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## FROM PROTEST TO POLICY

### POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE REALLOCATION RESOURCES



### ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

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## **BACKGROUND**

It is time to add our voices to the calls from Black and Indigenous leaders for meaningful action to address police violence and systemic racism. Racial profiling and the disproportionate use of deadly force against Black and Indigenous community members have been compounded by the lack of community resources to address poverty, addictions, and mental health issues. Over 100 community organizations have endorsed a [Policy Brief](#) that provides information and recommendations to address systemic racism in policing. This document was developed by the Police Accountability Coalition which includes a network of Black-led organizations, the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg, the Social Planning Council and other community-based organizations.

### **Key Findings**

- The United Nations found clear evidence that racial profiling is endemic in the strategies and practices used by Canadian law enforcement
- Indigenous community members in Manitoba are 6.6 times more likely to be killed in police encounters when compared to the white population
- Black community members in Manitoba were 4.5 times more likely to be killed in police encounters when compared to the white population
- 100% of the 102 complaints concluded by the Manitoba Law Enforcement Review Agency in 2018 were dismissed, abandoned or withdrawn
- The City of Winnipeg is spending the highest percentage of the municipal budget on the police service when compared to other large Canadian cities
- The Winnipeg Police Service budget has continued to increase year over year while community-based organizations have experienced cuts to funding

### **What You Can Do**

- **Get informed** by reviewing the information, recommendations and sources of information included in the policy brief titled [Community Based Organizations Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources](#).
- **Add you voice** by sending an email to decision makers in the Winnipeg Police Service and the different levels of government. This toolkit includes sample letters and information on how to contact key decision makers.

## **WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE**

### **Write to:**

#### **Send a letter to:**

Danny Smyth  
Chief of Police  
P.O. Box 1680  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2Z7  
Email: [DSmyth@winnipeg.ca](mailto:DSmyth@winnipeg.ca)  
Salutation: Dear Chief Smyth

#### **Copy:**

Councillor Markus Chambers  
Chair, Winnipeg Police Board  
Council Building, City Hall  
510 Main Street,  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3M2  
Email: [markuschambers@winnipeg.ca](mailto:markuschambers@winnipeg.ca)  
Salutation: Dear Councillor Chambers

***Tell your representative that you support the recommendations in the [Community Based Organizations Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources policy brief](#).***

### ***Highlight some specific recommendations:***

You can choose from the following suggested recommendations. Feel free to include other recommendations that are important to you. The recommendations in **bold** are specific recommendations for the City of Winnipeg. The other recommendations are for the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Police Service and the other levels of government.

- support the reduction of police funding by policing by at least 10% for the next fiscal year and the redirection of these funds to:
  - o community building initiatives.
  - o mental health and addictions care experts trained in nonviolent crisis intervention and de-escalation.
- immediately end the practice of carding, street checks and racial profiling.
- work with community leaders and legal experts to overhaul civilian oversight and police investigation bodies.
- **immediately ban the use of knee-holds and chokeholds as a reasonable response in any situation.**
- **work with Black and Indigenous led community organizations to identify and incorporate changes to standard operating procedures to ensure the equitable treatment of all community members and enhanced police accountability.**

## CITY OF WINNIPEG

### **Send an email to:**

Mayor Brian Bowman  
Link to contact form:  
[mayor@winnipeg.ca](mailto:mayor@winnipeg.ca)  
Salutation: Dear Mayor Bowman

Your City Councillor  
Find your Councillor by going to:  
<https://cms00asa1.winnipeg.ca/index.jsp?js=y>  
Find their email address by going to:  
<https://bikewinnipeg.ca/winnipeg-mayor-city-council-contact-information/#sthash.KtYsHiH4.pp7udv8R.dpbs>  
Salutation: Dear Councillor [Insert name]

***Tell your representative that you support the recommendations in the [Community Based Organizations Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources](#) policy brief.***

### **Highlight some specific recommendations:**

You can choose from the following suggested recommendations. Feel free to include other recommendations that are important to you. The recommendations in **bold** are specific recommendations for the City of Winnipeg. The other recommendations are for the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Police Service and the other levels of government.

