

Minister of Foreign Affairs



Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

The Honourable L'honorable
John Manley P.C., M.P. c.p., député

Chief Larry Gravill
President
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
1710 - 130 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5G4

MAR 13 2001

Dear Chief Gravill,

The recent tragic incident that cost the life of Ms. Catherine MacLean and seriously injured Mrs. Catherine Doré has led to much media coverage and intense scrutiny of procedures and policies within the Office of Protocol at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the division directly charged with managing the government's relations with the diplomatic and consular community across Canada.

As a result of our review, we have taken a number of steps to improve the manner in which the Department will handle cases of impaired driving by members of the diplomatic corps. We have tightened and articulated procedures and policies and established new communications procedures for staying in close contact with this important community.

As part of this renewal, the Department has produced a revised, updated impaired driving policy, a copy of which is attached. As you will note, the Department has taken a zero-tolerance position.

The results of the Department's communications with the head of mission pursuant to the revised policy will be reported back to the police in all cases. Indeed, an important component of ensuring the success of the policy will be the ability of police forces to be aware of action taken to suspend driving privileges. The Department will consult closely with you and other relevant authorities to achieve this objective.

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