



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL POLICE SERVICE BOARD

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February 6, 2025

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable David McGuinty
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

RE: Strengthening Border Security to Combat Illicit Drugs and Firearms

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,

On behalf of the Peel Police Service Board, I want to express our strong support for the federal government's recent commitment to enhance border resources to combat the trafficking of illicit drugs, particularly fentanyl. This is a crucial step in addressing a crisis that is devastating communities across Canada, including here in Peel Region.

Peel is home to one of the country's largest international airport and logistics hubs, making it a critical gateway for the movement of goods and people between Canada and the United States. As one of the fastest-growing and most diverse regions in the country, Peel has been at the forefront of modernizing policing efforts to address increasingly complex public safety challenges.

While we commend the federal government's commitment to tackling illicit drug smuggling at the border, this presents a significant opportunity to also strengthen efforts to prevent the flow of illegal firearms into Canada. A substantial portion of gun-related crimes in this country involve firearms smuggled across the border, fueling violence and putting communities at risk.

As border enforcement resources are expanded, we urge the federal government to ensure that additional measures also target firearms trafficking. A comprehensive approach should include:

- **Increased Border Screening for Firearms:** Deploying advanced detection technology, intelligence-sharing, and enhanced border inspections focused on firearms smuggling
- **Stronger Penalties for Gun Smuggling:** Ensuring that those involved in firearms trafficking face meaningful consequences.
- **Greater Cross-Border Collaboration:** Strengthening cooperation with U.S. authorities to dismantle supply chains and hold traffickers accountable on both sides of the border.

Peel Regional Police has demonstrated leadership in tackling these challenges. A recent partnership with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies in Canada and the United States resulted in a major transnational investigation that dismantled a drug and firearms trafficking network linked to homicides and violent crime in Peel and beyond. This level of collaboration must be expanded and fully supported at the federal level to ensure long-term success.

Additionally, we are in the process of acquiring a hangar to further enhance our policing capabilities. In light of the federal government's recent announcement to deploy Black Hawk helicopters to strengthen border security, we see an opportunity to collaborate in a meaningful way. Peel Regional Police and the Peel Police Service Board are prepared to partner with the federal government and the Canadian Armed Forces by offering operational support for these efforts. Our strategic location and expanding infrastructure make Peel an ideal base for such initiatives, and we believe this partnership would further reinforce our collective mission to protect Canadians and secure our borders.

Furthermore, Peel Regional Police Chief Nishan Duraiappah serves as a Board Member for both the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) and the Major City Chiefs Association (MCCA). Both organizations have been vocal advocates for strengthening cross-border partnerships, intelligence-sharing, and enforcement strategies to disrupt organized crime networks that traffic firearms and drugs into Canada. These policing partnerships at the national and international level further reinforces the importance of federal, provincial, and local law enforcement agencies aligning their efforts to address these challenges comprehensively.

Peel Regional Police and the Peel Police Service Board remain committed to working alongside all levels of government in these efforts. We stand ready to contribute our expertise, resources, and regional experience to help shape and implement solutions that enhance public safety.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and look forward to a robust, coordinated strategy that addresses both illicit drugs and illegal firearms at the border. Public safety requires a multi-faceted approach, and we urge the federal government to ensure enhanced border measures reflect this reality.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to continued collaboration and meaningful action to keep Canadians safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nando Iannicca". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nando Iannicca
Chair, Peel Police Service Board

Cc:
Patrick Brown, Mayor of Brampton
Carolyn Parrish, Mayor of Mississauga
Annette Groves, Mayor of Caledon
Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario