



# **TORONTO POLICE ASSOCIATION**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Date: January 16, 2011

### ***A Heartfelt Thanks From The Toronto Police Association***

On behalf of all members of the Toronto Police Association, I want to say thank you for the outpouring of sympathy, understanding and compassion after the senseless slaying of Sergeant Ryan Russell, a dedicated police officer, a husband, father and son.

From the makeshift memorial near the spot where Sergeant Russell was killed, to the moment of silence at a Toronto Maple Leafs hockey game along with the many thousands of online tributes from the public and other police and emergency services across Canada and North America, the show of emotion for our officer who made the ultimate sacrifice means so much to all of us who serve and protect the city of Toronto.

As was so poignantly pointed out in one tribute: "His badge is now in the hands of God . . . but his memory will never die."

Serving and protecting the public can be a thankless and frustrating task and it goes without saying that the critics of the police are many and vocal. As I have often said before, we accept that criticism comes with the territory. But in times like this, there is another message that needs to be heard. It comes from the public: a huge and spontaneous reaction of support. According to yet another online tribute that is typical of the feelings of many in this city: "It's people like Officer Russell who make our lives so much better, yet we rarely take the time to thank them. Thank you Officer Russell and all the members of our police service for making our lives better." The outpouring of support and compassion for Sergeant Russell's immediate family and police family has been, at times, overwhelming. These acts have not gone unnoticed and we, the men and women of the Toronto Police Association, wish to thank the citizens of Toronto.

Let me say that actions like these are hugely appreciated. The tragic death of Sergeant Russell once again underscores the fact that being a police officer is not an ordinary job. There are times when a police officer is asked to make the ultimate sacrifice. Sergeant Russell did just that. As a devoted police officer he put his life on the line. For that Sergeant Russell will always be remembered, not only by his colleagues, family and close friends, but by an eternally grateful city.

*Mike McCormack, President and Board of Directors of the Toronto Police Association*

**WE PROTECT THOSE WHO PROTECT OTHERS**