

Letter of Support for NCPE from a Caribbean Community Member

1 message

Wed, Aug 5, 2026 at 10:17 AM

Hi Mike, Dave and John,

Pls see another letter of support for NCPE from a member of the Caribbean community in Ontario. I have Cc, Jehue on this email.

Thanks,
Sem

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,

I am writing as a concerned Jamaican Canadian and community member to express my strong support for the proposed National Coalition for Police Excellence (NCPE).

I first learned about this important project in a recent conversation with Sem Ponnambalam, Senior Director, AI, Public Policy & Advocacy (Volunteer) with the Coalition for Canadian Police Excellence. Our discussion prompted me to look more closely at what the NCPE is trying to achieve and why it matters so much for people like me and my community.

According to the 2021 Census, about 249,070 people in Canada reported Jamaican ancestry, making Jamaican Canadians one of the largest Caribbean communities in the country. Many of us live in Ontario, especially in cities like Toronto, Ottawa, and across the Greater Toronto Area, where we contribute every day to Canada's culture, economy, and civic life. More broadly, over 9.6 million Canadians identified as members of a "visible minority" group in 2021, representing more than 26% of the total population.

This means that Black, Indigenous, and other racialized communities are not at the margins of Canadian society; we are a significant and growing part of the Canadian population.

Despite this, Black communities, including Jamaican Canadians, continue to face serious inequities in the criminal justice system. Recent studies by Justice Canada and Statistics Canada show that Black people are overrepresented at every stage from initial police contact through to court and incarceration compared with their share of the overall population.

For example, Black adults represented about 6.2% of accused adults in Canadian criminal courts, even though Black people make up roughly 4% of the Canadian population. In several provinces, Black adults are incarcerated at rates multiple times higher than white adults.

These numbers reflect the reality that Black men, in particular, are disproportionately drawn into the system and often face harsher outcomes than others in similar circumstances.

As a Jamaican Canadian, these issues are personal. Many of us grow up hearing warnings about how to behave around police so we do not get into trouble, even when we are doing nothing wrong. There is a real fear that simple day-to-day situations walking home, driving, or spending time with friends, can escalate in ways they might not for others. This fear affects how safe we feel in our own neighbourhoods and how much we trust the police and the broader justice system.

That is why the NCPE matters so much to me. From what I understand, this initiative aims to raise policing education across Canada and support practices that are fair, accountable, and respectful to all communities.

For Jamaican Canadians and other BIPOC communities, this could be a powerful step toward more equitable treatment and better relationships with police.

I see several important benefits that the NCPE could bring:

- ***It can help promote consistent, high standards for policing across Canada so that everyone, regardless of where they live, can expect fair and respectful treatment.***
- ***It can encourage stronger education, training and awareness around anti-Black racism, cultural understanding, and de-escalation, which can reduce harmful encounters and build trust.***
- ***It can support better collection and use of data so that problems like racial profiling or disproportionate stops, charges, and incarceration are clearly seen and addressed, not hidden or ignored.***
- ***It can create more regular and meaningful opportunities for police to listen to community members, especially those from BIPOC communities, so that our experiences shape how policing improves.***

For Jamaican Canadians, and for many other BIPOC communities, the NCPE represents hope for a future where our children can see police officers as fair partners in keeping everyone safe; not as people to fear. It offers a chance to repair relationships and to make sure that safety, dignity, and respect are shared by all.

I am a community member who cares deeply about justice, fairness, and the safety of my family, friends, and neighbours. After learning about the NCPE from Sem Ponnambalam and taking time to reflect on it, I feel strongly that this initiative deserves support and momentum.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing the NCPE and for your commitment to improving policing in Canada. Please accept this letter as my personal endorsement of this project, and as a reflection of the hope that many Jamaican Canadians and other BIPOC community members may feel as we look for real, lasting change.

Sincerely,
Diedrick Jehue
August 05, 2026