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## TIMELINE TO SEPTEMBER 13, 2019 RELATING TO BRAD BLAIR'S EFFORTS TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, & POLICE INDEPENDENCE

### June 29, 2018:

- Douglas Robert Ford is sworn in as premier of Ontario.

### July 18, 2018:

- Premier Ford expresses displeasure with the fact that his request for a specific security detail, rather than a rotating team, was not being acted on by the Ontario Provincial Police ("OPP"). He requests a face-to-face meeting with then OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes and states that if Commissioner Hawkes will not address the issue, perhaps a new Commissioner would.

### August 17, 2018:

- Toronto Police Service Superintendent Ron Taverner ("Supt. Taverner") is offered a high-paying position at the Ontario Cannabis Store ("OCS").

### Late August/Early September 2018:

- Then Staff Superintendent with the Toronto Police Service, Mario Di Tommaso ("Di Tommaso"), sends his CV to then Secretary of Cabinet Steve Orsini ("Orsini") after having relayed interest in working for the Ontario Public Service.<sup>1</sup>

### September 4, 2018:

- Then OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes notifies then Deputy Minister of Community Safety Matt Torigian ("Torigian") that Commissioner Hawkes would be retiring.
- Torigian relays this news to then Secretary of Cabinet Steve Orsini ("Orsini") and then Chief of Staff (to the Premier) Dean French ("French").

### September 10-19, 2018:

- Orsini suggests to Mr. Torigian that he consider a career change.<sup>2</sup>
- Supt. Taverner officially declines the OCS job.
- Orsini more forcefully advises Mr. Torigian that he (Mr. Torigian) needs a career change, and that Deputy Ministers serve at the pleasure of the Premier.<sup>3</sup>
- French provides Di Tommaso's name to Orsini for consideration as Deputy Minister.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Integrity Commissioner Report of March 20, 2019, para 136 (p. 36).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, para 120 (p. 31).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, para 121 (p. 32).

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, para 127 (p. 33).



- Orsini tells Torigian he is “getting pressure” to hire Supt. Taverner; that he opposed the idea of Supt. Taverner being Deputy Minister, but that Supt. Taverner could be Commissioner of the OPP.<sup>5</sup>

**September 24, 2018:**

- It is publicly announced that Torigian will be leaving his position as Deputy Commissioner.

**October 1, 2018:**

- Di Tommaso is appointed Deputy Minister of Community Safety, without a hiring competition, effective October 22, 2018

**October 12, 2018:**

- The OPP becomes aware that Premier Ford wants some sort of large van containing an office for use on long roadtrips and seeks further details on the request.

**October 17, 2018:**

- The Premier’s office asks an OPP Sergeant if an outside company could conduct retrofits or alterations to a vehicle. The Sergeant receives further details on size, contents, and purpose of the requested van. The OPP determines having a private company provide requested products to the Premier would be a violation of procurement rules.

**October 19, 2018:**

- Senior OPP officers become aware of requests by the Premier’s office to attend meetings about the van request. An OPP inspector is advised by an OPP Sergeant that the Premier’s office wants the van to be purchased by the OPP, not by the Premier’s Office.

**October 22, 2018:**

- A posting for the position of OPP Commissioner goes public.
- Di Tommaso assumes the role of Deputy Minister of Community Safety.

**October 24, 2018:**

- The posting for the position of OPP Commissioner is revised, removing the minimum rank requirement found in the original posting of October 22, 2018

**November 3, 2018:**

- Mr. Blair is appointed Commissioner (Interim) of the OPP. Subsequent to this appointment, he was Deputy Commissioner.

**November 5, 2018:**

- Premier Ford’s calendar indicates he has an “OPP Car meeting” with A1 Mobility this day.

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<sup>5</sup> Integrity Commissioner Report of March 20, 2019, paras 129-130 (pp. 33-34).



**November 12, 2018:**

- First-round interviews for the position of OPP Commissioner are held, with the interview panel comprised of Deputy Attorney General Paul Boniferno, Deputy Minister of Community Safety Mario Di Tommaso, and Sal Badali of the search firm Odgers Berndtson

**November 20, 2018:**

- Second-round interviews for the position of OPP Commissioner are held, with the interview panel comprised of Secretary of Cabinet Steve Orsini, Deputy Minister Di Tommaso, and Sal Badali.

