



TORONTO POLICE ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

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Toronto Police Association supports Tasers for all qualified officers

Toronto Police Association President, Dave Wilson, says limiting the issuing of Tasers to officers with five years or more experience “doesn’t make any sense and could endanger the lives of our officers and the public.”

Wilson was reacting to a recommendation from the RCMP complaints commission, which is calling on the federal police force not to issue Tasers to officers with less than five years operational experience. The report was issued in Ottawa today by RCMP complaints commission chairman, Paul Kennedy, and while it is directed at the RCMP, TPA President Wilson believes it should concern police officers in other jurisdictions.

“Taser use should be based on training, period. We would not support any move to deny our officers access to the Taser based on their years in service.”

“Toronto police officers are well trained in the use of both the sidearms that they carry, and in the use of the Taser,” says Wilson. “It makes no sense to say that officers are competent to be issued sidearms from the day they put on the badge, but that Tasers are off-limits until they have five years of experience.”

“The fact is that Tasers are tools that can and have been used to save lives and prevent unnecessary injuries to both police officers and members of the public. Like any other piece of police equipment, they are effective in the hands of professional police officers when combined with proper training,” concludes Wilson.

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