

**Issue: National Capital Protest and Regional Echo Protests**

**Key Messages:**

- Our government wants to congratulate the City of Toronto, the Toronto Police Service and their partners, including the Ontario Provincial Police, for their exemplary work in ensuring Saturday's demonstration in the City of Toronto was safe.
- We understand the Ottawa Police Service continues to express concerns about their ability to manage the ongoing occupation in their city.
- Policing protests is a responsibility carried out by local police services across Ontario, who have the resources and authority to ensure their communities remain safe.
- Politicians at all levels cannot direct the police.
- To be clear: police services, including the Ottawa Police Service, have full discretion and extensive existing legislative authority under the Criminal Code to respond to and manage demonstrations and take enforcement action, as appropriate, against any individuals committing crimes in their jurisdiction.
- As we indicated earlier this week, the Ontario government, including the Ontario Provincial Police, has provided significant operational resources to Ottawa.
- To be clear, since the beginning of the protest, more than 1,500 Ontario Provincial Police personnel have been deployed to the City of Ottawa, providing a range of support to the Ottawa Police Service.
- This works out to between approximately 135-200 officers per day. This is in addition to the support being provided by other police services from the GTA, as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police – which the province deputized right away in order to be able to enforce municipal and provincial laws.
- The office of Solicitor has been in contact with Ottawa officials throughout, and both the Premier and the Solicitor General have regularly reiterated the province's commitment to support them with any additional operational resources they may need.
- We are grateful for the cooperation between Ontario's policing leadership during this time.
- We are also in receipt of the request from Mayor Watson to the federal government and Ontario government for significant additional operational resources for Ottawa.

- We have forwarded this ask the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police,
- The Commissioner who will continue to liaise with Chief Sloy, as they have since the beginning of the demonstration, to determine how exactly Ontario policing partners can continue to provide support based on available policing resources and the operational plan proposed by the Ottawa Police Service.

### **ECHO Regional Protests Including Ambassador Bridge**

- Our government wants to congratulate the City of Toronto, the Toronto Police Service and their partners, including the Ontario Provincial Police, for their exemplary work in ensuring Saturday's demonstration in the City of Toronto was safe.
- We are aware of protests in other parts of the province, including the Ambassador Bridge.
- As with any major demonstration, local police will take the appropriate action to keep their communities safe, and we stand ready to provide additional support if necessary.
- We want to reiterate that blocking access to emergency medical services, including paramedic services and hospitals, is completely unacceptable.
- This week, Ontario is beginning to ease some public health measures, the first step in returning to normal.
- All Ontarians are united in their desire to put this pandemic behind us and return to the life we knew before COVID-19