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**ONTARIO HONOURS ADVISORY COUNCIL
ORDER-IN-COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF
MICHAEL BATEMAN***

Prepared for:

Standing Committee on
Government Agencies

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INTRODUCTION

This paper has been prepared for Members participating in the Committee's review of the Order-in-Council appointment of Michael Bateman as a part-time member of the Ontario Honours Advisory Council. It describes the operations of the Council, presents information about the appointee, and identifies possible lines of questioning.

ONTARIO HONOURS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Enabling Statute and Regulation	Responsible Ministry
Order in Council 710/2015	Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
Agency type	Most Recent Annual Report
Advisory	Not applicable
Activities	
The Council considers all nominations and recommends candidates who have the greatest merit for the honours of the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship, the Ontario Medal for Police Bravery, the Ontario Medal for Firefighters Bravery and the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers.	
Council Membership	
Statutory Number of Members: 16 Number Appointed by Cabinet: All ¹ Term of Office: Not to exceed 3 years and an individual shall not serve for more than 9 years consecutively. ²	Position Remuneration Members (part-time): Appointees are eligible to receive expenses.
Position Requirements	
None specified.	

¹ The Lieutenant Governor is the honorary chair of the advisory council and Cabinet appoints a chair and vice chair to the Council.

² Members may be reappointed for subsequent terms, each not exceeding three years.

ONTARIO'S HONOURS AND AWARDS

The province has established several official [honours and awards](#), which are conferred by the Lieutenant Governor on the government's formal advice. Members of the public are invited to submit nominations for these honours and awards to respective advisory bodies.³

The Ontario Honours Advisory Council (the Council), established by Order in Council in 2015, considers nominations for the following honours and provides recommendations to the Government.

- The [Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship](#), created in 1973, recognizes individuals for their exceptional long-term efforts and outstanding contributions to the well-being of their communities. The medal is considered the Province's second-highest civilian honour (the Order of Ontario is the highest).
- The [Ontario Medal for Police Bravery](#), created in 1975, recognizes police officers for individual acts of outstanding courage. Nominations must be made through a police service.
- The [Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery](#), created in 1976, recognizes firefighters for individual acts of outstanding courage. Nominations must be made through a firefighting service.
- The [Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers](#), created in 1998, recognizes the outstanding contributions of young volunteers in Ontario.

All of the above are non-monetary awards.

STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL

The Council is divided into two divisions for citizenship and bravery.

- The Citizenship Division is composed of up to nine members appointed by Cabinet, one of whom is designated vice-chair.
- The Bravery Division is composed of up to seven members appointed by Cabinet, one of whom is designated vice-chair.

The Cabinet appoints a Chair to oversee both divisions.

The Fire Marshal of Ontario and the Associate Chair of the Ontario Civilian Police Commission are ex-officio, non-voting members of the Bravery Division.⁴

³ The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, [Honouring Ontarians](#).

⁴ Public Appointments Secretariat, [Ontario Honours Advisory Council](#).

Meetings

The Citizenship Division holds meetings twice a year to select medal recipients. The Bravery Division holds one annual meeting to select medal recipients.⁵

Financial Information

The Council is accountable to the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (the Ministry) which coordinates and delivers Ontario's honours and recognition programs.⁶ According to the Ministry's *2020-2021 Estimates Briefing Book*, the recognition program has an operating expense of \$1000.⁷

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The most recent awards given in the above categories include

- the 2018 Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship which honoured eight distinguished individuals for their contributions to their communities and the province in an award ceremony held in March 2019;⁸
- the 2017 Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery and the 2017 Ontario Medal for Police Bravery which honoured one firefighter and five police officers, respectively, in an award ceremony held in November 2017;⁹ and
- the 2018 Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers which honoured ten young people across the province in April 2018.¹⁰

In June 2019, *Global News* reported that the Ministry had started a review of the honours and recognition program. According to the article, the review included the Ontario Medal for Police Bravery, the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery, the Ontario Award for Paramedic Bravery, and the Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award for Students.¹¹

THE WITNESS

The witness, Michael Bateman, is seeking appointment as a part-time member.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, *2020-2021 Estimates Briefing Book*, pp. 7 and 17.

⁷ Ibid, p. 39.

⁸ Ontario, "[Eight Honourees Presented with the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship](#)," news release, March 7, 2019.

⁹ Ontario, "[Heroic Firefighter and Police Officers Receive Top Honours](#)," news release, November 29, 2017.

¹⁰ Ontario, "[2018 Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers Award Recipients](#)," backgrounder, April 19, 2018.

¹¹ Travis Dhanraj, "[Ontario government quietly starts review of awards for first responders, students and others](#)," *Global News*, June 12, 2019.

According to the Office of the Premier, the witness, of Toronto, is a former President and Chief Executive Officer for Grade Expectations Learning Systems Inc. His community involvement includes serving as an intake person for Out of the Cold in Etobicoke.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. *What has motivated the witness to seek this appointment?*
2. *What particular contribution does the witness hope to make to the Council?*
3. *How does the witness feel that his professional, volunteer, or other experience will enhance the performance of his duties in this role?*