations to the Standing Committee on General Government on Bill 206, An Act to revise the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act.
 - Presentation to the Standing Committee on General Government on Bill 53, An Act to revise the City of Toronto Acts, 1997 (nos. 1 and 2), to amend certain public Acts in relation to municipal powers and to repeal certain private Acts relating to the City of Toronto.
 - Presentation to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy on Bill 56, An Act to amend the Emergency Management Act, the Employment Standards Act, 2000 and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997.
 - Presentation to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy on Bill 107, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Code.
 - Presentation to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy on Bill 14, An Act to promote access to justice by amending or repealing various acts and by enacting the Legislation Act, 2005.
 - Presentation to the Standing Committee on General Government on Bill 148, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act respecting seatbelts.
 - Presentation to the Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly on Bill 28, Mandatory Blood Testing Act.
 - Presentation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy on Bill 152, An Act to modernize various Acts administered by or affecting the Ministry of Government Services
 - Presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on Bill 187, Budget Measures and Interim Appropriation Act, 2007
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