



## Media Release

### International Association of Women Police – Excellence in Performance Award, 2017 Constable Sara Beck, Hamilton Police Service, Canada

Constable Beck has been a police officer for 11 years serving as a uniform patrol officer, a member of the High Enforcement Action Team, Vice and Drug unit. She is co-chair of the Hamilton Human Trafficking Coalition and she assisted in the development of a human trafficking curriculum for the Ontario Police College. In 2016, Constable Beck was recognized for her role in undercover work by receiving the CISO Directors Coin for excellence in undercover work and the OPP Accolade Award for group partnership for Project Kirby.

In 2015, Constable Beck identified a need to expand the Vice Unit into a Human Trafficking Unit she wrote a business proposal to transition the Vice Unit to a Human Trafficking Unit, completing a business case which was accepted, the proposal also identified a number of areas for improvement and is being referred to for future development.

Constable Beck had the idea to create care packages for victims of human trafficking. Victims often come to the notice of the police in the middle of the night and have inappropriate clothing or care items. Working with victim services, care packages were created and are kept in the Victim Services Branch (VSB) and are available to investigators 24-7. The care packages include pyjamas, hygiene items, shower essentials and gift cards.

Constable Beck was the first to lay charges against the trafficker of a 15-year-old, after a change in prostitution legislation. The arrest was released to the media and was directly mentioned on the floor of the House of Commons during the question period.

Constable Beck conducted numerous drug investigations some of which were related to murders, home invasions, assaults and sexual assault. She worked as an undercover operator on projects in various police services throughout Ontario. All of the projects were successful and resulted in individuals being arrested and charged for trafficking cocaine and weapons.

Constable Beck will be honoured at a formal luncheon during the IAWP's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference due to take place between 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017, in Cairns, Australia.

IAWP President Margaret Shorter, "For the past 100 years, IAWP has promoted the role of women in policing. IAWP champions change to enable women to play their full part in delivering an inclusive service to their local communities. Without our annual recognition programme many phenomenal women and men would go unrecognized for their efforts".

The **Mission** of the I.A.W.P. is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally. The **Vision**: IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about I.A.W.P. visit [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

For further information on the 2017 recognition programme or permissions please contact Jane Townsley, [media@iawp.org](mailto:media@iawp.org)