

International Agreement Signed



Seated from front left: Director Rudy Gheysen, Ontario Police College - Superintendent Gary Gracie, Police Service of Northern Ireland
Standing from left: Chief Inspector Mark Kernohan, Police Service of Northern Ireland - Deputy Director Steve Hibbard, Patrol Training - Ontario Police College - Deputy Director Bill Stephens, Senior & Special Courses - Ontario Police College, Chief Instructor Rod Silverson, Patrol Training - Ontario Police College.

At a meeting held on Thursday, October 20th, Superintendent Gary Gracie of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and Director Rudy Gheysen of the Ontario Police College (OPC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will see a dramatic increase in international cooperation between the two organizations.

Hailed by Director Gheysen as a *“horizontal partnership on an international scale”*, this collaboration will see these two police training organizations sharing training materials, providing mutual assistance in course design and development, and engaging opportunities for *“instructor exchanges”* for staff development purposes. Superintendent Gracie hopes to have two Instructors from the Police Service of Northern Ireland at OPC in early 2006.

This global partnership is just one more step for the Ontario Police College in their journey towards meeting their mission as *“a leader on the international stage of police training”*. Director Gheysen noted that it is this level of international interest in Ontario Police College programs *“that sets us apart from other training institutions.”*

Superintendent Gracie praised the collaboration, and said that it would go a long way towards helping the Police Service of Northern Ireland meet their commitments to the spirit of the European Union Peace and Reconciliation Project on Diversity Training (Patton Agreement), which is bringing peace to Northern Ireland.