

Anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, which exists on both individual and institutional levels, is deadly and calls for immediate action.

JUSTICE FOR BLACK AND INDIGENOUS LIVES

The status quo must be changed:

Like other institutions, policing services in North America perpetuate anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism.

**Black lives matter.
Indigenous lives matter.
Policing must change.**

The history of Canadian policing services is well-documented; police have always existed to protect settlers and their property. Police services were established in Canada in the mid 1600s to facilitate the colonization of Indigenous peoples. In the 1700s, slave patrols were introduced into their list of duties. When the RCMP (formerly known as the North West Mounted Police) was established in the 1800s, they adopted a more military approach to policing, particularly in their brutal treatment of Indigenous peoples.

Police regularly demonstrate their unchecked power to end Black and Indigenous lives rather than preserve and protect them. This makes Black and Indigenous people unsafe, as has been shown by the recent police killings of Brampton's D'Andre Campbell, Tla-o-qui-aht's Chantel Moore, Metepenagiag's Rodney Levi, Louisville's Breonna Taylor, Minneapolis' George Floyd, as well as the deaths of Toronto's Regis Korchinski-Paquet and London's Caleb Tubila Njoko.

Police reform has not worked:

We must stop the police killings of Black and Indigenous people. Calls for reform have been made before – including decades of special inquiries, task forces, commissions, reports, and laws – and have yet to produce meaningful change.

The police are not trained or equipped to be mental health professionals, social workers, medical professionals, or education workers. However, they are required to fulfill these roles. This is harmful to police and to the communities they serve.

As a collective, we are now reimagining what public safety and well-being can, and should, look like. Specific demands for change will be different from city to city, depending on the needs of each community. There is, however, a fundamental understanding that the police must be defunded.



Learn more about the #DefundThePolice movement:

The #DefundThePolice movement is rooted in fighting for freedom, liberation, justice, and protection for Black and Indigenous lives. Rather than requiring the police to perform a variety of tasks, the demands of the #DefundThePolice movement include:

- reimagining alternatives to police services, decriminalization, disarmament, and demilitarization;
- redistributing a portion of overfunded police budgets to much-needed public services in communities;
- exploring community-driven, community-led solutions to community safety and well-being; and
- overhauling the training process and ensuring public accountability for the police's remaining tasks.

Join the #DefundThePolice movement:

- Acknowledge anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and its impact on the well-being of Black and Indigenous people.
- Educate yourself.
You can start with this FAQ: ofl.ca/defund-the-police-faq, or this list of resources: ofl.ca/anti-racism-resource-list.
- Explore how your actions, or that of your organization, can create space for Black and Indigenous people.
- Donate, support, and follow community groups centred on anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism here: ofl.ca/anti-racism-resource-list.
- Sign up for OFL events on anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism: ofl.ca/signup.

Better uses for police funding include:

Police funding should be reallocated to publicly delivered health services, non-police, and community-based service interventions that fight systemic racism, serve the community, and ensure Black and Indigenous people not only survive but thrive in society. This can include boosting public investments in:

- education
- job training
- transit
- affordable housing
- health care
- mental health and addiction services
- youth services
- food services
- libraries
- infrastructure

