



November 25, 2015

The Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1

The Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health
Hepburn Block
10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON, M7A 2C4

Dear Premier and Minister Hoskins,

We are writing to support the request from the Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinator's Network of Ontario (MDSCNO) for your government to establish an Overdose Action Plan for Ontario. We are also supportive of the establishment of an opioid overdose Provincial Coordinator position to support this Plan. As Ontario's police leaders, we are pleased to work with many community partners, include Medical Officers of Health, Executive Directors of community health centres, community service agencies, and physicians in calling for your government to take leadership on this important health and safety issue.

At this time, there is no single agency looking at the coordination of a drug overdose program in our Province. This is work that the MDSCNO has taken on without government funding. The OHRDP Overdose program is the Naloxone distribution program. However, the program does not measure the number of overdoses in the Province. A Provincial Coordinator would be crucial to rectify this situation.

Our Province suffered 514 opioid overdose deaths in 2014 and 134 opioid/alcohol toxicity deaths that same year. Ontario's police leaders and our community partners believe it is time that the Government of Ontario and community partners move forward to stop these needless deaths.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your support for public safety in our province.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Ron Taverner
Toronto Police Service
Chair, OACP Substance Abuse Committee

RT/jlc

- c. Chief Jeff McGuire, President, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
- Chief Paul Pedersen, Greater Sudbury Police Service
- Ron Bain, Executive Director, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
- Members of the OACP Substance Committee