



Ontario
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Wednesday, April 02, 2014

His Worship, Bob Bratina,
Mayor's Office,
City of Hamilton,
City Hall, 71 Main St. West,
Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y5

Re: May 1st is First Responders Day in Ontario

Your Worship,

On December 12th, 2013, Bill 15, "An Act to Proclaim First Responders Day" was proclaimed by Royal Assent at the Ontario Legislature. Bill 15 designates May 1st of each year as First Responders Day in the Province of Ontario. On this day, communities across the province will be gathering to observe and celebrate the dedication of First Responders who have devoted their lives to public service.

In the lead-up to this year's inaugural First Responders Day, my colleagues and I are making a concerted effort to increase awareness about the importance of this upcoming celebration. That is why I have included several documents which I hope will serve to assist you in preparing for First Responders Day celebrations in your community, both this year and in the years to come.

Your efforts to recognize the first responders in your community will be appreciated by them and their families.

Please use the accompanying package in any way you feel is most appropriate for your community and feel free to contact my office should you have any questions or if we can assist you in any way.

Best regards,

Frank Klees, MPP

Frankly Speaking

Headline:

First Responders Day Celebrations Include Student Essay Contest

On December 11, 2013 the First Responders Day Act was passed into law by the Ontario Legislature. It was a rare demonstration of goodwill on the part of all members of the three political parties in the final hours of the legislative session.

The underlying reason for that goodwill and the resulting unanimous consent that allowed my Private Members Bill to be passed into law, was the indisputable fact that our communities are safe, our homes are protected and our lives are secure because of the dedicated and selfless service of the first responders in our communities. Following is the bill as it was passed by the legislature:

An Act to proclaim First Responders Day Bill 15, 2013

Preamble

First responders are those men and women who, in the early stages of an emergency, are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence and the environment. They include police officers, firefighters, military personnel, paramedics, medical evacuation pilots, dispatchers, nurses, doctors, emergency medical technicians and emergency managers.

First responders are volunteers and professionals who have dedicated their lives to public service. Their life-saving skills often make the difference between life and death. Their public service deserves to be recognized and honoured.

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

May 1 in each year is proclaimed as First Responders Day.

When I first proposed the bill, I stated that it was my hope that by proclaiming First Responders Day, we would make a conscious effort to honour the first responders among us for their contributions to our communities.

As we approach the inaugural First Responders Day, I'm encouraged by plans that are under way. I recently met with United by Trauma members, Sam Reid of Glass Tiger, Nicole Taylor and D/C James Ward. We were joined by Vali Stone whose book entitled, '911-True Tales of Courage and Compassion' was a source of inspiration for the First Responders Day bill.

Celebration plans are under way

Plans include a kick-off celebration on the eve of First Responders Day, April 30 at the Jazz Bistro, 251 Victoria Street, Toronto. On May 1st, a reception will be hosted for first responders at Queen's Park by MPPs, followed by formal statements in the Legislature.

Municipalities will be encouraged to make declarations in recognition of first responders and it is my hope that special tributes will be made in school auditoriums and classrooms throughout the province to remind students of all ages of the important contributions that first responders make in our communities.

"An essay contest for students would be an excellent idea!"

I was hosting thirteen year old Michael Sadono for lunch in the legislative dining room a few weeks ago when I took the opportunity to get his advice on how best to engage students in the discussion about First Responders Day. Michael had made the cut from among hundreds of grade 7 and 8 students who apply to participate in the Legislative Page Program, and was serving his term as Page. Lunch with Pages from our ridings is a tradition for MPPs and the conversations are always a highlight. And given that the program is designed for high-achieving, community involved students, I knew I could count on solid advice.

"An essay contest for students would be an excellent idea" offered Michael. But he was quick to add that it should come with an incentive, "something like an iPod, with different models for the level of prize." How could I not take that advice ? So here it is.....

The Rules for the First Responders Day Essay Contest

- 1) Eligibility: All elementary, secondary, college/university level students residing in Newmarket or Aurora;
- 2) The essay shall be no more than 300 words in length;
- 3) The theme of the essay shall be based on the First Responders Day Act ;
- 4) Submissions must be delivered no later than 3 p.m. on Friday April 25, 2014 by email to fklee@frank-klees.on.ca or by fax to (905) 750-0050 or delivered to: 14845 Yonge Street, Suite 201, Aurora L4G 6H8
- 5) First, Second and Third Prizes will be awarded in each of the three student categories of elementary, secondary and college/university;
- 6) Prizes: First: iPod touch 32GB, Second: iPod touch 16 GB, Third: iPod nano 16GB;
- 7) Winners will be determined by a panel consisting of first responders
- 8) Winners will be notified no later than April 30, 2014 and will be invited to a special presentation event on May 1st at a location to be determined.

