



March 21, 2017

73 Leikin Drive  
Mailstop 8  
Ottawa, ON  
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**Re: 2017 CCMTA-Police Partnership Award**

I support the nomination of:

**Jamie Taplin:** Director, National Performance Programs, RCMP

**D'Arcy Smith:** Special Advisor, National Training Standards for the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program at RCMP National Traffic Services

**Gord Jones:** Superintendent of Traffic Services with the Toronto Police Services; and

**Chuck Cox:** Superintendent of the Ontario Provincial Police

for the CCMTA-Police Partnership award.

Jamie, D'Arcy, Gord and Chuck have been critical to the success of the Oral Fluid Drug Screening Devices (OFSD) Field Testing Pilot Project. Their leadership in creating and guiding the government-police partnership necessary for execution of this project, which involves collaboration between federal and provincial agencies and various police services across the country has provided a foundation for success in the fight against drug-impaired driving in Canada. Their efforts, without a doubt, will save lives on Canadian roads.

Details of the OFSD partnership, its importance, and of Jamie, D'Arcy, Gord, and Chuck's outstanding leadership and other contributions are presented in the nomination document attached.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Rhonda Blackmore  
Director, Operational Policies and Programs  
National Criminal Operations

### *Summary of Nomination*

Jamie Taplin, Director, National Performance Programs, RCMP; D'Arcy Smith, Special Advisor, Officer in Charge, National Training Standards Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP) at RCMP National Traffic Services; Gord Jones, Superintendent of Traffic Services with the Toronto Police Services; and Chuck Cox, Superintendent of the Ontario Provincial Police have provided visionary and tireless leadership and support to various police services and government agencies throughout the country to field test oral fluid drug screening devices (OFSDs) in real world conditions. Results from this pilot project are of vital importance in developing national standards for OFSDs, a step which must be taken before these devices can be incorporated into impaired driving investigation in Canada.

### *Impact of this Police-Government Partnership*

Drug impaired driving is an emerging road safety issue of growing concern across Canada. The Traffic Injury Research Foundation's 2013 Drug and Alcohol Crash Problem report indicates that 44.5% of fatally injured drivers in Canada (excluding BC) in 2013 tested positive for drugs other than alcohol, with cannabis being the most commonly detected drug. Recent roadside drug and alcohol surveys of the general driving population conducted in BC and Ontario show that drugs other than alcohol are rivaling or surpassing alcohol in prevalence, with cannabis being the most commonly detected drug in sampled drivers. These findings are all the more concerning given the federal government's stated intention to legalize the use of cannabis for recreational purposes, which will likely increase prevalence of use by drivers.

In order to protect road users, police officers need the most effective tools for detecting impaired drivers. There is a clear need to standardize and approve easy-to-use drug screening devices that provide an objective, reliable toxicological measure of drug use similar to what is currently provided by an Approved Screening Device in detecting alcohol use by drivers. At this time, OFSDs show the most promise in this area.

### *OFSD Field Testing Pilot Partnership*

This OFSD field testing pilot project is being co-led by Public Safety Canada, the RCMP, and the CCMTA, and involves the participation of seven police services: Toronto, Vancouver, OPP, Gatineau, Halifax, Yellowknife, and North Battleford – RCMP. These organizations, which are performing actual field testing of devices, serve communities with a wide variety of characteristics, including rural, urban, metropolitan area, multi-cultural areas. The purpose of the OFSD field testing pilot, a first of its kind in Canada, was four fold:

- Examine the use of oral fluid drug screening devices in a Canadian context and climate and within law enforcement practices;
- Develop law enforcement training guidelines for device use;
- Develop standard operating procedures for device use; and
- Identify potential elements for inclusion as standards for the devices

The partnership began field testing in 2016 and has completed data collection. Results of the field testing pilot will be used by the Drugs and Driving Committee of Justice Canada as they develop legislation for the legalization of marijuana.

### *Contributions of the nominees*

Jamie Taplin, D’Arcy Smith, Gord Jones, and Chuck Cox provided visionary leadership to the OFSD field testing pilot project through their flexibility and willingness to accept risk in the service of road safety. Although recognizing the importance of validating and developing standards for OFSDs, police and government agencies expressed concern that the OFSD field testing pilot would produce increased risk for both police services and for the success of criminal impaired driving investigations. For example, drivers stopped by police as part of an investigation would have to be ensured that their participation in the pilot would not expose them to potential legal action based on a positive screen with the OFSD. However, simply allowing the driver to continue driving after a positive screen was not considered desirable either. Moreover, performing a screening test with the unapproved OFSD was seen as potentially interfering with the criminal investigation.

Jamie Taplin, D’Arcy Smith, Gord Jones, and Chuck Cox provided flexible leadership by helping to design a testing protocol that would be more palatable to the various agencies involved (e.g., extension of testing to passengers). Even with these various design changes, and with careful public communication about the purpose of the project, the OFSD field testing pilot still exposed involved police services to risk, including public scrutiny of untested processes. By taking the risk, Jamie Taplin, D’Arcy Smith, Gord Jones, and Chuck Cox, who represent the largest police services in Canada, forged the path and made it more appealing for other police services to come on board with the project.

Going beyond leadership, D’Arcy Smith has provided vast technical knowledge to the OFSD field testing pilot project. This knowledge was necessary to deal effectively with manufacturers of the devices being deployed in the field testing pilot, and to successfully interpret the results of the project and what those results mean for everyone involved in the impaired driving investigative process, from officers in the field, to prosecutors and judges in the courts.

Jamie Taplin, Gord Jones and Chuck Cox have also demonstrated considerable generosity in providing the time and skills of their respective officers, who collectively provided the majority of data for the OFSD field testing pilot, sacrificing their own resources in the short-term in order to provide valuable tools to all Canadian police officers in the long-term.

Many Canadians who will avoid injury or death due to drug-impaired driving in the near future will owe a debt of gratitude to Jamie Taplin, D’Arcy Smith, Gord Jones, Chuck Cox, and the partnerships they have built.