

**Chair Fakirani Verbal Report**  
**Public Meeting**  
**January 27, 2025**

**Abdi Inquest**

- I would like to begin my remarks by addressing a matter of critical importance to this Board and our community: the inquest into the death of Abdirahman Abdi.
- On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to Vice Chair Carr for testifying at the inquest. This was an important and necessary role, and your testimony, Vice Chair Carr, was a reflection of the Board's commitment to accountability, transparency, and justice. Thank you for representing the Board with such professionalism and integrity.
- Throughout the inquest process, the Board remained actively engaged, following developments closely and gaining invaluable insights into the tragic circumstances surrounding Mr. Abdi's death.
- I am pleased to confirm that the Board has now received the jury's recommendations from the inquest. These recommendations represent an important opportunity to strengthen policing and community safety practices.
- We will be examining them in detail in today's meeting, as we consider how they can inform and guide our work moving forward.

**Collective Bargaining Agreement**

- I am pleased to report that, last month, the Board successfully reached a new collective agreement with the Ottawa Police Association.
- This agreement is a significant milestone for several reasons, not least of which is its progressive approach to parental leave provisions. These enhancements reflect our shared commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive workplace for all members of the Service.
- I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Members Donaldson and Curry for their outstanding leadership in negotiating this deal. I would also like to thank Deputy Chief Bell, as well as the finance and labour relations specialists at the Ottawa Police Service, who worked diligently behind the scenes to provide critical support throughout the negotiation process.
- It is worth noting that this is the first time a collective agreement has been renewed before its expiration date. This is a major achievement and a testament to the effectiveness of the negotiating team, led by Member Donaldson, and the constructive approach of the Ottawa Police Association.
- I want to acknowledge and thank President Matt Cox of the OPA and his team for their collaboration and shared commitment to reaching an agreement that benefits both the membership and the community.

### **New member and staff**

- Last month, I announced the provincial appointment of Michael Polowin as a member of the Board.
- I would like to formally welcome Michael to the Board. This is his first meeting as a member and, Michael, we are thrilled to have you join us. Your extensive experience and insights will be invaluable as we continue to address the pressing issues facing our community.

- I would also like to warmly welcome our new Executive Assistant, Shafeah Yasseen, who joined the Board earlier this month. Shafeah is already proving to be an excellent addition to our small but dedicated team, and we look forward to the contributions she will make to the Board's work.

### **Community Engagement**

- I continue to take time to meet with various stakeholders to help inform the work of the Board.
- On December 5, Vice Chair Carr, Member Sutcliffe, and I attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Learning Forum organized by the Ottawa Police Service. This year, the Forum addressed the Alternate Neighbourhood Crisis Response (ANCHOR), the Indigenous Women's Safety Table, and the importance of safeguarding human rights in the management of major events and demonstrations.
- On December 7, I met with the National Council of Canadian Muslims.
- I had the privilege of attending the OPS Promotions with Vice Chair Carr and Member Donaldson on December 18, and the Christmas Eve dinner service hosted by the Ottawa Police Association on December 24 with Member Donaldson.
- On January 21, I attended a Community Equity Council meeting which was an opportunity to listen to community perspectives on the Abdi inquest recommendations.
- I would also like to acknowledge Member Donaldson for going on a ride along with the East Neighbourhood Resource Team and volunteering by their side at the Food Bank's Holiday Helpers Food Drive.

**This concludes my verbal report.**