**November 21, 2018:**

- The Premier's Executive Assistant emails specification for the proposed van to an OPP Sergeant.
- An Executive Officer informs Mr. Blair that the Premier's Office was asking about the status of the vehicle request. The officer relays that Dean French was making requests of officers assigned to the Premier's Dignity Protection Investigation Section, stating he wanted the vehicle purchased with the specification obtained by the Premier's office from A1 Mobility, and the expense should be off the books.

**November 22, 2018:**

- Mr. Blair learns that the specifications for the van included wifi, a blue ray player, a leather reclining sofa bench, a mini fridge, and leather captain chairs

**November 29, 2018:**

- The Government of Ontario announces that Supt. Taverner will be the next Commissioner of the OPP, effective December 17, 2018.

**December 5, 2018:**

- NDP MPP Kevin Yarde formally requests an investigation by the Integrity Commissioner into Premier Ford's involvement in the selection and appointment of Supt. Taverner.

**December 6, 2018:**

- MPP Kevin Yarde swears a supplementary affidavit and submits it to the Integrity Commissioner

**December 11, 2018:**

- Then-interim Commissioner of the OPP Brad Blair ("Mr. Blair") files a complaint with the Ombudsman raising concerns with potential political interference in the operation of the OPP and irregularities with the OPP Commissioner hiring process.

**December 12, 2018:**

- The Ombudsman advises he does not have jurisdiction to review Mr. Blair's allegations.
- Mr. Blair clarifies the nature of his complaint and how it is within the Ombudsman's jurisdiction.



**December 13, 2018:**

- The Ombudsman doubles down stating he does not have jurisdiction to investigate Mr. Blair's allegations.

**December 14, 2018:**

- Mr. Blair commences an application in the Divisional Court seeking a determination of the Ombudsman's jurisdiction. The Attorney General is served with the Notice of Application
- Premier Ford sends a written statement to the Integrity Commissioner in relation to the Integrity Commissioner's investigation.
- Taverner resigns from the Toronto Police Service.
- Steve Orsini announces his retirement from the Ontario Public Service, effective late January 2019.

**December 15, 2018:**

- Taverner asks the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services to delay Taverner's appointment as OPP Commissioner pending the result of any investigation by the Integrity Commissioner.

**December 16, 2018:**

- Taverner rescinds his resignation from the Toronto Police Service; Chief Mark Saunders accepts and reinstates him as Superintendent.
- Cabinet removes Mr. Blair from the role of interim Commissioner of the OPP and appoints Gary Couture to the interim role. Mr. Blair resumes his prior role as Deputy Commissioner.

**December 18, 2018:**

- The Integrity Commissioner issues a press release confirming he is conducting an investigation in response to the request by MPP Kevin Yarde.
- Premier Ford holds a new conference stating Taverner "will be the best commissioner the OPP has ever seen".
- Premier Ford publicly and falsely claims that Mr. Blair had handed in retirement papers and accuses him of having breached the *Police Services Act*.

**December 19, 2018:**

- Counsel for Mr. Blair, Julian Falconer, writes to Minister Jones seeking clarification of whether there was an active *Police Services Act* investigation into Mr. Blair, copying Deputy Minister Di Tommaso and others.
- Liberal MPP and interim leader John Fraser asks the Integrity Commissioner to conduct an inquiry into Premier Ford's role in the recruitment and appointment of Supt. Taverner as OPP Commissioner.

**December 24, 2018:**

- Counsel for Mr. Blair sends a follow-up letter seeking information about alleged *Police Services Act* breaches. As of September 13, 2019, no response has been received.



**December 28, 2018:**

- Deputy Minister Di Tommaso sends a letter to Mr. Blair stating it is not disciplinary in nature, but reminding him of confidentiality obligations as a public servant.

**January 2, 2019:**

- Counsel for Mr. Blair writes to counsel for the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Mr. Loewen, raising concerns about Deputy Minister Di Tommaso's lack of impartiality in providing written warnings to Mr. Blair, given the Deputy Minister's implication in the concerns raised in Mr. Blair's complaint to the Ombudsman regarding the OPP Commissioner hiring process.

**January 4, 2019:**

- Mr. Loewen writes to counsel for Mr. Blair advising that Deputy Minister Di Tommaso had sought advice from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner about his continued oversight of Mr. Blair and was told there was no conflict

**January 8, 2019:**

- Mr. Blair files a Motion to Expedite the hearing of his Divisional Court Application

**January 13, 2019:**

- Counsel for Mr. Blair seeks clarification from Mr. Loewen as to what information had been provided to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner when his advice was sought. As of September 13, 2019, no response has been received.