Let's make the inaugural First Responders Day a memorable and meaningful day for us all. I look forward to your comments and advice. www.frankklees.com



2ND SESSION, 40TH LEGISLATURE, ONTARIO
62 ELIZABETH II, 2013

2^e SESSION, 40^e LÉGISLATURE, ONTARIO
62 ELIZABETH II, 2013

Bill 15

*(Chapter 11
Statutes of Ontario, 2013)*

**An Act to proclaim
First Responders Day**

Mr. Klees

1st Reading	February 28, 2013
2nd Reading	December 10, 2013
3rd Reading	December 10, 2013
Royal Assent	December 12, 2013

Projet de loi 15

*(Chapitre 11
Lois de l'Ontario de 2013)*

**Loi proclamant
le Jour des premiers intervenants**

M. Klees

1 ^{re} lecture	28 février 2013
2 ^e lecture	10 décembre 2013
3 ^e lecture	10 décembre 2013
Sanction royale	12 décembre 2013



An Act to proclaim First Responders Day

Preamble

First responders are those men and women who, in the early stages of an emergency, are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence and the environment. They include police officers, firefighters, military personnel, paramedics, medical evacuation pilots, dispatchers, nurses, doctors, emergency medical technicians and emergency managers.

First responders are volunteers and professionals who have dedicated their lives to public service. Their life-saving skills often make the difference between life and death. Their public service deserves to be recognized and honoured.

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

First Responders Day

1. May 1 in each year is proclaimed as First Responders Day.

Commencement

2. This Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

Short title

3. The short title of this Act is the *First Responders Day Act, 2013*.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Explanatory Note was written as a reader's aid to Bill 15 and does not form part of the law. Bill 15 has been enacted as Chapter 11 of the Statutes of Ontario, 2013.

The Bill proclaims May 1 in each year as First Responders Day.

Loi proclamant le Jour des premiers intervenants

Préambule

Les premiers intervenants sont ces hommes et ces femmes qui, au tout début d'une situation d'urgence, sont chargés de protéger et de préserver la vie, les biens, les preuves et l'environnement. Il s'agit notamment des agents de police, des pompiers, du personnel militaire, des ambulanciers paramédicaux, des pilotes de véhicule d'évacuation médicale, des répartiteurs, des infirmières et infirmiers, des médecins, des techniciens ambulanciers et des gestionnaires d'urgences.

Les premiers intervenants sont des bénévoles et des professionnels qui consacrent leur vie au service du public. Leurs techniques de sauvetage font souvent la différence entre la vie et la mort. Leur dévouement mérite qu'ils soient reconnus et honorés.

Pour ces motifs, Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et avec le consentement de l'Assemblée législative de la province de l'Ontario, édicte :

Jour des premiers intervenants

1. Le 1^{er} mai de chaque année est proclamé Jour des premiers intervenants.

Entrée en vigueur

2. La présente loi entre en vigueur le jour où elle reçoit la sanction royale.

Titre abrégé

3. Le titre abrégé de la présente loi est *Loi de 2013 sur le Jour des premiers intervenants*.

NOTE EXPLICATIVE

La note explicative, rédigée à titre de service aux lecteurs du projet de loi 15, ne fait pas partie de la loi. Le projet de loi 15 a été édicté et constitue maintenant le chapitre 11 des Lois de l'Ontario de 2013.

Le projet de loi proclame le 1^{er} mai Jour des premiers intervenants.

Mayor _____ Urges Community to Honour First Responders on May 1st

Municipality Name, April 30, 2014 – On December 12th, 2013, Bill 15, “An Act to Proclaim First Responders Day” was proclaimed by Royal Assent at the Ontario Legislature. Bill 15 designates May 1st of each year as First Responders Day in the Province of Ontario. On this day, communities across the province will be gathering to observe and celebrate the sacrifices and hard work of First Responders who have devoted their lives to public service.

First Responders day marks the commencement of a one month long celebration of our emergency services. It is followed by Emergency Preparedness Week from May 4th-10th, Police Week from May 11th-16th, and culminates with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week from May 25th-31st.

The brave men and women that we call First Responders are typically the first to arrive at the scene of an incident. They provide critical out-of-hospital medical care, transport to definitive care, as well as protecting and preserving life, property, evidence and the environment.

Those who provide these essential services come from a number of different agencies and professions, including but not limited to: police, firefighters, military personnel, paramedics, medical evacuation pilots, dispatchers, nurses, doctors, emergency medical technicians and emergency managers.

While we celebrate the lives of our First Responders, we must also recognize the hardships that many of them face as a result of their work on the frontlines.

Responding to traumatic situations every day does have a major impact on the physical and mental well-being of any person. As a result, instances of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, are much higher among First Responders than they are elsewhere. This was confirmed in a study released by the University of British Columbia in January which confirms that emergency personnel suffer from PTSD at twice the rate of the average population.

Although the consequences of entering this line of work is both mentally and physically challenging, Ontario continues to be home to some of the most professional, accomplished and accountable First Responders in the world.

That is why on this May 1st, the Town/City of _____ will join municipalities across the Province of Ontario to celebrate those men and women who devote their lives to our well-being through their dedicated and selfless public service.



Please join US on April 30 2014

**MPP Frank Klees and United by Trauma
Celebrate on the eve of First Responders Day**

The Jazz Bistro located at 251 Victoria Street Toronto, Ontario has graciously opened it's doors to welcome the community, first responders, military members, medical professionals and their families to an evening of music, silent auction and fun commencing at 7pm.

Help us celebrate these hard working individuals that are the cornerstone of every community. On a daily basis they risk there lives to keep our community.

Please help i Run & Rock-United by Trauma to raise funds for trauma therapy dogs for First Responders who have been affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Best Regards

MPP Frank Klees

United By Trauma Founders

Sam Reid, James Ward, Wayne Dufour and Nicole Taylor

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