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August 5 2026

Ms Andrea Silverstone

Sagesse

by email: andrea@sagesse.org

Dear Andrea,

Re: The National Centre for Police Excellence

I write as a board member and founder of C-CPE to request your support. I reached out before but I know there was a problem with a corrupted file that wouldn't open. Unfortunately time passed but here I am following up.

I think we can agree that Canada's policing environment is becoming more complex, while public expectations for accountability, transparency, and community trust continue to rise. However, current evidence indicates that policing outcomes and public confidence are inconsistent across the country, highlighting the need for a more coordinated, professional approach to police preparation.

Recent national data illustrate these challenges:

- Only 30% of Indigenous peoples report a high level of confidence in police, compared to 42% of non-Indigenous Canadians (Justice Canada, 2024)
- Confidence varies significantly across communities, with some racialized groups reporting substantially lower trust in police (Statistics Canada, 2023)
- Black and Indigenous Canadians consistently report the lowest levels of confidence in policing institutions (Canadian Journal of Political Science, 2024)
- Public trust in the RCMP has declined in recent years, reflecting concerns about responsiveness and modernization (Government of Canada, 2024)
- At the same time, policing represents a significant and growing public investment. Total police operating expenditures in Canada reached approximately \$19.7 billion in 2022–2023, with per capita costs exceeding \$500 per Canadian (Statistics Canada, 2024).

Despite this investment, Canada's policing model remains fragmented, with inconsistent education and standards across jurisdictions. Research from Public Safety Canada emphasizes that improving police education is one of the most effective ways to increase efficiency and ensure better use of existing resources.

I represent the Coalition for Canadian Police Excellence (<https://c-cpr.com/>), a national, non-partisan charitable organization bringing together policing professionals, academics, community leaders, and individuals with lived experience. Our shared goal is to strengthen policing through education, professionalism, and public trust. My interest in policing stems from my experience as a police commissioner with Michael Oshry about a decade back.

A key initiative of the Coalition is the creation of a National Centre of Police Excellence (NCPE). This Centre would be a federally supported institution, responsible for researching and recommending post-secondary school curricula through collaborative work with policing stakeholders, academic institutions, and communities across Canada.

The NCPE would:

- Establish a consistent, national foundation for policing education
- Embed ethics, cultural competency, and community engagement into education
- Support career-long professional development and leadership pathways
- Serve as a national hub for research and best practices

This approach is not about replacing existing systems; it is about aligning and strengthening them. A coordinated, education-based model would help address disparities in police education and trust, while better preparing officers to meet the realities of modern policing.

From an economic perspective, reductions in avoidable incidents, legal costs, and reactive service demands, can translate into annual savings within Canada's nearly \$20 billion policing system. Improvements in police education and decision-making can help. Evidence from the United Kingdom's College of Policing and U.S. policing reforms shows that investments in standardized education and evidence-based practices are associated with reductions in use-of-force incidents, complaints, and associated legal costs (College of Policing, UK; National Institute of Justice, U.S.).

For police and communities this means more satisfaction with their interactions.

The NCPE represents a timely opportunity to bring together communities, policing professionals, and governments around a shared goal: advancing policing as a modern, trusted profession grounded in education and evidence.

I'd like to invite you to play a leadership role as a champion for this initiative, helping to advance meaningful, positive change in your community and across Canada. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work together to move this forward.

Yours sincerely,

John

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