



The Ottawa Hospital | L'Hôpital d'Ottawa

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January 4, 2020

Good afternoon Chief Whelan,

I wanted to take a moment to send a letter of recognition to the paramedics, police, and fire services who recently responded to a motor vehicle collision on the 401.

On the evening of December 23, 2019, two transport trucks collided on the 401 W/B near Belleville. One of the drivers was critically injured and trapped in the cab of his truck. My partner (who is an OPP Sgt with PCC Smiths Falls) and I were traveling on the 401 at that time and came upon the scene within minutes of the crash.

The paramedics who attended the scene were exceptional. They were calm amidst the chaos, expertly pragmatic in their assessment and treatment, and incredibly compassionate in the care they provided to this gentleman.

The firefighters who attended the scene were also incredibly skilled. Their communication was clear, their extrication methodical, and their attention to everyone's safety was admirable.

The OPP officers who attended the scene did so with the utmost professionalism and regard for public safety, securing the scene and coordinating clearance of the highway using their experience and expertise.

I was so impressed by the extraordinary teamwork that was exhibited on this cold, dark night between all of the services, and by the professionalism and expertise that each service demonstrated. As an Emergency Physician working at a regional trauma centre for nearly 10 years, I have managed hundreds of trauma patients "packed and wrapped in a bow" in our department, but have never been witness to such an incident on scene. Each and every one of the first responders who attended the scene should be proud of themselves. I realize that this may be "part of the job" to them, but it is important that they be reminded that what they do matters and makes a difference. The communities surrounding Belleville, Quinte West, and

Hastings County are lucky to have these heroes working to care for, and protect them every day, as are all of us who travel this dangerous stretch of highway. I had the privilege of watching them save a man's life, first hand, in such a challenging and difficult environment. My hat's off to them and my utmost respect and admiration for what they do, every day.

Thank you to each of them for making a difference, for all of the lives they have saved and will save in the future. They are truly amazing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jen Leppard', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Jen Leppard, MD CCFP-EM  
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