

BUILDING THE WORLD WE WANT

A ROADMAP TO POLICE FREE FUTURES IN CANADA

**ASSEMBLED BY ROBYN MAYNARD
GRAPHICS BY SAHRA SOUDI**



***1,000 protesters
outside city hall
Toronto calling for
abolition.***

*(Michael Charles
Cole/CBC)*

This document is a community resource for anyone interested in learning about the growing movement to end policing in Canada. It has two roles: one is to explain some of main strategies toward defunding the police and building police-free futures. The other is to map out the growing cross-country movement and to link to ongoing local organizing.

Some of this research has been published at the valuable resource www.defundthepolice.org (contributed by Robyn Maynard), and other parts have been addressed in "Police Abolition/Black Revolt" TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies, 2020"

For more info, see: www.buildingtheworldwewant.com

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**Defund - Decriminalize - Demilitarize -
Dismantle - Abolish all carceral systems**

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A large crowd of people at a protest, many wearing face masks and holding signs. Visible signs include "BLACK LIVES MATTER", "NO JUSTICE NO PEACE", "PLEASE DON'T SHOOT ME I HAVE DREAMS", "HISTORY HAS ITS EYES ON YOU", "THERE COMES A TIME WHEN I CAN'T STAY SILENT WHILE SOME DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BREATHE", "CHANGE REQUIRES INTERRUPTION", "JUSTICE FOR GEORGE FLOYD", and "BLACK LIVES MATTER MORE THAN WHITE FEELINGS".

The call toward defunding—and toward abolition—is a broad-based strategy being taken up as part of a wider struggle to end endemic anti-Black racism and anti-Indigenous racism. This movement emerges both from the current moment of Black-led multiracial protests and emerges from previous generations of Black struggle against the racial violence endemic to policing. It comes from multiple generations of Black feminists on the frontlines of grassroots struggle, Black elementary and high school students wanting to feel safe in their schools, and incarcerated people in jails, prisons, and immigration detention. It is a call to create a society based in care rather than in carceral conditions. The understanding that police need to be defunded is seeing an increase in popular support. A recent Canadian poll highlighted in the media showed that “just under one in two support or somewhat support” the call to defund police in their municipalities. We are seeing significant wins for this all across North America. The city of Seattle voted to reduce their police budget by 18%. School divisions on both sides of the border are pausing, reviewing—or cancelling entirely—the School Resource Officer (SRO) programs that facilitate the presence of police in schools. These are only a few examples of the public reckoning with the role that policing plays in our lives. We hope that this guide helps to shed light on the broader political context of creating police-free futures. And we hope it helps to draw attention to some of the brilliance of grassroots organizing—much of it led by young Black women, queer, cis, trans and GNC folks—that has brought us to this moment.

OF NOTE:

This is a living document. Every day new community initiatives are being taken up that work in some way to reduce the power of policing over our communities, new protests, and new grassroots groups are forming. This document is just a portrait of some of this powerful work.



DEFUND
DEMILITARIZE
DISARM
DISMANTLE
THE POLICE

IT'S
TIME
FOR A
CHANGE

#DefundThePolice

BLACK LIVES MATTER — TORONTO | @BLM_TO

WHAT IS THE DEFUND MOVEMENT ALL ABOUT?

In the most basic sense, the demand to #DefundThePolice is exactly what it is described to be: it is a political strategy geared toward moving funding away from police. Defunding, however, is a strategy that is part of a broader movement geared toward reimagining safety and security in our society. It is about transitioning not only funding, but power, equipment, and force away from forces of state violence and repression and committing to invest, instead, in community-centred forms of safety. It is part of a broader abolitionist vision for addressing the root causes of harm and violence in our societies instead of policing them. It is part of a movement to fund decent, long-term affordable housing, public transit, and community-led anti-violence projects rather than using mass public funds on forces whose primary role is to surveil, arrest, brutalize, incarcerate, and kill.

