

# Media Release

## Hamilton Police Service Wins OACP Victims Assistance Award

**For Immediate Release: June 11, 2018**

**(Toronto, ON)** – The Hamilton Police Service's introduction of on-line reporting to remove potential barriers for victims of sexual assault has been named this year's winner of the Victims Assistance Committee Award.

This Award recognizes the contributions made by members of Ontario Police Services, alone or in partnership with private or public community agencies, for improving the level of service provided to victims of crime, tragic events or other unfortunate circumstances.

In response to concerns by the community around the reporting of sexual assaults, Hamilton Police Service became the first Canadian police service to offer on-line reporting for victims of sexual assaults. The program seeks to encourage victims to feel more confident in reporting sexual assaults and assisting the service to proactively address such reports in a timely and effective manner. The program has been adopted by the Windsor Police Service and Edmonton Police Service is also considering the program. Other Ontario police services have received information sessions on the program.

"The public expects their police services to make it as safe as possible for victims of sexual assaults to report these types of crime," said Chief Bryan Larkin, OACP President. "Hamilton Police Service's commitment to helping sexual assault victims feel safe and confident in contacting police deserves to be recognized with this prestigious award."

The award is made possible by the generous support of the Ministry of the Attorney General – Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division.

The OACP's annual awards will be presented on June 12 during the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police's 2018 Annual Meeting taking place June 10-13 in Huntsville, ON. For more information on all our award winners, please visit the OACP website at [www.oacp.ca](http://www.oacp.ca).

-30-



Ontario Association of Chiefs  
of Police

40 College Street  
Suite 605  
Toronto, ON  
M5G 2J3

**For more information,  
contact:**

**Joe Couto**  
Director of Government  
Relations & Communications  
T. (416) 926-0424, ext. 22  
C. (416) 919-9798  
E. [media@oacp.ca](mailto:media@oacp.ca)  
Web: [www.oacp.ca](http://www.oacp.ca)  
Twitter: @OACPOfficial  
Instagram: OACPOfficial  
Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/OACP](http://www.facebook.com/OACP)  
Official

**#OACP2018**

**The Ontario Association of  
Chiefs of Police is the  
voice of Ontario's Police  
Leaders**

*Members of the Ontario  
Association of Chiefs of  
Police serve their  
communities as the senior  
police leaders in municipal,  
regional, provincial, national,  
& First Nations police  
services across Ontario.*