Form letter template for Police Associations

Dear (full name)

As community member, I am writing to bring the following issues to your attention:

The current public policy response cannot continue! Over the past year I have observed how these Public Health measures have infringed on individual civil liberties which have had the following negative effects on myself, my family, and my community.

I, or someone I know, have been affected in the following ways:  
Please check all that apply

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * personal mental health | * suicide |
| * mental health of my children | * loss of livelihood or income |
| * mental health of friend or family member | * loss of livelihood or income of friend/ family member |
| * increased substance abuse | * loss of faith in our elected officials and institutions |
| * increased substance abuse of friend/family member | * loss of faith in our police service |
| * domestic violence | * other – |

You are not protecting your members!

The police have been given broad-based and poorly defined authorities under Provincial Legislations which are in many ways directly contrary to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As police continue to be subjected to political and organizational pressure to enforce these regulations, we have been witnessed to appalling abuses of authority such as in Calgary and Gravenhurst.

These incidents lead members of the community struggling to understand how and why their police services continue to enforce these public policies and regulations which appear to be arbitrary, contradictory and possibly illegitimate. Many of these Public Health measures being implemented by the Ontario Provincial Government are even contrary to the advice of Ontario's COVID-19 scientific advisory table. <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-monday-edition-1.5993254/this-doctor-almost-quit-ontario-s-covid-19-scientific-advisory-table-over-ford-s-response-1.5993370>

Look to the passing of Ontario Regulation 58/16 as an example of the community’s response when they perceive police to be overstepping their authority. Using those circumstances as a parallel, officers are now investigating citizens with threshold for these investigations now the mere suspicion of a violation of a Provincial Regulation.

How may complaints and lawsuits will the Police Association be prepared to defend their officers against until you reach the capacity of your budgets? Referring to the incidents in Calgary and Gravenhurst; Will those officers be held accountable and be charged with discreditable conduct or possibly criminally? What defence will they have beyond that they were simply following orders? If officers are being coerced down these paths by political pressure and Senior Command, is it not the obligation of a Police Association to at least offer a dissenting opinion?

We expect more from a Police Associations whose reason for existing is to protect their members. Think critically about the rules your officers are being pressured to enforce and remember the oath to uphold the Constitution and the Charter of Rights that all of you took. The police are not accountable to municipal or provincial governments, they are accountable to the public.

Sincerely,