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**Jim Watson**  
Mayor / Maire



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XX February 2015

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The Honourable Steven Blaney PC, MP  
Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Blaney:

As the Nation's Capital, Ottawa requires additional public safety and security services over and above other Canadian municipalities. The unique policing environment created by the presence of federal landmarks and institutions of national significance lead to increased costs that are often delivered by the Ottawa Police Service.

The costs of that service are borne by City of Ottawa municipal taxpayers.

In 2009, the Government of Canada affirmed the need to provide financial compensation to the City of Ottawa for these extraordinary policing costs. At that time, an agreement to provide \$10 million over a five-year period was finalized and expired at the end of 2013 fiscal year.

We are writing to you to request that the Government of Canada renew its commitment, in the amount of \$2 million per year. This is consistent with a recent analysis of Ottawa Police costs directly associated with Federal activities, properties and events.

For example, in the past three years, the number of registered and unregistered demonstrations, marches, or protests, has averaged close to 700 events annually. These events are a direct result of federal activities and Ottawa's role as the Nation's Capital.

The Ottawa Police and RCMP enjoy a strong relationship in protecting the capital. However, the Ottawa Police must dedicate full-time and part time resources to a number of units specifically trained to handle the unique demands of policing national-scale events that remain unfunded.

These functions include Special Events Planning, Demonstration/Beat Team, Emergency Services Unit, Marine, Dive, and Trail Team, and a National Capital Security Response Coordinator. The costs of these units are paid by the municipal tax base.

We have provided an analysis of the costs being claimed in this letter and look forward to our discussion on this matter.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and your assistance to fairly share the costs of policing the Nation's capital.

Sincerely,

*(Original to be signed by)*

Mayor Jim Watson  
City of Ottawa

*(Original to be signed by)*

Councillor Eli El-Chantiry  
Chair, Ottawa Police Services Board

Attach. (1)

cc: The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Minister of Employment & Social Development,  
and Minister for Democratic Reform  
Chief of Police Charles Bordeleau, Ottawa Police Service