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In the words of the “Interrupting Criminalization” Toolkit, authored by Black feminists Andrea J. Ritchie, Mariame Kaba, and Woods Ervin: “#DefundPolice is a strategy that goes beyond dollars and cents—it is not just about decreasing police budgets, it is about reducing the power, scope, and size of police departments. It is about delegitimizing institutions of surveillance, policing and punishment, and these strategies, no matter who is deploying them, to produce safety. It is a strategy ... to advance a long term vision of abolition of police through divestment from policing as a practice, dismantling policing institutions, and building community-based responses to harm, need, and conflict that do not rely on surveillance, policing and punishment.”

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DEFEND
OUR COMMUNITIES



INTERRUPTING CRIMINALIZATION:
RESEARCH IN ACTION

M4BL

THE DEMAND IS STILL



#DEFUNDTHEPOLICE

#FundThePeople #DefendBlackLives

Lessons From 2020

WHAT IS THE DEFUND MOVEMENT ALL ABOUT?

#DefundThePolice is about more than just municipal budgets. It is not about austerity but about investing differently: reducing our society's reliance on policing, minimizing the impact of policing on our communities, increasing safety, and meeting the material needs of our communities. That means that #DefundThePolice is not a call to replace police with high-tech surveillance technology or private security, or to invest in other institutions of the state (e.g. social work, psychiatric institutions) with the power to police our communities. It is saying that we deserve to keep our lives, and we deserve to live free from surveillance and brutality at the hands of publicly-funded institutions.

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WHAT THE POLICE ACTUALLY DO, AND WHY IT DOESN'T WORK:

The movement to defund police is grounded in the reality that policing is itself a kind of violence that can be traced by to this country's history of slavery and Indigenous genocide. In Canada, the RCMP, formerly the North West Mounted Police, was explicitly created to help clear the plains of self-sufficient Indigenous communities and to entrench control over their lands and resources. The RCMP have also played a role in suppressing labour movements including the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike. Law enforcement policing of Black men and women has been endemic in cities across Canada since the 19th century and draws its lineage from the surveillance of enslaved Black people who ran away from conditions of bondage. In Vancouver, Montreal, Halifax, Toronto, Edmonton and Lethbridge, the police have been found to stop Black and Indigenous people at vastly disproportionate rates. In Vancouver, Montreal, Halifax, Toronto, Edmonton, Lethbridge, the police have been found to stop Black and Indigenous people at vastly disproportionate rates. The Ontario Human Rights Commission has found that Black communities in Toronto are 20 times more likely to be killed by police than white Toronto residents and face disproportionate rates of arrest and charges. A CBC study uncovered that over 70% of people killed by police in the last 20 years had mental health or substance use issues at the time of their death.



DON'T POLICE SPEND MOST OF THEIR JOB PROTECTING US FROM DANGER?

A Statistics Canada report estimated that up to 80% of police responses to calls were related to issues of mental health, drug overdose, suicide, or domestic dispute/domestic violence. All of these are issues that police only serve to make worse. Further, punishing acts of violence does not prevent violence.

The Toronto Police Services (TPS) budget is over \$1.1 billion dollars, which is more than public funding allotted to libraries, housing, shelters combined. We believe that Black communities, and all communities, deserve better. We are working toward the abolition of the police and toward a society where we can all be safe. While this is focused on law enforcement, we are also calling to defund jails, prisons, immigration detention centres, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), and the Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA). We are calling for a reinvestment into Black, Indigenous, racialized, impoverished, & other targeted communities.

BLACK LIVES MATTER — TORONTO | @BLM_TO



WHAT ABOUT POLICE OVERSIGHT?

