

June 20, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL

Hon. Doug Ford MPP
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario

Dear Premier,

As I know you will agree, Ontario's paramedics, police officers and firefighters are our frontline heroes, regularly putting themselves at risk to protect the rest of us.

In recent months, local resident, paramedic and former volunteer firefighter, Charles Shaw, has been advocating for paramedics and all police officers to receive the same long-service medal as exists today for firefighters and Ontario Provincial Police officers.

Our Town Council agrees with Mr Shaw, and passed the below resolution unanimously requesting the province create such medals. Here is the resolution:

Resolution 2024-206

Whereas paramedics, firefighters and police officers are our frontline heroes, regularly putting their own health and safety at risk to help others in need;

Whereas the Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal was created in 1971 to honour firefighters who have served the public for twenty-five years or more and the Governor General's Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal was created in 1985 and 'honours members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed 20 years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks;

Whereas the Ontario Provincial Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal honours OPP officers who have served for twenty years or more and the Governor General's Police Exemplary Service Medal, created in 1983, 'recognizes police officers who have served in an exemplary manner having completed 20 years of full-time service with one or more recognized Canadian police forces;

Whereas many non-OPP police services have similar local long-service medals within their forces, but there is not a province-wide long-service medal for non-OPP police officers;

Whereas the Governor General's Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal, created in 1994, recognizes 'professionals in the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical services to the public who completed 20 years of exemplary service, including at least 10 years in the performance of duties involving potential risk;

Whereas there is no province-wide long-service medal for paramedics in Ontario;

Therefore, The Corporation of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council:

- 1. Endorse the creation of a province-wide long-service medal for police and for paramedics, modelled after the existing such award for firefighters;*
- 2. In furtherance of this resolution, that the Mayor write to the Premier, Minister of Health, Solicitor General, Minister of Citizenship and our local MPP urging them to work collaboratively to create such awards; and*
- 3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities.*

I believe this is a relatively simple but important measure your government could take to honour our paramedics and police officers, as we already honour our firefighters. I understand the creation of such an award would involve several different ministries, and I hope you might instruct your cabinet to work together to create this award.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



James Leduc
Mayor
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

cc

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
Hon. Michael Krezner, Solicitor General
Hon. Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP for York—Simcoe
Cllr Jonathan Scott, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Mr. Charles Shaw
Ontario's Municipal Councils