

Christine Hanson  
Director and CEO  
Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission  
Park Lane Terraces  
Suite 305, 3rd Floor, 5657 Spring Garden Road  
PO Box 2221  
Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada B3J 3C4

Re: Street Checks Legal Opinion

Dear Ms. Hanson,

Following up on your letter of October 15, I wanted to extend thanks from the Board of Police Commissioners for your assistance in obtaining the legal opinion on street checks. This opinion will allow the Board to start work on additional actions in response to Dr. Wortley's report with Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and the RCMP.

In your letter you had also asked for assistance with three other items related to Dr. Wortley's report.

Regarding recommendation 4.17 of Dr. Wortley's report, where he recommends that the Commission extend its examination of racial bias beyond street checks to other aspects of the criminal justice system, the Board has already acted on this. At our June 17 meeting, the following motion was passed, that will include a plan for this recommendation:

*THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request that the Chief of Police prepare a community communication strategy that clearly and straightforwardly communicates what a citizen's rights are in situations where Police interact with residents and community by:*

- 1. Creating an easy to read "know your rights" information pamphlet or guide that outlines an Officers and citizens obligations when conducting a stop, interaction, or investigation. This information will also be available on HRM and HRP's website.*
- 2. Create community engagement strategies delivered by officers and community members that educates the public on their rights, and the roles and responsibilities of an officer.*

*3. Engage with the minority communities in partnership with the Board of Police Commissioners to hold scheduled Town Halls in community, in order for the Board and Police service to understand community needs in order to enhance the effectiveness of the police service.*

*4. Having all officers communicate that information during their interactions with members of the public, in a manner consistent with both the HRP Code of Ethics, and the directive of the Attorney General dated April 17, 2019.*

*5. Creating a plan to report on each of the recommendations in the Wortley Report relating to Community Engagement, and include this in the Community Communications Strategy.*

This motion was intended to address HRP's involvement in the recommendations in section 4 (Improving Police-Community Relations) of Dr. Wortley's report. Although recommendation 4.17 is specific to the Government of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, the Board and HRP will collaborate with them and other stakeholders who need to be engaged.

Parts 3, 4 and 5 of the motion are being actioned by the Police. Parts 1 and 2 are going to require the participation of DOJ, HRC and other criminal justice system stakeholders. No separate motion is required on this issue.

Dr. Wortley also made important recommendations (1.5 and 2.22) concerning de-identification and retention of street check data for future evaluation purposes. I have discussed this with Chief Kinsella and he is in agreement that the HRP policy on data retention will be updated according to Dr. Wortley's recommendation 1.5, but the recommendations under section 2, including recommendation 2.22, are no longer applicable as they relate to the regulation of street checks.

Lastly, you had asked that any training related to police anti-bias, cultural competency and race relations, developed by HRP in response to recommendation 4.2 of Dr. Wortley's report be developed in consultation with the Human Rights Commission's Director of Race Relations, Equity and Inclusion. I have spoken with Chief Kinsella and he has agreed that he will engage the Director as further training is developed.

The Board and HRP are committed to working on the relevant recommendations now that the ban will be made permanent. HRP and the Board have already begun this work, and

will take the lead on and/or collaborate with stakeholders on specific recommendations as indicated in the Wortley report.

I trust this sufficiently addresses the items in your letter. The Board and I look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff in future.

Sincerely,



Natalie Borden  
Chair, Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

Cc: Dan Kinsella, Chief of Halifax Regional Police