

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

**Chair**  
Councillor Lindell Smith

**Vice-Chair**  
Commissioner Carole  
McDougall

**Commissioners**  
Yemi Akindoju  
Harry Critchley  
Anthony Thomas  
Councillor Becky Kent  
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

Dear Minister Johns,

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 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 Chair, it is my goal to continue and further the relationship between the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners and the Department of Justice. The previously issued 2021 Ministerial mandate letters under the Rankin Government specifically highlighted 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. With your latest Ministerial mandate letter and Thrown speech there was no mention of the reality many face related to discrimination and systemic racism, and we hope that as Minister of Justice that combating these issues will be a priority of yours.

The Halifax Board of Police Commissioners 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, and we are pleased that your mandate letter also supports the implementation of the Wortley Report recommendations. If your government will continue the review of police services in the Province the Commission is hopeful that we can this work and the outcomes. We also hope to continue to be a partner while the Province works with community on the African Nova Scotian justice plan.

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