

**Speaking Notes**  
**Tony Cannavino**  
**January 5**  
***-Check against Delivery-***  
***Embargoed until 10:30 a.m.***

Bonjour, good morning!

My name is Tony Cannavino and I am the President of the Canadian Professional Police Association.

The Canadian Professional Police Association is the national voice for 54,000 police personnel across Canada. Through our 225 affiliates, membership includes police personnel serving in police services from Canada's smallest

towns and villages as well as those working in our largest municipal and provincial police services, the RCMP Members Associations, and First Nations police associations.

Our goal is to work with elected officials, from all political parties, on a non-partisan basis, to bring about meaningful reforms to enhance the safety and security of all Canadians, including those sworn to protect our communities.

***Le but de l'Association canadienne de la police professionnelle est de travailler de concert avec les représentants élus de tous les partis, sur une base non-partisane, afin d'instituer d'importantes réformes qui***

***rehausseraient la sécurité de tous les Canadiens et Canadiennes, y compris ceux et celles qui ont fait serment de protéger nos communautés.***

Electoral campaigns offer the opportunity for political candidates and Canadians to discuss and debate political, economic and social issues that currently have an impact on our society.

Nowadays, urban violence, the treatment of violent offenders, Canada's Drug Strategy, national security, and the rights of victims of crime are all social, and law and order issues that leave no one indifferent in Canada. For the

54,000 police personnel members that I represent, these issues have been 'front and center' in our advocacy efforts of the past years. These issues still represent major concerns within our membership especially when we see the plague of urban violence taking over Canadian cities and when we see violent offenders going through a justice system that regularly returns them to the streets and placing them too often into a position to take the lives of innocent Canadians as we most recently tragically witnessed on Boxing Day in Toronto.

***De nos jours, la violence urbaine, le traitement judiciaire des criminels***

***dangereux, la sécurité nationale, la consommation de drogues illicites et les droits des victimes de crime sont des dossiers qui ne laissent aucun citoyen canadien indifférent. Ces dossiers ont été au cœur des efforts de lobbying de notre association au cours des dernières années. Ces dossiers demeurent toujours au cœur des grandes préoccupations des policiers et policières qui desservent nos communautés, surtout lorsque nous sommes tous témoins de la violence urbaine qui assaille les grandes villes canadiennes et lorsque nous sommes témoins et victimes d'un système qui remet régulièrement les contrevenants violents en***

***circulation dans nos rues pour prendre trop souvent la vie d'honnêtes citoyens et citoyennes, comme nous l'avons encore une fois tristement constaté le 26 décembre dernier à Toronto.***

This morning the Conservative Party Leader Stephen Harper released the Conservative Party's Security Platform. We are mindful that this announcement is made within the context of an electoral campaign and that its implementation is entirely dependent upon the electoral results of January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

That being said, we had the opportunity during these past months to meet and consult with

many federal politicians of all political parties, including Mr. Harper, Peter MacKay, and Vic Toews.

We watched and carefully listened to Mr. Harper's announcement this morning. For the most part, the Conservative Party's Security Platform seems to be the result of thorough thinking and to be guided by the willingness of instilling a tougher justice system and policies for the treatment of violent offenders: a change the Canadian Professional Police Association has been calling for, for years.

The Conservative Party's Security Platform offers a comprehensive action plan to address

the issue of urban violence: Funding to community-based programs, mandatory minimum sentences for designated weapons offences, and drug trafficking offences are necessary policies to enable police officers to better combat gang violence. More resources for policing is also part of the answer, as it has been rightfully recognized in the Conservative Party's Security Platform. \*\*The allocation of more resources into policing must not be done however at the cost of repealing Canada's Firearms Program which is a useful tool consulted by thousands of police officers each and every day\*\*.



The Conservative Party's Security Platform includes a commitment to undertake a comprehensive review of Canada's Sentencing, Corrections and Parole Systems. This initiative seems to be motivated by a willingness to restore some deterrence in our justice system which in our views is much needed and should begin with stiffer sentences, real jail time and tougher parole eligibility policies for violent offenders.

The Conservative Party's Security Platform recommends important measures that would improve Canada's national security system including reopening pivotal RCMP border detachments, increasing RCMP resources to

patrol our borders and reinstating Ports Police in order to prevent the entry of illegal guns and drugs.

The Canadian Professional Police Association has been advocating for years for the need to develop a national drug strategy that addresses the harms associated with illegal drugs. We have always opposed the decriminalization of marijuana and have called for minimum sentences for those involved in the business of grow operations and for adequate training and tools for police officers in order to keep our roads safe from drug-impaired drivers.

We support the Conservative Party in its commitment to prevent the decriminalization of marijuana and to impose mandatory minimum sentences for serious drug offenders involved in marijuana grow operations and in the production and trafficking of illicit drugs.

Lastly but not the least, the Canadian Professional Police Association along with the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime have always advocated to put the rights of victims of crime ahead of the rights of criminals in our justice system.

The Conservative Party's commitment to establish a national Victims' Ombudsman Office

and to invest significant funding for victim assistance would go a long way in responding to victims' needs and rights.

In conclusion, the Conservative Party's Security Platform as unveiled this morning by Mr. Harper offers a multi-pronged approach that for the most part, would go a long way in helping police officers to better combat and contain urban violence; violent offenders; and the use, production and trafficking of illicit drugs; and to better defend our national security and the rights of victims of crimes. These social and law and order issues must be dealt with by our politicians to ensure the safety and security of our communities. The Canadian Professional Police

Association hopes that all political parties involved in this electoral campaign will take the opportunity in the weeks ahead to further discuss their “law enforcement platforms” in the public arena and demonstrate, like the Conservative Party, their commitment in making Canada a safer place to live.

I thank you for your attention and would now be happy to answer your questions. ***Je vous remercie de votre attention et demeure à votre disposition pour répondre à vos questions.***