

**Police Association of Ontario's Response
to NDP MPP Joel Harden's Comments on Racism in Policing**

Members may have heard by now of the disappointing comments made by NDP MPP for Ottawa-Centre, Joel Harden, during yesterday's Legislative Proceedings at Queen's Park.

If you have not yet heard them, they can be seen on MPP Harden's Twitter page:

<https://twitter.com/JoelHardenONDP/status/1108825565803483141>

Upon learning of his remarks, the PAO engaged in discussions with the Ottawa Police Association and worked to develop a letter addressed to both Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition, and NDP MPP Joel Harden. The letter details the PAO's extreme disappointment in MPP Harden's comments both about racism in policing and an ongoing criminal proceeding before the court system.

As this is the fifth occurrence over the past year of an NDP MPP making disrespectful remarks or actions towards Ontario's police personnel, the PAO will also be reviewing whether the NDP should be invited to participate in our Fall Lobby Day Conference.

The letter can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#) .