

Media Release

Waterloo Regional Police Service's Response to the Opioid Crisis Wins OACP Community Safety and Crime Prevention Award

For Immediate Release: June 11, 2018

(Toronto, ON) – Waterloo Regional Police Service's work with its community partners in response to a sharp rise in opioid-related deaths is this year's winner of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Award to be presented at the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police's 2018 Annual Meeting taking place June 10-13 in Huntsville, ON.

This awards are presented in recognition of the accomplishments of police agency and their community partners working together to improve community safety and well-being.

In response to opioid-related deaths in the Region, Waterloo RPS partnered with the Public Health Unit, Paramedic Services, School Boards, and Waterloo Regional Integrated Drug Strategy to create solutions to prevent crime and make their community safer. The resulting Regional Investigative Drug Strategy included the launch of social media campaigns such as "The New 'F' Word", more than 30 presentations by the Drug and Firearms Unit to community groups, and an action plan to address prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and enforcement around overdose issues.

"Waterloo Regional PS's response to the opioid crisis is an excellent example of how law enforcement can bring different community groups together to address common goals," said Chief Paul Pedersen, Chair of the OACP Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee. "We congratulate Chief Bryan Larkin and the women and men of his service for their hard work in bringing everyone together to fight the opioid crisis."

This award is made possible by the generous support of Accident Support Services International Ltd.

The OACP's annual awards will be presented on June 12. For more information on all our award winners, please visit the OACP website at www.oacp.ca.

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