

Chiefs Verbal Report December 5, 2025

OPENING REMARKS

Good morning members of the Board.

Bonjour aux membres du Conseil

First, I want to thank those of you that were able to attend our 10th Annual Human Rights Learning Forum yesterday. It was a strong day of learning and honest conversations.

This year's theme was From Awareness to Action and that's an important message. Listening matters, but people want to see action and so do we.

I also want to congratulate Superintendent David Zackrias on receiving the 2025 Leadership in Human and Civil Rights Award from the IACP. This is an international award...His work shows the impact one dedicated leader can have and we are proud to have him on our team.

And finally, I want to congratulate Constables Kyle Lamothe, Samson Vo, Paddy Magill and Patrick Wiseman on receiving the Ontario Medal for Police Bravery. They showed outstanding courage in life-threatening situations and they represent the very best of our profession.

IPV / WHITE RIBBON

You will see many of us wearing a white ribbon. Tomorrow is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. It is a time to honour the lives lost and recommit to the work ahead.

Vous verrez beaucoup d'entre nous porter un ruban blanc. Demain, c'est la Journée nationale contre la violence faite aux femmes. C'est le moment d'honorer les vies perdues et de continuer notre travail pour changer les choses.

In January we committed to reporting our IPV numbers twice a year. Our first report in July showed a 9% increase in calls. It is a hard number to see and it matches what our officers and community partners have been telling us. Violence against women is rising and we need stronger resources and supports.

Intimate partner violence is happening here in Ottawa. It is happening quietly in homes and apartments across our city. Every statistic represents a person who deserves to feel safe.

If you need help, please reach out in the way that feels safest for you.

Si vous avez besoin d'aide, contactez quelqu'un dans une manière qui vous semble la plus sûre. We want you to call the police but what matters most is that you are safe and that you know you are not alone. Shelters, crisis lines, counselling programs and advocates are available around the clock.

Novembre a été un mois chargé et important pour notre service; Quelques événements marquants

JINGLE DRESS (OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION)

I want to highlight an important moment for our Service. On November 17th at our Elgin Headquarters, we received a Jingle Dress from the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition. It is a significant honour and it comes with real responsibility.

The dress is a visible reminder of our commitment to Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people. It speaks to the trust, safety and accountability we must keep building. The need is clear. Sixty-three percent of Indigenous women in Canada experience physical or sexual assault in their lifetime. This gift is a call to action every single day. We were humbled to receive this dress from the OAC.

PURSE PROJECT

This season always reminds us how generous our community can be. This year marks another 10th anniversary of the Purse Project. C'est le 10^e anniversaire de l'**Opération Sacs à Main**. A Project that supports women who may struggle to afford basic hygiene items. Since it began, more than 8,000 purses have been distributed across Ottawa. This year the Capital Prosperity Foundation has joined the effort with \$3,000 in gift cards, which gives the project a real boost.

The campaign runs until December 14th. Donations can be dropped off at our stations, participating Shoppers Drug Mart locations or the Citron Hygiene warehouse. Details are online.

FIRST INDIGENOUS RECRUITING FORUM

Last month, we hosted our first Indigenous Recruiting Forum, hosted with the An-ish-in-a-bek Police Service. **Nous avons organisé** avec le Service de police Anish-inabek **le premier Forum de recrutement autochtone**. Over two evenings, people joined online and in person to talk about policing careers, culture and community.

It was a great opportunity to educate prospective Indigenous applicants to join a Police Service. Of course, the OPS would love to have more Indigenous officers and civilian members on our team. Miigwetch to everyone who took part and shared their voice.

GALA

We had a fantastic Gala on November 8th and while we are still finalizing the numbers it looks like a record year. It sells out every year and we are grateful for the support.

I want to give a special thanks to Inspectors Pete McKenna and Nicole St John, as well as Kelly Ledingham, Paula Armstrong and Shondra McLean, along with all the committee members who did so much work behind the scenes. Thank you as well to the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre, the Capital Prosperity Foundation, Beechwood Cemetery who are the chosen charities for this year. And of course, our sponsors and auction donors. We will share the final tally in January.

BADGE CEREMONY

I want to welcome our November recruit class. Chair Fakirani and I had the honour of joining them and their families as they began their policing journey.

The 29 new police officers come from many different backgrounds – teachers, engineers, journalists, peace officers and volunteers. Some grew up here. Others came from countries like Brazil, Morocco and India and chose Ottawa as home. Together they speak more than a dozen languages and bring a wide range of experience.

