

Report to / Rapport au:

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

25 January 2021 / 25 janvier 2021

Submitted by / Soumis par:

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

Contact Person / Personne ressource:

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**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO INQUIRY I-20-23: FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DISCONTINUED OUTREACH LIAISON
TEAM**

**OBJET: RÉPONSE À LA DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS I-20-23 :
CONCLUSIONS ET RECOMMANDATIONS DE L'ANCIENNE ÉQUIPE
DE LIAISON ET D'EXTENSION**

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.**

INQUIRY

After the tragedy of Mr. Abdirahman Abdi, the OPS commissioned a special Outreach Liaison Team (OLT) to engage marginalized communities. What were the findings of the OLT? Why was it discontinued? Please provide further information on the mandate of the Provincial Liaison Team (PLT).

RESPONSE

In the days that followed the tragic death of Abdirahman Abdi, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) reached out to community leaders in an effort to reduce tensions and begin the hard work of rebuilding trust within the community.

Part of that initiative involved bolstering the existing Diversity and Race Relations (DRR) Section by creating a temporary Outreach Liaison Team (OLT). Broadly, the OLT worked to:

- Increase community engagement with the racialized and broader diverse communities to create meaningful dialogue and continue building trust and confidence in the OPS;
- Provide responsive outreach to impacted communities that promoted dialogue, awareness and understanding; and
- Engage with communities, agencies and police members to identify concerns, engagement activities, partnership opportunities, and possible solutions/recommendations.

The findings from the one-year initiative were published in a report titled “Outreach Liaison Team Final Report” in late 2017, which was posted to [our publications page on the OPS website](#).

The OLT Final Report is a foundational document that provided significant findings and over 80 recommendations to ensure professional and equitable policing and a means to rebuild trust by calling for improvements to both internal/employment processes and to service delivery to the community.

The conclusion of the OLT resulted in additional resources being added not only to the DRR section but contributed to the creation of a new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) office at the OPS, which is now housed in the new Respect, Values and Inclusion (RVI) Directorate.

The OLT report was one of the key documents provided to the Diversity Audit Team in 2019, and the recommendations of both reports contributed to creating the RVI Directorate and the OPS EDI Action Plan, which focused on making meaningful progress on equity, diversity and inclusion. These types of important reports (OLT Report, Traffic Stop Race Data Report, Diversity Audit), their key recommendations, and other related consultation efforts (Annual Human Rights Learning Forum) are used to help the OPS determine priorities, action planning, and are tracked by the RVI Directorate.

The OLT was solely an OPS initiative; independent of the Provincial Liaison Team (PLT) program. The PLT was not consulted for the creation and development of the OLT.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Outreach Liaison Team Final Report (2017).