

Building Bridges Through Engagement

Ottawa Police Liaison Team





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Welcome & Context

Purpose of Today's Presentation

Why PLT Matters in Ottawa

What to Expect

Who We Are

Ottawa Police PLT

- Team Composition: 5 full-time and 16 part-time members
- Funded by the Federal Government as part of the Parliamentary District response
- Supports the Nation's capital and extensive diplomatic community
- Training: Initial 2 Week course & 2 training days/year
- Evolution: casual members → full-time team per POEC recommendations

Mandate

Ottawa Police PLT

"To establish and maintain open and transparent lines of communication with all stakeholders who may be affected, directly or indirectly, by an event. The PLT shall work toward building a relationship of trust, mutual understanding and respect between police and the community."

- Engage proactively with organizers and stakeholders
- Act as a conduit for communication
- Support lawful expression
- Balance public safety and Charter rights

Core Principle: Engagement over enforcement using a measured approach

Core Functions

Ottawa Police PLT

Pre-event:

- Engage organizers and stakeholders
- Provide guidance on logistics, permits, and safety

During event:

- Maintain communication
- De-escalate and monitor risks
- Relay updates to Command

Post-event:

- Debrief and follow up
- Build long-term relationships

PLT & Embassies

Ottawa Police PLT

Ottawa's Context:

- Over 130 embassies and consulates

PLT Role:

- Engage with Event/Demonstrator Organizers
- Educate on Vienna Convention & reciprocity

Goals:

- Ensure peaceful, lawful and safe protest
- Prevent diplomatic incidents
- Protect rights & international obligations

Interagency Coordination

Ottawa Police PLT

- Integrated planning with Events and Ottawa Police Support Sections
- Coordinate with Municipal Partners and Intersect
- Coordination with Parliamentary Protective Service (PPS)
- Shared situational awareness across jurisdictions



Why PLT Matters

Ottawa Police PLT

- Reduces conflict and escalation
- Builds community trust
- Supports lawful assembly
- Provides situational awareness
- De-escalates misinformation-driven incidents
- Respects Charter Rights and Impacts of Human Rights



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Why PLT Matters

Ottawa Police PLT

- The Ipperwash Inquiry of 2003-2007 demonstrated the need for specialized liaison teams like PLT.
- Had PLT existed, much of that conflict could have been mitigated.
- Twenty-three years later, the Public Order Emergency Commission reinforced this.
- POEC noted that where PLT is used improperly, the risks of escalation remain.
- The National Framework For Police Preparedness For Demonstrations and Assemblies recommendation.
- Both inquiries and the Framework affirm that effective liaison is essential to public order management.



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Challenges:

- Misinformation and distrust
- Complex, multi-group events
- Resource limitations

Opportunities:

- Expand outreach
- Cross-train other units
- Strengthen long-term relationships

Conclusion

Ottawa Police PLT

- PLT supports peaceful, lawful and safe demonstrations
- Builds trust through strong partnerships
- Balances public safety and Charter rights

Questions