



## Statement Regarding Planned Protest at Ontario Fire Fighters Memorial on September 13, 2021

It has come to our attention that a group of first responders plan to engage in a “silent protest against mandates” on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 11:45 a.m. at the site of the Ontario Fire Fighters and Police Memorials at Queen’s Park in Toronto.

The Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA) denounces such a protest occurring at a memorial site that is intended to honour Ontario’s fire fighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives in the line of duty. To be clear, we do not endorse and are not affiliated in any way with the group coordinating this protest.

The OPFFA’s position on vaccines is that **those who can vaccinate, should vaccinate.**

The majority of our members are vaccinated and are committed to doing their part to help keep themselves, their families, and Ontario’s communities safe and healthy. Some policies recently announced or proposed in many municipalities across the province pertaining to COVID-19 vaccinations for first responders are an important step toward ensuring that.

While we respect the right to peacefully protest, the fire fighter memorial is never the appropriate venue to hold a demonstration.

We respectfully request that the organizers of this protest re-locate their gathering to preserve the purpose and integrity of what the fire and police memorials represent within our first responder communities and for the families of those who have lost loved ones.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmen Santoro'.

Carmen Santoro, President  
Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association