- support the reduction of police funding by policing by at least 10% for the next fiscal year and the redirection of these funds to:
  - o community building initiatives.
  - o mental health and addictions care experts trained in nonviolent crisis intervention and de-escalation.
- immediately end the practice of carding, street checks, and racial profiling.
- work with community leaders and legal experts to overhaul civilian oversight and police investigation bodies.
- **establish a representative community led Task Force to co-create policies to address long standing concerns about police accountability, violence, and systemic discrimination against Indigenous and Black communities.**
- **increase investments in community building programs by reinstating the funding to community programs that was cut in the 2020-2024 budget process as well as the more recent cuts that were made in response to COVID-19.**

## **PROVINCE OF MANITOBA**

### ***Send an email to:***

Honourable Brian Pallister  
Premier of Manitoba  
Email: [Premier@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:Premier@leg.gov.mb.ca)  
Salutation: Dear Premier Pallister

Your Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)  
Find your MLA by going to:  
<https://www.electionsmanitoba.ca/en/voting/MyVotingInfo>

Honourable Cameron Friesen  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Email: [minjus@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:minjus@leg.gov.mb.ca)  
Salutation: Dear Minister Friesen

***Tell your representative that you support the recommendations in the [Community Based Organizations Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources](#) policy brief.***

### ***Highlight some specific recommendations:***

You can choose from the following suggested recommendations. Feel free to include other recommendations that are important to you. The recommendations in **bold** are specific recommendations for the Province of Manitoba. The other recommendations are for the Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Police Service and the other levels of government.

- reduce funding to policing at least 10% for the next fiscal year and redirect the funds to:
  - o community building initiatives.
  - o mental health and addictions care experts trained in nonviolent crisis intervention and de-escalation.
- immediately end the practice of carding, street checks, and racial profiling.
- work with community leaders and legal experts to overhaul civilian oversight and police investigation bodies.
- **authentically engage with the broader community on changes to the Police Services Act by initiating open and transparent consultations with impacted communities.**
- **increase investments in poverty reduction and community building strategies**

## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

### *Send an email to:*

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Email: [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister Trudeau

Honourable Bill Blair  
Minister of Public Safety  
Email: [Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca)

Salutation: Dear Minister Blair

Your Member of Parliament (MP)

Find your MP by going to:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>

***Tell your representative that you support the recommendations in the [Community Based Organizations Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources policy brief](#).***

### ***Highlight some specific recommendations:***

You can choose from the following suggested recommendations. Feel free to include other recommendations that are important to you. The recommendations in **bold** are specific recommendations for the Province of Manitoba. The other recommendations are for the Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Police Service and the other levels of government.

- reduce funding to policing at least 10% for the next fiscal year and redirect the funds to:
  - o community building initiatives.
  - o mental health and addictions care experts trained in nonviolent crisis intervention and de-escalation.
- immediately end the practice of carding, street checks, racial profiling, and the use of facial recognition technology.
- work with community leaders and legal experts to overhaul civilian oversight and police investigation bodies.
- **initiate comprehensive reform of policing and justice systems in Canada, to address systemic racism. This should include a shift away from the overreliance on incarceration.**
- **implement Restorative Justice as the default system to resolving legal conflicts, based on its roots in Canadian Indigenous culture as well as in many other cultures worldwide.**

## EMAIL TEMPLATE

**Subject:** Police accountability and reallocation of resources

Dear [Insert title and name].

I am writing to express my support for the recommendations contained in [\*Community Based Organizations Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources\*](#). This policy brief has been endorsed by over 100 community-based organizations. I care about police accountability because [insert your reasons].

I urge you to take steps to reduce police funding by at least 10% and to redirect these funds to community building initiatives as well as the deployment of mental health and addictions care experts trained in nonviolent crisis intervention and de-escalation. It is essential to immediately end discriminatory and invasive practices including carding, street checks, and racial profiling. I would also like to know if you will commit to working with community leaders and legal experts to overhaul civilian oversight and police investigation bodies.

It is my hope that you will [insert additional recommendations].

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response to this appeal for action

Sincerely,

[Insert name]

[Insert full address]