



Chair
Councillor Lindell Smith

Vice-Chair
Commissioner Carole
McDougall

Commissioners
Carlos Beals
Natalie Borden
Anthony Thomas
Councillor Becky Kent
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

March 31st, 2021

Honourable Randy Delorey
Minster of Justice
1690 Hollis Street
P.O. Box 7
Halifax, NS
B3J 2L6

Dear Minister Delorey,

RE: Appointment as Minister of Justice

On behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality Board of Police Commissioners, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as the new Minister of Justice.

As you may be well aware, The Halifax Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) is the civilian board that provides governance and oversight to the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) – the largest police force in our Province. With our Joint policing model – the only one in Canada – we also function as a Police Advisory Board to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Halifax District as it performs contractual policing services for the Halifax Regional Municipality. Our relationship with you and the Department of Justice is key for both of our mandates, and we look forward to helping you deliver on priorities that are important to all residents in HRM.

As the newly appointed Chair, it is my goal to continue and further our relationship between the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners and the Department of Justice. Recently, Premier Rankin issued the 2021 Ministerial mandate letters and specifically highlighted in your letter the reality of discrimination and systemic racism that many Nova Scotians have lived with for many years, and the need to address the inequalities to strengthen our social fabric. To quote the Premier “Social justice should no longer be a distant ideal. It should become a definite, measurable goal. As you adopt your new portfolio, I know you will do so with an understanding of the importance of advancing initiatives that take into account, in particular, the experiences of African Nova Scotian and Indigenous communities at all levels of the justice system.”

The Halifax Board of Police Commissioners supports the comments of the Premier and hope that we can support you in advancing the work of social justice and inclusion related to Policing.

The Commission has been active in working to address and support many aspects of Policing and how this impacts our residents and communities across HRM. Alongside our legislated duties, the board has been working with HRP, RCMP, DOJ, and the community to complete the recommendations outlined in the Wortley report. Presently being at the two-year mark since release, it is crucial that we work more collaboratively to complete the recommendations to further address and action issues that effect our most impacted communities. The Commission is also hopeful that as the DOJ reviews police services in the Province, that we can look at opportunities to support this work and the outcomes. Related to our role as the advisory board to RCMP Halifax Detachment, as you partner with the Federal government to consult with the community on an African Nova Scotian justice plan, we hope that our Commission can play a role in supporting this work.

Again, congratulations on your appointment, and we look forward to working with you and the Department of Justice to advance each others work, and the Commission would be more than pleased to have the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our priorities and goals to support all residents across HRM related to policing.

Sincerely,

- Original Signed -

Councillor Lindell Smith
Chair - Halifax Board of Police Commissioners