



NOVA SCOTIA
**Attorney General
Justice
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 7, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2L6 • Telephone 902 424-4044 Fax 902 424-0510 • novascotia.ca

November 23, 2021

Via Electronic Mail: _____

Councillor Lindell Smith
Chair – Halifax Board of Police Commissioners
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5

Dear Councillor Smith,

Thank you for your letter dated October 14, 2021, congratulating me on my appointment as Minister of Justice and highlighting the critical importance of addressing systemic racism and advancing the work of social justice and inclusion as it relates to policing.

I can assure you that our government acknowledges the reality of discrimination and systemic racism that many Nova Scotians face, as well as the need to address inequalities. As the Minister of Justice, I am committed to combating these issues as a priority.

As you note, my mandate letter commits me to support the implementation of the Wortley Report. The Department of Justice's (DOJ's) July 2021 *Wortley Report Update* highlights DOJ's progress to date on the recommendations that fall within its mandate and demonstrates our commitment to advancing the implementation of the report's recommendations. Similarly, I have noted that the recent *Two-Year Wortley Report Summary* update that was tabled at the September 20, 2021, meeting of the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners (Halifax BOPC) includes updates from Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and the RCMP about their progress on the report's recommendations and highlights the Board's working relationship with HRP, RCMP, DOJ, and community to complete the report's recommendations. The Board's commitment to this work is also apparent through the inclusion of a standing agenda item ('HRM Wortley Report Recommendations – Update') at its monthly meetings.

As we continue to work on advancing the Wortley Report, and other critical priorities such as the development of an African Nova Scotian justice plan, we look forward to strengthening our collaborative efforts with the Halifax BOPC.

In the spirit of furthering the relationship between the Halifax BOPC and DOJ, I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss our respective priorities related to policing to support all HRM residents. A member of our team will be in touch with your office soon to identify a mutually agreeable time to meet.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I look forward to working with you as we strive to make HRM a more inclusive place for all residents.

Sincerely,

- Original Signed -

Brad Johns
Attorney General and Minister of Justice