

**Report to / Rapport au:**

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

**21 March 2016 / 21 mars 2016**

**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: TRAFFIC STOP RACE DATA COLLECTION PROJECT UPDATE**

**OBJET: COMPTE RENDU DU PROJET DE COLLECTE DE DONNÉES  
FONDÉES SUR LA RACE AUX CONTRÔLES ROUTIERS : MISE A  
JOUR**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

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

**BACKGROUND**

As a result of an agreement between the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and the Ottawa Police Services Board (Board) that was signed on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Ottawa Police Service has undertaken the largest race based data collection project in Canadian policing history.

The Traffic Stop Race Data Collection Project (TSRDCP) requires police officers to record their perception of the driver's race, by observation only, for traffic stops over a two-year period from June 2013 to June 2015.

Full information, including the [agreement](#), project updates, and opportunities to stay engaged are available online at [ottawapolice.ca/race](http://ottawapolice.ca/race).

## **DISCUSSION**

Now in its third year of data collection with over 153,000 traffic stops, the project remains on track. This report provides a brief project update on:

- **Data Extraction and Delivery:** The Police Service completed the two-year data extract and delivered it to the York Research Team for analysis.
- **Data Analysis:** The data analysis and report writing phase is expected to be completed over the next several months with the final report and recommendations expected in early fall.
- **Consultation and Engagement:** Engagement will continue as we prepare for the remaining project phases – including the presentation of the final report and recommendations.

### **Data Extraction and Delivery Phase Completed – Over 120,000 Records of Data**

In December 2015, the Ottawa Police Service completed the data extraction and delivered it to the York Research Team for analysis.

As per the original “Letter of Understanding” between the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Ottawa Police Services Board, the race based data extract represents the two-year collection period from June 27, 2013 to June 26, 2015 and does not contain names of individual officers or drivers.

The data extract is limited to “relevant information required for analysis” and contains over 120,000 records or rows of data. The data fields were determined by earlier consultation efforts, which include:

- Date of the Stop
- Location of the Stop
- Reason for Stop
- Driver Information: city, age, gender and race
- Outcome of the Stop, and
- Perception of Race (whether race was perceived prior to the decision to stop the vehicle).

The Police Service has accessed the data only for quality assurance measures to ensure the data fields are being entered by officers. There has been no race based analysis of the data conducted by the Ottawa Police Service.

### **Data Analysis & Report Writing Phase – Underway and On Track**

The York Research Team is following the final report outline and plan for analysis – both of which were included in the [last update report to the board](#).

The data analysis and report writing phase is on track and expected to be completed over the next several months with the final report and recommendations expected in early fall.

In the meantime as already reported last March, the OPS has continued data collection beyond the original two year commitment, and is now in the 33<sup>rd</sup> month of collection with over 153,000 traffic stops.

### **Police and Community Engagement Continues – An Ongoing Commitment**

In addition to the major Let's Chat public forums, presentations and regular updates with groups like COMPAC and the project's advisory committee, we're focused on continuing the dialogue over the next few months:

1. University Studies. One interview study is being conducted by Carleton University researchers to examine the impact of the project on front-line officers, and the other interview study is being led by an Ottawa University researcher who is examining the community engagement aspects of the project on public trust. Both interview studies will be shared with the York Research Team to assist with the final report and recommendations.
2. Final Report and Recommendations. Consultation and engagement will continue as we prepare for the presentation of the final report.
3. Other Bias-Neutral Policing Initiatives. It's also important to continue work on our other bias-neutral initiatives being led by other areas such as Diversity and Race Relations, Recruitment, Policy and Training.

With the growing interest in race based data collection as a tool to ensure professional bias-neutral, some of the recent project presentations include:

- Last fall, the Ontario Police College and Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Diversity and Inclusion Panel held a half day session about race based data collection with presentations from the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Traffic Stop Race Data Collection Project.

- A project presentation was also part of a workshop on data collection and accountability at the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police – Information and Communication Conference held in Vancouver in February.
- The Ontario Human Rights Commission hosted a Racial Profiling Policy Dialogue from February 16 to 18 with over sixty experts, researchers and practitioners from across Ontario. A project presentation was part of a panel discussion on “Preventing and Responding to Racial Profiling.”

## **CONSULTATION**

Not applicable.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

## **CONCLUSION**

With considerable investment in consultation and engagement, the Ottawa Police Service has demonstrated professionalism and leadership to advance the study of race data collection in Canada while contributing to open dialogue and building community trust.

The OPS is committed to continue working collaboratively with the York Research Team and the Ontario Human Rights Commission to keep stakeholders informed of remaining project progress and engagement opportunities.