

Chair Fakirani Verbal Report
Public Meeting
September 23, 2024

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

- I would like to begin by acknowledging the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation that will take place on September 30.
- This day is dedicated to honoring the survivors of residential schools, the children who never returned home, their families, and their communities. It is an opportunity for us to learn, reflect, and take meaningful action.
- On September 30, numerous events will be held both in person and online. I encourage all Board members to participate, and to take time to read, learn, and reflect on the history of residential schools and the ongoing intergenerational trauma they have inflicted.
- As a Board, it is crucial that we deepen our collective awareness and understanding of these issues.

Gender Equality Week

- As we recognize Gender Equality Week 2024, we reaffirm our commitment as a Board to advancing equity within the Ottawa Police Service and ensuring it reflects the community it serves. Ottawa leads Ontario with the highest percentage of female police officers, a testament to our ongoing efforts toward representation and inclusiveness.

- We are proud to support programs like the Women's Mentoring Program, which provides guidance and support to female candidates, helping to address barriers to entry and advancement in policing.
- As a Board, we strive to close gaps in representation and have placed inclusiveness and equality at the core of our strategic priorities for the Service.
- I would also like to acknowledge the Intimate Partner Violence Unit which provides support to victims and survivors of violence and abuse. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, please reach out to the police reporting unit at 613-236-1222, extension 7300. If it is an emergency, please dial 911 immediately.

Sgt. Hayes

- Today, we honor the legacy of Sgt. Mark Hayes, a dedicated member of the Ottawa Police Service whose impact extended well beyond his formal duties. Mark served for many years on the Tactical Unit, where he was known not only for his exceptional skills but also for his unwavering commitment to fitness and wellness. Mark deeply understood the rigours of policing and the physical and mental toll it takes on officers. He dedicated himself to supporting his colleagues by leading fitness classes during lunch hours, encouraging both sworn and civilian members to prioritize their health and well-being.
- Mark's commitment went beyond the Service; he actively volunteered in the community, mentoring young people and coaching sports teams including the girls' competitive soccer team at Ottawa South United or athletes with disabilities with the Ski Hawks. His passion for promoting health and fitness left a lasting impact on countless individuals, both within the OPS and in the broader community.
- We are profoundly grateful for Mark's service, his mentorship, and his dedication to the well-being of others. His understanding of the

challenges faced by officers and his tireless support of their health have left an indelible mark on our community.

Vacancy

- I'd like to take a moment to inform everyone of a recent change on our Board.
- Michael Doucet resigned from his position on August 23rd, creating a vacancy that the province is actively working to fill.
- On behalf of the Board, I want to express our deep appreciation for Michael's service, particularly his expert guidance on cyber security and technology matters that have been instrumental to our work.
- Michael also served as Chair of the Policy and Governance Committee, where his effective leadership has been deeply appreciated.
- We are extremely grateful for his dedication, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Budget

- I would now like to provide an update on the budget process, which will be a significant focus for this Board over the coming months.
- First, I want to thank all members of the community who participated in the community engagement survey that closed earlier this month. Your input is crucial, and we are grateful for your contributions. The results of this survey will be presented in October and will inform our decision-making process as we move forward.
- We are also committed to ensuring the budget reflects the needs and concerns of our diverse communities. As part of this commitment, the budget will be presented to the Community Equity Council for feedback to help us address these priorities effectively.
- Looking ahead, we have several key dates in the budget roadmap. In mid-October, we will hold a Special Finance and Audit Committee

meeting to discuss Budget Directions and the Consultation Report. This meeting will include data from the community engagement survey, and other data sources.

- On October 28, the Board will receive a presentation on consultation findings, including our community engagement survey and other data sources. The Board will then issue budget directions at that meeting.
- Following this, on November 13, we will have a Special Board meeting for the formal Budget Tabling.
- We will continue to engage with the community, with a Finance and Audit Committee meeting on November 22 during which member of the community will have an opportunity to provide further feedback. The final budget approval will occur at our November 25 Board meeting.
- The final step will be the December 11 Council meeting, where the budget will be presented for approval.
- Throughout this process, our aim is to ensure a transparent and inclusive approach, keeping our community's needs at the forefront of our decisions. Thank you for your ongoing engagement and support as we navigate this critical work together.

Community Engagement

- I continue to take time to meet with various stakeholders to help inform the work of the Board.
- From August 8th to 11th, Vice Chair Carr, Member Donaldson, and I attended the annual Canadian Association of Police Governance conference in Halifax.
- Following this, from August 11th to 13th, I participated in the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police conference, also in Halifax, alongside Members Doucet and Henschel.
- I also had the privilege of attending:

- The OPS Pride Flag raising ceremony on August 19th with Member Curry.
- A recruit badge ceremony on August 22nd with Members Carr and Curry.
- An OPS awareness-raising event on fraud prevention at the Ismaili Muslim Community Centre on August 29th.
- A meeting of the Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee on September 17th.
- I would also like to recognize Members Carr and Donaldson for their participation at the Safety of our Cities conference hosted by the Peel Regional Police from September 16- 18, and Member Donaldson for representing the Board at the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards' Zone 2 meeting in Pembroke from September 19-20.
- A meeting of the Community Equity Council on September 17th. We had a productive conversation on issues facing the Somali community and ways to strengthen the relationship between the police service and this community. The Board is committed to engaging in a listening circle and other collaborative dialogues with the Somali community and actively seeks opportunities to strengthen our relationship through mutual understanding and meaningful communication.

This concludes my verbal report.