

**Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police / Association  
canadienne des chefs de police**

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## **CACP Statement**

(October 27, 2014)

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### **Tragedy, Leadership, Resiliency**

As law enforcement leaders, our focus is always to ensure the safety of our communities, our officers and the most vulnerable among us. We are dedicated to the protection and security of the people of Canada. Likewise, our colleagues in the Canadian Armed Forces proudly serve Canadians by defending our values, interests and sovereignty both at home and abroad.

We have all been shaken by recent tragedies in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Ottawa. It was truly an unprecedented week for all first responders. But as is typical of Canadians, such tragedies bring out the best in our people, our leadership and our collective resiliency - in spite of these events.

Let me begin by conveying to our colleagues at the Canadian Armed Forces, and to the families and friends of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent and Corporal Nathan Cirillo, our deepest sympathies for these untimely and tragic losses. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who mourn and we join you in recognizing their supreme sacrifice. For their dedication and commitment to serving the people of Canada, we are truly thankful. May they rest in peace.

I would like to commend our colleagues from the Sûreté du Québec, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu Police Service, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ottawa Police Service, House of Commons and Senate Security and all first responders whose actions exemplified outstanding leadership and response during these times.

In particular, thank-you to RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, our very close and trusted partner, whose organization demonstrated the highest levels of integrity, courage and professionalism during very trying times. In addition, to Chief Charles Bordeleau and the Ottawa Police Service who demonstrated these same characteristics, in addition to exceptional communications with the public as the situation progressed. Your outstanding leadership truly exemplified the best characteristics of Canada's policing leaders.

I would also be remiss if I did not recognize the 'heroic' effort of the House of Commons and Senate security teams. In particular, Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers who, along with RCMP members, courageously confronted the shooter at Parliament Hill. Sgt-at-Arms Vickers was a 29 year veteran of the RCMP and, like Commissioner Paulson and Chief Bordeleau, he is also a member of the CACP.

Parliamentarians and staffers, from all political parties, are also to be commended. Through a moment of terror to uniting in resolve, they provided great leadership to all and demonstrated that we will not be deterred and we will continue to move on – as Canadians do.

**Message to Canadians:**

As has been demonstrated, Canada will continue to be a legitimate target by international terrorist organizations and their sympathizers. All levels of Canadian law enforcement play critical and complementary roles in national security: from community engagement to preventing, detecting, denying and responding to the threat.

Canada's police services quickly reached out to their communities to provide appropriate and necessary communications during a time of crisis. Police Chiefs conveyed the need for their officers, and the public at large, to remain continuously vigilante. Community-based policing models are dependent on close working relationships between law enforcement and members of the communities we serve. This relationship is absolutely imperative in identifying, preventing, deterring, investigating and responding to criminal activities related to terrorism and national security threats.

Thus the saying "We are you and you are us." We count on the support of all.

The CACP-Counter Terrorism and National Security Committee is encouraging the public to remain vigilant and contact local police authorities or the RCMP National Security Information Network (1-800-420-5805) should they see anything suspicious relating to

possible terrorism-related activities. In addition, the RCMP has provided an overview of the key indicators that can become apparent in the days, weeks or months prior to an attack. The discovery of one of these indicators, when put in a broader context, could help prevent an attack: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/nsci-ecrsn/1-800-eng.htm>

On behalf of the Executive, Board of Directors and membership of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Canada's police leaders and their services thank all Canadians for their support and understanding during a very trying period.

Sincerely,

Chief Clive Weighill  
President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

*The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police was established in 1905 and represents approximately 1,000 police leaders from across Canada. The Association is dedicated to the support and promotion of efficient law enforcement and to the protection and security of the people of Canada. Through its member police chiefs and other senior police executives, the CACP represents in excess of 90% of the police community in Canada which include federal, First Nations, provincial, regional and municipal, transportation and military police leaders.*