

ICPRA International Council of Police Representative Associations

E-Newsletter Issue No. 1 March 2015

Future Events:

Police Federation of England and Wales Annual Conference 19-21 May 2015 Bournemouth, England

ICPRA Executive Meeting 21-22 May 2015 London

New Zealand Police Association Conference 21 – 23 October 2015 Wellington, NZ

Police Federation of Australia Conference 15 – 17 November 2015 Hobart, Tasmania

In this issue:

ICPRA Chairman's Report Greg O'Connor

EuroCOP An Open Letter from Europe's Police OfficersAnna Nelberg Dennis, President, European Confederation of Police

Enough is Enough: The Fraternal Order of Police Calls for Expanding Legal Protection for Law Enforcement Officers in the United States

Chuck Canterbury, President, National Fraternal Order of Police

Ruling Overturns Longstanding Ban on Collective Bargaining and Unionization within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Michael Gendron, Communications and Government Relations Officer, Canadian Police Association

Police Federation of Northern Ireland Update
Mark Lindsay, Chairman, Police Federation of Northern Ireland

PFA Submission to the Government's Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill 2014 Mark Burgess, CEO, Police Federation of Australia

PFA Submission to the Productivity Commission Workplace Relations Framework Inquiry

Mark Burgess, CEO, Police Federation of Australia

Response to Unjust Attack on Police Officers
Greg O'Connor, President, New Zealand Police Association

Suicides in Police Forces
Armando Ferreira, President, SINAPOL-Portugal

Executive Summary: Analysis of the Interim Report of the Task Force on 21st Century Policing
Chuck Canterbury, President, National Fraternal Order of Police

ICPRA Chairman's Report 2015

Greg O'Connor

Kia Ora,

The ICPRA Executive are building up for the Executive meeting to be held in London on the 21 and 22 May this year. Such face to face meetings are essential, a momentum built from the bi annual conferences is difficult to maintain through one hour conference calls.

The Executive have also been invited to attend the Police Federation of England and Wales annual conference in Bournemouth on the preceding three days. I will present at the conference on behalf of ICPRA, as will Anna Nelberg representing Eurocop.

England and Wales Police Force are being reduced and restructured at a greater rate than most other forces worldwide and it is important that the lessons learned by the Federation be understood and disseminated internationally. It is likely many of the same initiatives adopted by the British authorities will be copied elsewhere.

Fortunately, the direct terrorist attacks on civilian police around the developed world at least have tapered off, although of course we should not forget that police officers are being assaulted and murdered around the world in the course of their everyday duties.

The relationship which we instigated with the ILO in Cape Town last year will come to fruition with a series of meetings having been organised in Geneva following the Executive meeting.

This will hopefully provide the platform for ICPRA to be able to provide assistance to Associations who are struggling to gain the right to associate.

Greg O'Connor

Chairman

EuroCOP an Open Letter from Europe's Police Officers

Anna Nellberg Dennis, President, European Confederation of Police

As the guardians of safe societies, police officers across Europe put themselves at risk on a daily basis in the course of their duties protecting citizens from threats and preventing crime. The recent massacre in France where 17 victims lost their lives, including three police officers, and the recent Danish attack are a tragic reminder of the changing nature of the security threats facing European countries. Other incidents of home-grown terrorism in for instance Belgium also show that police officers are increasingly becoming a target of attacks.

As President of the European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP), I therefore urge Europe's policymakers to recognize the role of European police officers and to take action to ensure that they have the resources, skills and capacity to keep European citizens safe and secure for the long term future.

Click here to view article.

Enough is Enough: The Fraternal Order of Police Calls for Expanded Legal Protection for Law Enforcement Officers in the United States

Chuck Canterbury, President, National Fraternal Order of Police

The Fraternal Order of Police has called on Congress to work together with our organization to craft legislation that will expand current federal laws on hate crimes to include protection for police officers. Much like the expansion to the same piece of legislation signed into law by President Obama in 2009, we want the perpetrators who specifically target law enforcement officers to be subjected to increased penalties under the law.

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Ruling Overturns Longstanding Ban on Collective Bargaining and Unionization within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Michael Gendron, Communications and Government Relations Officer, Canadian Police Association

On January 16, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada rendered a 6-1 judgement in the case of *Mounted Police Association of Ontario v. Canada*, effectively overturning the longstanding ban on collective bargaining and unionization within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The ruling affirmed that any such ban was an unreasonable violation of RCMP members' Section 2(d) Charter right to freedom of association, and gave the Government of Canada a one year period to introduce changes to the current labour relations structure of the force.

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Police Federation of Northern Ireland Update

Mark Lindsay, Chairman, Police Federation of Northern Ireland

We're in a trough right now with budgets being slashed and numbers being cut. There's little or no chance of a reprieve. In fact, there's a likelihood that what has happened so far could be a mere 'curtain-raiser' to what could unfold over the next five years.

A report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) paints a grim and worrying picture. Instead of losing a few hundred officers - the estimate offered by the Chief Constable - we could conceivably be facing the appalling prospect of a reduction of some 2,000 in the the size of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

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PFA Submission to the Government's Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill 2014

Mark Burgess, CEO, Police Federation of Australia

The PFA's submission to the Government's Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill 2014, strongly supports the need for access by State and Territory police for law enforcement and national security. It helps police to rule a person of interest in or out as a potential lead in criminal cases. It is needed on a daily basis in most jurisdictions.

Click here to view the PFA submission

PFA Submission to the Productivity Commission Workplace Relations Framework Inquiry Mark Burgess, CEO, Police Federation of Australia

In March the PFA put forward a submission to the Australian Productivity Commission Workplace Relations Framework Inquiry.

Click here to view the PFA submission

Response to Unjust Attack on Police Officers

Greg O'Connor, President, New Zealand Police Association

Attached is an article which appeared in the NZPA Police News. While written in response to the Independent Police Conduct Authority report into a case where no charges were laid against a group of young men who boasted on facebook to have had group sex with drunk underage girls. The Association was the sole voice pointing out the truth of the matter as below. The issues raised are relevant to all Police Associations and Unions trying to get a fair hearing for their members.

Click here to view the article

Suicides in Police Forces

Armando Ferreira, President, SINAPOL-Portugal

It is often very easy, for ordinary citizens and in some cases also police officers and courts, to "attack" the actions of a police officer.

Frequently, some criticize and offend, forgetting that they are talking about a human being and not about a super human with powers immune and resistant to everything.

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Executive Summary: Analysis of the Interim Report of the Task Force on 21st Century Policing Chuck Canterbury, President, National Fraternal Order of Police

Click here to view the FOP Executive Summary Analysis

Click here to view the Interim Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing