

Letter of Support for NCPE from Egyptian Canadian

1 message

Sem Ponnambalam <sem [REDACTED]>

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To: Mike [REDACTED] ve Cassels
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Chief Mike Federico, President
Coalition for Canadian Police Excellence

Former Chief Dave Cassels, Former President
Coalition for Canadian Police Excellence

Dr. John Lilley, Treasurer
Coalition for Canadian Police Excellence, and former member of the Edmonton Police Commission

Dear Chief Federico, Former Chief Cassels, and Dr. Lilley,

My name is Alaaeldin Aly, and I am an Egyptian Canadian living in Windsor, Ontario. I am writing as a concerned resident to support the National Coalition for Police Excellence (NCPE). I first heard about this initiative from Sem Ponnambalam, your Senior Director of Policy, who shared it with members of our community and encouraged us to learn more.

According to the 2021 Census, more than 100,000 people in Canada reported Egyptian roots, making Egyptian the most common African origin reported in the country. Most Egyptian Canadians live in Ontario and Quebec, including communities in cities like Windsor, Toronto, and Montreal. More broadly, nearly 800,000 people in Canada identify as Arab, representing about 2.2% of the national population, and the Arab population has more than tripled since 2001. Overall, Canada's racialized population has grown to almost 9 million people, with Arab and West Asian groups among the fastest-growing communities. These numbers reflect the reality that Egyptian, Arab, and other Middle Eastern Canadians are a significant and growing part of this country's social fabric.

At the same time, Canadian research shows that people perceived as Middle Eastern are often treated differently in their interactions with police. Studies and race-based traffic-stop data from Ontario indicate that Middle Eastern drivers are stopped far more often than their share of the driving population would suggest. In Ottawa, for example, Middle Eastern

drivers have been found to be stopped roughly 3.3 times more often than expected based on their presence in the driving population, and young Middle Eastern men aged 16–24 have been stopped up to 12 times more often. Other reports show that Middle Eastern and Arab people are also overrepresented in police use-of-force statistics relative to their proportion of the population. Even though this data comes from specific cities, the message is clear for communities like mine in Windsor: how we are perceived can affect how we are policed.

For Egyptian Canadian families, these patterns create real worry. Parents talk about their sons being pulled over, questioned, or viewed with suspicion because of how they look or where their families come from. Even when nothing serious happens, those experiences leave a lasting impression and make people less likely to trust or approach police when they need help.

That is why I believe education must be at the heart of the NCPE. Policies and standards matter, but what changes day-to-day interactions is what officers learn and understand about the communities they serve. Ongoing education on anti-racism, Middle Eastern and North African histories, immigration experiences, unconscious bias, and de-escalation can help officers recognize the impact of racial profiling and avoid repeating harmful patterns. Training that incorporates race-based data on stops and use of force can also make disparities impossible to ignore and encourage officers to reflect critically on their own practices.

From my perspective, the NCPE can make a real difference if it:

- Makes this kind of education a core expectation for police across Canada—from recruit training through to ongoing professional development.
- Ensures that race-based data on stops and use of force is used directly in training, so officers see where Middle Eastern, Arab, Black, and other racialized people are affected disproportionately.
- Creates space for local communities, including Egyptian and Arab Canadians in Windsor, to help shape educational content so it reflects our real experiences and concerns.

I want my children and the young people in my community to grow up in a country where police know our cultures, understand our histories, and see us as full partners in public safety. With a strong focus on education, I believe the NCPE can help move us toward that future—not only in Windsor, but across Ontario and Canada as a whole.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the perspective of an Egyptian Canadian resident who believes in both accountability and learning. I respectfully offer this letter as my support for the NCPE and for a future where education builds trust between police and all the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Alaaeldin Aly