

*Probation Officers Association of Ontario*  
**P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E**  
*June 2003*

July 13-19 marks our second celebration of PO Week in Ontario! My thanks to Lori Santamaria for initiating this observance in co-operation with the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA). Activities are planned around the province including charity, PO recognition, recreational, and social events. It is very important that we highlight and recognize the efforts of our colleagues, in addition to taking some time for fellowship. I am impressed with the creativity of Branch executives and all members in designing activities for this special week.

A sub-committee has been struck to review the Safety and Security Policy and Procedures that were completed in 2000. As I was a member of the original committee, I am sitting on this review committee as well. The plan is to meet several times in the fall. Please contact me prior to September with your input on safety issues impacting our profession and I will include them in the discussions.

In terms of the YCJA, your feedback is appreciated and encouraged. We are monitoring the impact on workload, as well as sentencing patterns, Pre-Sentence Report issues, the use of extra-judicial processes, and breaches. At the Symposium this year in Niagara Falls, we are dedicating a full day to YCJA training with the Regional Specialists, so that POs from all regions can share experiences related to this legislation. POs will have the opportunity to identify areas of greatest need in terms of training, in advance of this session.

Workload issues are on-going and we have continued to advocate that the Ministry address these through additional resources, as well as the establishment of a workload index. Although we submitted a formal request early in 2002 to collaboratively develop such an index with the Ministry, we were not included on the committee recently established for this purpose. I have requested that the Ministry rectify this omission by including a POAO representative on the Workload Analysis Instrument Committee.

We have also had discussions and meetings related to the management and treatment of sexual offenders in the community, the PO3 position, training/professional development, funding of POs to attend the POAO Symposium, police liaison, and single jurisdiction, to name just a few topics. Activity continues at a rapid pace. As you'll see within this Monitor, we were requested to provide input for the Throne Speech regarding important issues facing our profession. Addressing workload through additional resources was our top request and an announcement was made regarding additional resourcing, which is tied to the election platform.

Have a great PO Week, and a wonderful summer!

Cathy Hutchison  
President