



Media Release

International Association of Women Police – Leadership Award, 2017 Superintendent Karen Noakes, York Regional Police, Canada

Superintendent Noakes has been an officer in the York Regional Police for 32 years during which she has attained a number of ‘firsts’, the first female senior officer, the first female Executive Officer to the Chief and the first female commander in charge of operational support services.

Superintendent Noakes sets goals for herself, yet these goals often involve the development and assisting of others. She seeks to guide and support members in their career development, by creating a working environment of professionalism, recognition and one which honoured organizational values such as respect, integrity, community.

As the first female Commander of the Emergency Response, Operational Support, Air Support, Traffic Bureau and Canine Units, she continued in her role as mentor and leader to many within the organization. As an historically male-dominated domain, she tasked members with developing “information sessions” for Canine and Emergency Response Unit to provide information to all interested members about the Units. This progressive and innovative opportunity resulted in another first – two female canine handlers, as well as the first female Staff Sergeants in charge of Air Support, Canine and Traffic Units.

Superintendent Noakes established a committee geared towards the recruitment, mentoring, professional development and networking for women – civilian and sworn. She not only envisioned, but developed, this committee - Women in Leadership, and continues to lead this group of dedicated women.

In addition to numerous pioneering accomplishments, Superintendent Noakes participates in both Provincial and National Police Memorials. She has coordinated the York Regional Police Torch Run for Special Olympics, the CACP Quality Assurance Conference, and the YRP Police/Community Advisory Group, sat as a member of the Bias-Free Policing Sub-Committee, and the Adopt a Mission Jamaica Committee, as well as the Chief’s Equity Advisory Committee and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Ethics Committee. She serves as a beacon of integrity, is a designated *Police Services Act* Hearing Officer and has been recognized for her diligence and dedication in this role.

Superintendent Noakes will be honoured at a formal luncheon during the IAWP’s 55th Annual Training Conference due to take place between 17th and 21st 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

For further information on the 2017 recognition programme or permissions please contact Jane Townsley, media@iawp.org