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OTTAWA POLICE
SERVICES BOARD

MC-2013-2872

AUG 06 2013

Mr. Eli El-Chantiry
Chair
Ottawa Police Services Board
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa ON K1P 1J1

AUG 14 2013

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Action: to Bd. as Communication

Dear Mr. El-Chantiry: *Eli*

Thank you for your letter of June 26, 2013, forwarding a copy of the new Human Rights and Racial Profiling Policy, approved by the Ottawa Police Services Board on June 24, 2013.

I applaud the Board and Chief Charles Bordeleau for your efforts. As I understand, the Ontario Human Rights Commission called your new policy groundbreaking, saying that the collection of data enhances transparency so that police can maintain trust in the community.

The Ontario government takes a zero tolerance approach to racial profiling. Further, the *Police Services Act* (PSA) has a Declaration of Principles set out in section 1, which indicates that police services should be provided in accordance with the need for sensitivity to the pluralistic, multiracial and multicultural character of Ontario society and the need to ensure that police services are representative of the communities they serve. Also, it is a Code of Conduct offence under the PSA for police to engage in any racist or discriminatory behaviour.

The vast majority of police officers in Ontario conduct themselves in the most honourable and professional way possible. I have confidence in our police services and chiefs of police to maintain positive relationships with the diverse communities they serve, and to take steps through their specific policies and practices to combat racial profiling.

Since 1992, the Ontario Police College (OPC) has incorporated anti-racism training into all its programs. Training, which includes both classroom instruction and practical exercises, focuses on community policing.

I will forward your board's policy to ministry staff at the OPC for consideration as part of their ongoing review of training.

Again, thank you for sharing your new Human Rights and Racial Profiling Policy.

Sincerely,

Madeleine

Madeleine Meilleur
Minister

c: Mr. Bill Stephens, A/Director
Ontario Police College