



SPEAKING NOTES

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PROVINCIAL BAILIFF

DEPUTATION TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL POLICY

BILL 163, Supporting Ontario's First Responders Act (Posttraumatic Stress Disorder), 2016

Monday, March 7, 2016

4 p.m.

- Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.
- I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you today.
- My name is Greg Arnold
- I've been a correctional services worker for over 33 years.
- I'm currently classified as a provincial bailiff, and I've held that classification for the past 27 years.
- I'm here today because my correctional services worker classification as bailiff has been excluded from Bill 163.
- My classification is defined under section 11(1b) of the Ministry of Correctional Services Act as "a class or classes of persons from among the persons described in clause (a), to be peace officers while performing their duties and functions."
- In section 15.1 and 16(2), the act clearly identifies bailiffs as an inclusion to the term "correctional services worker" by classification identification, and it identifies our work location to be correctional institutions.
- Section 19(1) says: "The Minister may appoint provincial bailiffs who may convey an inmate in custody at a correctional institution to another correctional institution or penitentiary in which the inmate is lawfully directed to be confined."
- Section 19(3) says: "A provincial bailiff has the powers of a constable when conveying an inmate under this section."
- Please note that it very clearly states "constable," and does not refer to special constables, who are also excluded under Bill 163.
- Bailiffs are correctional service officers who meet all the criteria of the definition as stated in Bill 163.
- We are workers who are directly involved in the care, health, discipline, safety and custody of an inmate confined to a correctional institution.

- We are assigned to correctional institutions but have the added responsibility of maintaining care, custody and control of the safe and secure transportation of approximately 40,000 inmates per year in Ontario and other provinces.
- Bailiffs are appointed from the ranks of correctional officers.
- There are currently 30 provincial bailiffs, and they are augmented with an additional 40 correctional officers trained as backfill deputy bailiffs.
- Imagine a critical incident where a correctional officer and a bailiff are working together and something terrible happens.
- The correctional officer would have protection under this bill – the bailiff would not.
- As correctional service workers, bailiffs are members of our Institutional Crisis Intervention Teams, Critical Incident Stress Management, defensive tactics instructors and critical incident negotiators.
- Some of our most experienced correctional officers are classified as provincial bailiffs.
- Several years ago, two Quebec correctional service workers were murdered by biker gangs
- They were executed while transporting offenders during an external assault on their transportation vehicle.
- Manitoba lost a corrections service worker last year while transporting offenders between institutions
- She died in a highway traffic accident when their transport vehicle left the road.
- I don't understand why bailiffs would be excluded from this first responders bill, when they clearly meet the criteria and definition of a correctional services worker.
- I fear that the researchers may have mistakenly identified a bailiff as a court services worker who serves documents and repossesses property.
- If that's the case, then this needs to be corrected before this bill becomes law.

- The following are some of my personal experiences and stories, but there are many others among my colleagues.
- In my career as a correctional officer and provincial bailiff, I have been bitten, choked and punched.
- I've been subject to having weapons and body fluids used on me.
- I've dealt with suicides, suicide attempts, violent mentally ill offenders, riots and hostage takings.
- I've been a first responder in the institution and on the highway with offenders at multiple traffic accidents – some involving fatalities.
- I've provided first aid and dispensed medications to offenders who were too frail to provide their own insulin injections.
- If bailiffs fail to provide the obligations and duties of their classification, they can be criminally charged for not providing the necessities of life to the offenders under their charge.
- I was a member of our tactical teams for 16 years, stepping down in June 2014.
- I'm also currently an associate instructor with our Corrections College, teaching defensive tactics and training new recruits to become correctional officers.
- Prior to this, I was a trained ministry hostage negotiator.
- My partner and I were recognized in 2000 by former minister Rob Sampson for our actions while on a bailiff transfer at a highway traffic accident.
- We were first on the scene at a terrible accident involving a burning double fuel tanker, another transport and a personal vehicle.
- The civilian in the personal vehicle died in our presence, but we were able free the driver of the burning tanker truck and bring him to safety.

- One evening in 2012, when I was off duty, I took down and detained a known offender on probation who was attempting an armed robbery of narcotics from a local pharmacy.
- For this act, I was recognized for bravery by then minister Madeleine Meilleur.
- I also received a commendation from the Governor General of Canada for my actions, and I was recognized by Thunder Bay Police Services and commended on my professionalism.
- Ladies and gentlemen, I find it very frustrating to give a deposition on the services that bailiffs provide for this province, when bailiffs have clearly earned the right to be included in Bill 163.
- Bailiffs are correctional services officers.
- We meet all the criteria required to be included in Bill 163.
- I've been a first responder since the day I joined this ministry in 1982.
- Please amend Bill 163 to recognize bailiffs as the correctional services officers they are.
- Bailiffs are subject to all the effects of PTSD and should be afforded the same protections.
- Thank you.
- I'd be pleased to answer any questions you may have.