



# TORONTO POLICE ASSOCIATION

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Mayor's position on Family Day deepening divide with Toronto Police**

*The dark side of Family Day continues as City of Toronto only municipality in GTA to deny holiday to police*

TORONTO, Feb. 18 /CNW/ - City of Toronto Mayor David Miller's proclamation on a local radio station, Friday morning (February 15th), has the Toronto Police Association (TPA) deeply agitated. The Mayor announced that he "would not begrudge people of a holiday" despite the \$5 million dollar cost to the city. "It is really sad to see the Mayor give every other City of Toronto employee the Family Day and avoid the issue with the TPA," said Dave Wilson, president of the TPA. "It is the wrong signal to be sending to the Toronto Police officers and is yet another symptom of the deteriorating relationship between City Hall and the TPA."

The Mayor has stated that the issue is between the Police Services Board (PSB) and the TPA. And yet it is a well-known fact that the Mayor controls the PSB through his position on the board, the appointment of two city councilors (Pam McConnell and Frank DiGiorgio) and the city council appointed PSB Chair (Alok Mukherjee). "The Mayor continues to duck the issue," said Dave Wilson, "and we all know that his disdain for the TPA couldn't be clearer with his lack of position on why we are not being treated fairly and given Family Day with the rest of the City of Toronto employees."

The Police Service currently receives 12 days off which is the same as the Firefighters and less than Locals 416 and 79. All of the other unions within the City of Toronto have been given Family Day outside of the bargaining process - a reward not given and still unexplained to the TPA.

The City of Toronto is the only municipality in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) to deny their police service the Family Day. In fact, Family Day or a day in lieu has been given to every major police service in the province (including the Ontario Provincial Police, but excluding the Niagara Regional Police).

With the growing number of Toronto Police Service employees residing outside the City of Toronto, combined with the competition for attracting new recruits, and retaining existing police, every facet of employment becomes heavily scrutinized. "We are on the eve of the perfect storm," said Dave Wilson. "The actions or non-actions by the Mayor send a very strong message that is recognized by all members of the TPA. His persistent lack of support is extremely damaging and has serious ramifications on a variety of issues that all members of City Council and citizens of Toronto should have an immediate concern about."

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