

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

27 July 2020 / 27 juillet 2020

Submitted by / Soumis par:

Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa

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**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO INQUIRY I-20-08 – USE OF FORCE AND DE-
ESCALATION (PART 1)**

**OBJET: DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS I-20-08: USAGE DE LA FORCE ET
DÉSESCALADE (PARTIE 1)**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receives this report for information.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du
présent rapport à titre d'information.**

Version française

INQUIRY

In the recent weeks, Use of Force by police has been highlighted.

I came across a chart from the United States that breaks down the amount of training time for police dedicated to firearms, legislation, communication, etc. I can provide the high-level bar chart I came across to you for reference.

Would the OPS be able to provide at a future date, a similar breakdown of how training time is broken down?

I think this would help the Board have a better understanding of how training time is allocated and may help us determine whether we are investing enough time in critical areas such as communication, de-escalation, etc, as compared to firearms and defensive tactics, for example.

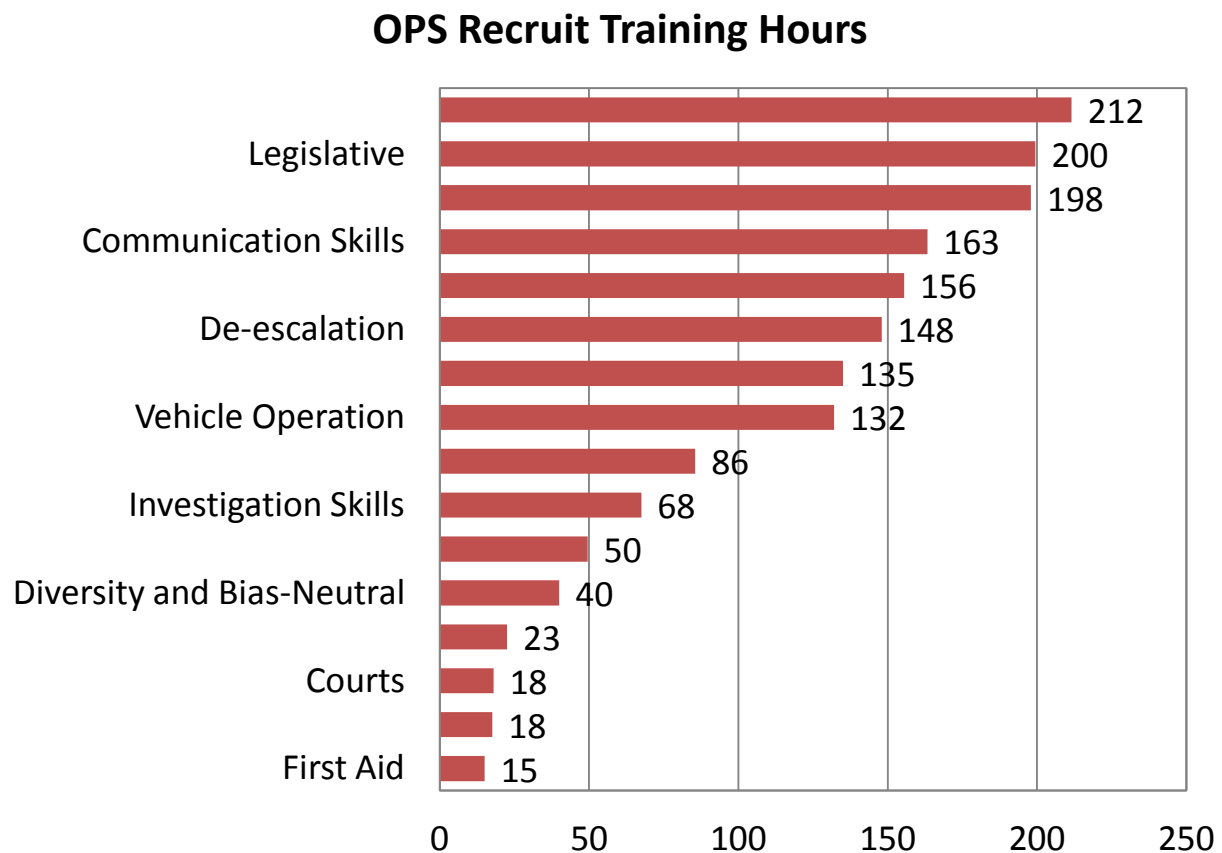
RESPONSE

A new recruit to the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) will receive more than 1,600 hours of training, prior to starting their first shift with their Field Training Officer. This includes approximately 540 hours of training that focuses predominantly on de-escalation and communication skills.

A training analyst within the Service monitors training records to determine that all officers are up-to-date, not just the new recruits, on the most current forms of training standards which is mandated by the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Regulation 926 of the *Police Services Act*, "Equipment and Use of Force," sets out the requirements in relation to Use of Force, including use of approved weapons, training, reporting and use/ technical specifications for approved Use of Force options.

The following chart outlines a breakdown of training received by recruits, with a significant focus on de-escalation techniques:



Alternative methods like empty hand techniques include use of distraction, or joint-lock manipulation aimed at subduing the person to control behaviour that is actively resistant and assaultive and to avoid escalation. These methods can help to protect not only the person being arrested with a lower risk of injury, but the officer and the general public as well.

It is the sincere goal of every sworn officer to resolve any call for service by employing effective communication skills and de-escalation versus other Use of Force options. But it is in the course of their duties that police officers may face situations that require using force to ensure the safety of the public as well as their own.

Annual Use of Force training for officers has been mandated by the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General as a required component of officer training and education. It provides officers with training and skills to assess, plan and act accordingly to resolve situations they encounter. Effective communication and de-escalation techniques are at the forefront of every encounter with the public.