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Our Reference #: MC-2018-3532

May 24, 2018

Mr. Ron Realesmith  
President  
Sarnia Historical Society  
Email: [ron@sarniahistoricalsociety.com](mailto:ron@sarniahistoricalsociety.com)

Dear Mr. Realesmith:

Thank you for your correspondence to the Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Attorney General, pertaining to the death of Constable John George ("Jack") Lewis of the Sarnia Police Department in 1936. As you know, a general election will be held in Ontario on June 7, 2018. The election period began on May 9, 2018. As such, I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Attorney General.

I understand that Constable Lewis was killed in the line of duty in 1936 while responding to a robbery in Sarnia and that the Sarnia Historical Society is now seeking to erect a memorial to Constable Lewis near the site of his death. I further understand that the Society is seeking to claim reward money which had been offered for the capture of Norman Ryan, the apparent killer of Constable Lewis.

Your efforts and those of the Society to memorialize Constable Lewis in Sarnia are laudable and important. I certainly wish you all the best as you continue with those efforts. I note that Constable Lewis' name is also included on the Ontario Police Memorial Wall at Queen's Park in Toronto. A service of remembrance is held annually in May at the Memorial Wall to honour Ontario's fallen police officers.

Regarding the request for reward money offered in the 1930's, please note that reward money is typically offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect. In the case of Constable Lewis' killing, the only suspect (Mr. Ryan) was shot and killed in the May 1936 gunfight with Constable Lewis and other Sarnia police officers. On this basis, I am not able to accede to your request.

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I hope that the above information is of some value. Please note that while the Attorney General was generally responsible for policing in the 1930's, those functions were transferred to the Solicitor General (now the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services) some time ago. As such, I have copied my counterpart at the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for his information.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irwin Glasberg', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Irwin Glasberg  
Assistant Deputy Attorney General

c: Stephen Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division, MCSCS