**January 14, 2019:**

- Premier Ford again publicly accuses Mr. Blair of breaching the *Police Services Act*.
- The Motion to Expedite the Divisional Court application is heard at the Divisional Court and is unsuccessful.

**January 23, 2019:**

- Counsel for Mr. Blair serves Premier Ford with a libel notice.

**January 25, 2019:**

- Counsel for Mr. Blair serves Premier Ford with a supplementary libel notice.

**February 15, 2019:**

- Mr. Blair files his Application Record, including a lengthy affidavit and exhibits, with the Divisional Court. The Attorney General is provided with a copy.

**March 4, 2019:**

- Deputy Minister Di Tommaso personally hands Mr. Blair a termination letter authored by the Deputy Minister, informing him he is being terminated for cause under the *Public Service of Ontario Act* and the termination is approved by the Public Service Commission.
- The Order-in-Council appointing Mr. Blair Deputy Commissioner of the OPP is revoked by way of Order-in-Council.



- Mr. Blair files his Reply Application Record with the Divisional Court.

**March 5, 2019:**

- MPP Kevin Yarde asks the Integrity Commissioner to inquire into Premier Ford's alleged involvement in Mr. Blair's termination.
- Brad Blair issues a press statement in relation to his termination.

**March 6, 2019:**

- Mr. Blair's legal counsel writes to Deputy Minister Di Tommaso informing him the legal validity of Mr. Blair's termination is in question given the failure to abide by the *Police Services Act*.
- Supt. Taverner withdraws his name from consideration for the position of OPP Commissioner.

**March 8, 2019:**

- Counsel from the Ministry of the Attorney General writes to counsel for Mr. Blair defending the legality of Mr. Blair's termination.

**March 11, 2019:**

- The Government of Ontario announces it has appointed Deputy Chief Thomas Carrique of York Regional Police as the new OPP Commissioner.

**March 15, 2019:**

- Mr. Blair has his libel statement of claim against Premier Ford issued by the Superior Court.

**March 18, 2019:**

- Mr. Blair provides Deputy Minister Di Tommaso and the Chair of the Public Service Commission with Notice of a complaint under the *Public Service of Ontario Act*.
- Mr. Blair seeks a consent adjournment of the Divisional Court proceedings.

**March 28, 2019:**

- Dean French writes to acting Deputy Commissioner of the OPP, Chief Superintendent Chuck Cox, asking if his office will be issuing a public statement to the effect that Mr. French never asked for the costs of retrofitting a van for the Premier to be kept off the books.
- Mr. Blair provided notice of a civil claim to Her Majesty in Right of Ontario in accordance with the *Proceedings Against the Crown Act*.

**March 20, 2019:**

- The Integrity Commissioner releases his report into his investigation of whether Premier Ford breached the *Members' Integrity Act* in the course of the OPP Commissioner hiring process and appointment of Supt. Taverner. He finds no breach by the Premier, but raises concern with the flawed and unfair OPP Commissioner hiring process.

**April 9, 2019:**



- Democracy Watch asks the Ombudsman to conduct an investigation into whether the Premier's Chief of Staff (Dean French), former Secretary of Cabinet Steve Orsini, and other public servants violated the *Public Service of Ontario Act* and regulations and government procurement rules, based on information contained in the Integrity Commissioner's report.

**April 26, 2019:**

- Premier Ford serves Mr. Blair with his statement of defence in the libel action.

**May 1, 2019:**

- Mr. Blair files a complaint with the Public Service Grievance Board in relation to his termination.

**May 3, 2019:**

- Counsel for the Ombudsman informs Democracy Watch that the subject matter of its April 9, 2019, request for an investigation is not within the Ombudsman's jurisdiction – and that regardless, the matters were already investigated by the Integrity Commissioner.

**May 7, 2019:**

- Mr. Blair files a Reply in the libel action.
- The Integrity Commissioner releases his report in response to MPP Yarde's March 5, 2019, request for an investigation relating to Mr. Blair's termination. The Integrity Commissioner finds there were insufficient grounds to conduct an inquiry in response to Mr. Yarde's request.

**September 13, 2019:**

- Mr. Blair and his family have their statement of claim for an action in wrongful dismissal, *Charter* breaches, misfeasance in public office, and more issued by the Superior Court of Justice.

**FUTURE DATES:**

**March 24, 2020:** Anticipated date for the hearing of the Divisional Court application.

