

Solicitor General

Office of the Solicitor General

25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tel: 416 325-0408
MCSCS.Feedback@Ontario.ca

Solliciteur général

Bureau de la solliciteure générale

25, rue Grosvenor, 18^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tél.: 416 325-0408
MCSCS.Feedback@Ontario.ca



132-2019-1489

By e-mail

August 15, 2019

Ms. Kelly Donovan
kelly@fit4duty.ca

Dear Ms. Donovan:

Mr. Will Bouma, MPP for Brantford-Brant, has forwarded your letter regarding workplace harassment and resulting health issues and your career as a police officer with the Waterloo Regional Police Service.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has general authority over the delivery of police services in Ontario. Ministry staff members monitor the activities of all police services in Ontario and, where appropriate, recommend improvements to relevant legislation, policies and procedures. Ministry staff must not become directly involved in operational policing matters and do not have the authority to direct police in their day-to-day operations. The Ministry of the Solicitor General is not a police agency and does not have a mandate to investigate any situation or to direct an investigation by an outside agency.

For the first time in the province's history, the Ontario government designated June 27, 2019, as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Day. Police officers, correctional officers and others who work on the front lines protecting our communities face demanding challenges that may impact their mental health and well-being after responding to traumatic situations. The Ontario government is investing a portion of the \$1.9 billion it has earmarked over 10 years for mental health care into supporting police and first responders to help them cope with mental health issues, and to manage interactions with people dealing with such issues, including addictions. At this time, \$2.5 million was allocated for 2018-19, and again for 2019-20 for this work.

As Premier Doug Ford stated in the Legislature on March 28, 2019, it is time for the leadership of all police services across Ontario to listen to their front-line officers and support their need for improved mental health support. Our government has made historic investments in mental health and addictions to help Ontarians get access to the services they need, when and where they need them.

Given that your legal proceeding involving the Waterloo Regional Police Services Board and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board is ongoing, it would not be appropriate for me or any ministry official to comment on the specifics of your case.

.../2

Ms. Kelly Donovan
Page 2

If you believe that the Waterloo Regional Police Service is not complying with provisions under the *Police Services Act* (PSA), you may contact the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC). The OCPC is an independent oversight agency committed to serving the public by ensuring that adequate and effective policing services are provided to the community in a fair and accountable manner under the PSA. Further information is available at the OCPC's website at www.ocpc.ca and should you wish to contact the OCPC, you may do so at:

Ontario Civilian Police Commission
250 - 77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1N3
E-mail: SLASTOinfo@ontario.ca

Thank you again for sharing your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General

c: Mr. Will Bouma, MPP
Brantford-Brant