

May 4, 2023

The Honourable David Lametti, PC, MP
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

david.lametti@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Lametti,

I am writing to express Peel Region's support for legislative measures to help protect first responders particularly paramedics from violence, such as those found in Bill C-321 'An Act to amend the Criminal Code'.

The pressures that the pandemic has had on Canada's health professionals and the cost this has had on the people and services that Canadians depend on have become clear over the past three years. Canada's paramedics have been on the frontline of our health system response throughout the pandemic and have often had to endure the additional risk of violence from patients and bystanders that is aimed at them for simply performing their responsibilities as health professionals.

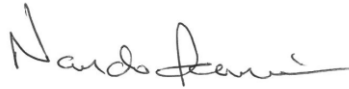
Understanding that citizens in health emergencies depend on our paramedics, Peel Region has taken important steps locally to protect its paramedics from violence. In late 2020, Peel Regional Council received a staff report recommending actions to eliminate violence against paramedics, included calls for amendments to the federal Criminal Code to provide protections to paramedics that are comparable to those afforded to peace officers. I shared a copy of this report "Eliminating Violence Against Paramedics – A Call to Action" with you through a letter dated December 4, 2020, outlining actions being taken by Peel Paramedics to further protect staff from violence.

Peel Paramedics and the sector continue to make important changes to protect paramedics on the job, including a policy of 'Zero Tolerance for Violence from the Public', a public awareness campaign, select tools for use on-scene (spit hoods and soft restraints), as well as an enhanced system for reporting through Peel's 'External Violence Incident Report'. In addition, Peel Paramedic Services has strengthened its partnership with Peel Regional Police through planning, joint training, and ongoing collaboration and problem-solving.

Proposals to amend the Criminal Code, such as those found in Bill C-321 'An Act to amend the Criminal Code' would support local actions to protect paramedics and demonstrate the importance of the safety and well-being of all first responders.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your ministry officials to provide additional context on the situation that our paramedics face. Whether it be through Bill C-321 or another initiative that will provide much needed protection for those on the front lines, it is essential that all levels of government collaborate to address this important issue.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Region of Peel

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cc: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Hon. Michael S Kerzner, Solicitor General
Hon. Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Peel MPPs
Peel MPs
MP Todd Doherty, Cariboo-Prince George
Single and upper-tier municipalities responsible for land ambulance