Later this month, we'll be in the new OPC training centre in Cornwall for the March Past of 48 recruits who will be returning to Ottawa before Xmas.

COMMUNITY SAFETY DATA PORTAL

Last month we updated the Community Safety Data Portal to make it easier for residents to find and understand information.

Interest keeps growing. More than 100,000 residents have used it this year, double last year, with over 350,000 page views. People want this data and they are using it.

The update includes a cleaner crime map, a new Calls for Service dashboard and more accessible reports and analytics. The portal is available at data.ottawapolice.ca.

BODY WORN CAMERAS

Last month we launched body worn cameras across the Service. Les **Caméras portatives ont été déployées** à travers le Service. Officers are using them every day and we will provide an update early in the new year on what we are seeing and where we are going next. We are planning for additional cameras and a long-term strategy so the program continues to support transparency, accountability and community trust.

HOMICIDES

Last month also brought a major development in the 2024 Barrhaven homicides. Febrio De-Zoysa pled guilty and received six life sentences without parole for 25 years plus another 25 years for attempted murder. That speaks to the professionalism of everyone involved, from dispatchers and first responders to our specialized units.

These cases take a real toll on our community and our members. They remind us of the human side of policing and the importance of supporting our members. Thank you for your work and your compassion.

BEHAVIOURAL ANALYSIS UNIT WORKSHOP

In October, the OPS stood up a Behaviour Analysis Unit. This new unit applies evidence-based and system-atic processes to identify, inquire and assess the risk or threat an individual may pose to the community. It's a very complex and technical service that they provide, but crucial to ensure safety of the community from very high risk individuals.

Last week members of this unit hosted a one day workshop that drew a great response. 140 attended, including 110 OPS members and more than 30 partners from across the city, other policing agencies, the City and Parliamentary Partners. The turnout shows how essential collaboration is in modern threat assessment. We will continue to build on the strengths of these relationships to help make this community safer.

HOLIDAY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Our members are out in the community making a real difference this season. Nos membres sont dans la communauté et font une vraie différence cette saison.

Our Airport Policing Unit joined Dreams Take Flight, a volunteer-run charity that gives local children facing challenges a once in a lifetime trip to Disney.

East District officers ran Cram the Cruiser, filling 130 boxes with food and also raising \$535 for families in need.

Tomorrow our City-Wide Community Policing Holiday Food Drive will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at three Metro locations. All donations go directly to the Ottawa Food Bank.

We also joined the Help Santa Toy Parade and the Orleans Santa Parade of Lights and our Mounted Unit made a special appearance. On top of that, our members helped make the season brighter with Shop With a Cop, taking kids shopping, sharing pizza and helping them pick out gifts at three local malls in the City.

These events are good reminders of why community policing matters and how much our members give back.

IMPAIRED DRIVING

Alongside these great community initiatives I want to remind everyone to plan ahead for a safe

ride home. Do not drink and drive and do not drive high. Ne conduisez pas après avoir bu et ne conduisez pas sous l'influence de drogues. RIDE programs are running across the city. Our Festive RIDE program launched on November 27th. This past weekend officers checked more than 1,500 drivers, including taxis and ride shares. Six drivers received three day suspensions and one driver was arrested for being over 80. So far this year 758 drivers have been charged with impaired driving.

CVSA & SPEEDING

OPS, OPP and MTO commercial vehicle inspectors recently teamed up for a safety blitz on Trim Road. They inspected 47 vehicles and took 14 off the road for serious safety issues including faulty brakes, suspension problems, unsafe tires and improper storage of dangerous goods. Charges were laid for licence infractions, permits, overweight vehicles and more. Two drivers were charged for driving while suspended and without insurance.

DISTRICT TRAFFIC UNITS LAUNCH

On December 15th we will launch District Traffic Units in all four Districts while the Road Safety Unit continues its city wide work under the Specialized Policing Directorate. This is another step toward full District Model implementation in January 2027. The goal is to strengthen traffic services, improve community focused policing and build local ownership while keeping specialized expertise and programs in place. We will start with 4 Sergeants and 15 Constables and move toward the approved structure of 4 Sergeants and 24 Constables.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As this is our last meeting before the holidays I want to thank each of you for the hard work and dedication that is required of members of the Police Service Board. Your support of the Ottawa Police Service and keeping this city safe cannot be understated. I hope you have a safe and happy holiday season and enjoy time with family and friends.

Je souhaite à tous un Joyeux or (Un très beau) Noël, un bon temps des fêtes et bonne année.