

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

- PTSD is very real, very serious disorder that can affect any Canadian, including police officers and call takers
- PTSD among police officers and call takers may be caused by work place encounters, or encounters outside the workplace
- The mental health of police officers and call takers is at least as important as their physical health, especially given duties that require interaction with the public and making sound judgements
- Police services boards, as employers, recognize the benefits of a mentally and physically healthy police service, both to the police members and to the public they serve
- It is incumbent upon leaders and peers throughout police services to facilitate recognition and recovery from mental health illnesses among members
- It is the best interests of any police employee suffering from mental illness that they are appropriately diagnosed, treated and accommodated. This is also in the best interests of the public they serve, the tax payer who compensates them, and the police members' families.
- Therefore, in order to ensure that police officers and call takers can effectively overcome PTSD, as a condition of continued compensation and benefits, all of the following conditions must be met:
 - Mental illness including PTSD must be diagnosed by a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist
 - Participation in medical treatment must be mandatory
 - Participation in return-to-work programs must be mandatory

“Mental health matters”

Adopted by OAPSB Board of Directors 4 Feb 2016