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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following is a statement from Canadian Police Association President Tom Stamatakis:

Following yesterday's tragic murder of Montreal Police Constable Mohamed Lamine Benredouane, we have received a number of media inquiries about the impact recent police line-of-duty deaths are having on police personnel across the country. The honest answer is that these incidents are being felt deeply by officers, civilian members, their families, and the police associations that represent them.

Looking at police line-of-duty deaths only through annual averages misses the point. In roughly two weeks, three police officers in Canada have been violently killed while serving their communities. If that happened in almost any other profession, there would rightly be national concern and hard questions being asked.

That does not diminish the risks faced by other workers. But policing remains one of the few professions where members routinely respond to violence, threats, weapons, and individuals who may be actively looking to harm them. Officers have to remain alert to that danger, while never losing sight of the fact that they are policing the communities they serve.

Last year, Canada had no police officers killed in the line of duty, and every police association in the country would gladly see that happen every year. But after the past two weeks, it is difficult to tell police personnel and their families that this is simply a matter of averages."

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The Canadian Police Association is the national voice for approximately 60,000 sworn and civilian police personnel across Canada, and the largest law enforcement advocacy organization in the country. Through our member associations, the CPA advocates on behalf of front-line police personnel and their families on issues that affect the safety and well-being of our members and the communities they serve.