

# **Chair Fakirani Verbal Report**

## **Public Meeting**

**June 23, 2025**

### **Recognition of Indigenous History Month**

- Earlier in the meeting I acknowledged that June was National Indigenous History Month.
- On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chair Car, Members Desroches, Henschel and I had the honour of attending the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health's Ignite the Spirit event not only to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day but to recognize Wabano's invaluable contribution to our community. Wabano's commitment to providing culturally relevant health services and promoting the holistic well-being of Indigenous peoples is always inspiring

### **Recognition of International Pride Month**

- I would also like to note that June is International Pride Month.
- It is an opportunity for everyone to reflect on how we can create truly inclusive spaces within our community. This month also serves as a reminder of our commitment to demonstrate unwavering solidarity with the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.
- Central to the Board's strategic direction for 2024-2027 is the prioritization of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. This involves building trust with 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities and fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce.

### **Order of Merit**

- I'm pleased to share that three members of the Ottawa Police Service have been appointed to the Order of Merit of the Police Forces this year. This prestigious honour, awarded by the Governor General, recognizes exceptional service, leadership, and contributions to community development within Canadian policing.
- This year's recipients are:
  - Acting Staff Sergeant Walter Lushman, a national leader in water safety and drowning prevention, whose advocacy has had a lasting impact both locally and across Canada.
  - Andrea Lamothe, a seasoned 911 Communicator, respected leader within the Ottawa Police Association, and a tireless advocate for equity, wellness, and mental health among members.
  - Last but not least, Deputy Chief Trish Ferguson, a role model for women in policing and an exceptionally effective leader. Deputy Ferguson has overseen complex and high-profile investigations and operations, including the successful execution of *Project Champion*, an 18-month organized crime and narcotics investigation that resulted in 17 people facing 149 charges, 14 arrests, and the seizure of 6.5 kg of cocaine and five illegal firearms.

### **Welcoming the new Senior Policy Advisor**

- We're pleased to welcome Shraddha Badaravada as the Board's new Senior Policy Advisor.
- In this role, Shraddha will support the Board in developing policies, conducting research and analysis, and advancing strategic initiatives. She will also play a key role in helping ensure the Board's work is grounded in evidence and community input.
- Shraddha brings experience from the federal government, non-profit, and private sectors. We're excited to have her on board.

## **Annual Report**

- This month, we are submitting our annual report as required by the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*.
- This will be a joint report between the Board and the Ottawa Police Service. This new approach reflects the fact that the Chief and the Board now have overlapping reporting obligations under the new Act.
- By working together, we have been able to produce a more integrated and transparent account of policing and its governance in 2024.
- For the first time, the annual report includes a dedicated section on the work of the Board.

## **Strategic Plan Status Update**

- Last month, the Board finalized the first full draft of its updated strategic plan.
- As directed at our April meeting, the plan includes clear targets and key performance indicators across all areas mandated by the *Community Safety and Policing Act*.
- We took this draft to the Community Equity Council for consultation at their May 20th meeting. We received valuable feedback from a wide range of community representatives, and we're grateful for their thoughtful engagement.
- We especially appreciate that the CEC agreed to hold a Special Meeting last week to build on that initial conversation. Together, we've worked to refine the plan's objectives and targets so they better reflect community needs and expectations.
- The Board Office is now preparing a final draft of the plan, which will incorporate the CEC's feedback. This final draft will be published and brought forward for Board approval at our July meeting.

## **Community Engagement**

- The Board and I continue to take time to meet with various stakeholders to help inform our work.
- I had the privilege of attending:
  - The South Facility Topping off ceremony with Vice Chair Carr, Members Curry, Donaldson, Desroches, and Henschel on May 9<sup>th</sup>. It was incredible to tour the future site and see firsthand how it will transition from a construction site to a new station which the south of Ottawa is in need of. We all look forward to the grand opening in 2027.
  - The Police Association of Ontario's Annual General Meeting which was held in Ottawa. I was pleased to attend and deliver welcoming remarks on behalf of the Ottawa Police Service Board.
  - Board Members and I also attended a Cadet Corps Graduation, a new Police Officers' Swearing In ceremony.
  - Earlier this month, I had the honour of speaking alongside Minister Kerzner at the inaugural swearing-in ceremony for the Ottawa Police Service's newest Special Constables.
  - This event marked an important milestone, both for the individuals being sworn in and for the broader modernization of policing in Ontario under the *Community Safety and Policing Act*. The new legislative framework recognizes the essential role Special Constables play in delivering effective and community-focused policing.
  - The Ottawa Police Service Board is proud to be among the first in the province to operationalize this new vision. Several of the new Special Constables will support innovative programs made possible through provincial grants, and we look forward to the meaningful contributions they will make to public safety in Ottawa.

- I would like to recognize Member Donaldson who represented the Board at the Special Olympics Opening Ceremony.

### **OAPSB Conference**

- Vice Chair Carr, Member Desroches, Executive Director Sayah and I also participated in the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards' Spring Conference in London, Ontario.
- These gatherings are an important opportunity to connect with other police boards across the province and share lessons on navigating the new *Community Safety and Policing Act*. We had valuable discussions on governance challenges, emerging oversight practices, and the evolving role of police boards under the new legislative framework.
- It was also an opportunity to engage directly with representatives from the Ministry of the Solicitor General, including Minister Kerzner, and Inspectorate of Policing, both of whom contributed meaningfully to the conference.

**This concludes my verbal report.**