Police oversight units in Canada were designed to protect police, not communities. While oversight units are described as “civilian oversight”, out of 167 members involved in police investigation units across Canada, 111 are former police officers. Police oversight bodies in Alberta have been criticized for their lack of independence, an audit of police oversight in British Columbia found that nearly half of excess force allegations “were “not properly investigated.” Quebec’s oversight body, created in 2016, laid zero charges as of 2019, and in Ontario, a 2018 CBC report on police killings found that in 17 years, only one officer was found guilty in the death of a civilian in Ontario. Even the extremely rare instance that an officer who kills is convicted, this does little for community healing, and less to prevent future police killings - which have nearly doubled over the past 20 years. When policing and punishment are the source of injustice, we cannot rely on these systems to hold themselves accountable. Preventative and restorative models for accountability—including consequences for officers who have killed, such as losing their jobs and access to positions of power—have been modelled in Chicago by the Movement for Black Lives “Reparations Toolkit.”

WHY NOT BODY CAMS?

Body cameras do not prevent police violence. This is demonstrated by multiple peer-reviewed studies. A 2019 study published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America and a 2019 journal article concluded that body-worn cameras had “statistically insignificant” effects on police officers’ behaviour. A Yale Law Review study suggests that body cameras may even make the likelihood of use of fatal force by police worse as officers believe they are doing nothing wrong.



WHY NOT MORE “DIVERSE” OFFICERS?

Hiring more BIPOC officers has been proposed for decades. Today, we have Black heads of police in Toronto and Ottawa, and Black people continue to be disproportionately stopped, arrested, charged and killed.

OUR COMMUNITIES DESERVE BETTER THAN SMALL-SCALE REFORMS:

Some of these reforms were fought for by our communities in the past only to be defanged and co-opted into initiatives that would maintain the status quo. This was not a failure on the part of our communities, who took enormous risks to try to build a world in which Black people—and all people—could be safe. But it does show us that “police reform” cannot get to the heart of the crisis, that we need a more transformative shift. Police killings have doubled over the last twenty years. The failure of all of these reforms—their absolute inability to keep our communities safe—have led communities to insist that we need to demand something more transformative. Safety requires economic transformation, divestment from policing and carceral institutions, and real investment in meeting peoples’ needs.

STRATEGIES TOWARD DEFUNDING THE POLICE

(THIS SECTION IS INDEBTED TO THE “INTERRUPTING
CRIMINALIZATION” DEFUND POLICE TOOLKIT)



IMAGE: @JUSTINE.GRAPE

STRATEGIES TOWARD DEFUNDING THE POLICE

Across the country, from Montreal to Hamilton to Vancouver, organizers are calling on their municipalities to slash police budgets and redirect them toward community-led initiatives. At this time, municipal tax dollars—the public subsidies that fund police budgets—are often exponentially higher than the public funds afforded to community housing, shelters, parks, and libraries. At the very least, a reallocation of municipal and federal funding for policing could be better spent by investing in drastically underfunded social supports.

DEFUNDING IS
NOT ONLY
ABOUT
MINIMIZING
PRESENCE OF
POLICE —it is
about increasing
safety for all of
our community
members.



THERE IS A REASON IT IS COUPLED WITH REINVESTING

Police defunding is about seriously and genuinely committing ourselves to safety in our communities, about funding alternatives and community supports that are not rooted in the surveillance and punishment of our communities. As Mariame Kaba wrote in the New York Times, it is “not (about) abandoning our communities to violence,” but about working to end all violence, including police violence, by redressing racial and economic inequalities instead of policing them.

CREATE ALTERNATIVES

18. Create Crisis Intervention and Mad co-lead support teams; work with communities to develop models that work for them.

19. Create police-free, community-led, trauma-informed **emergency service for mental health/psychiatric distress** and other forms of crisis.

20. Invest in community support for **shelters, drop-ins, after-school programming** in low-income, Black, and Indigenous neighborhoods.

BLACK LIVES MATTER — TORONTO | @BLM_TO



REDUCING THE SCOPE OF POLICE EXPLAINED

This strategy is geared toward reducing the presence of police—with the goal of removing it entirely—from the places that they are the most harmful. This includes decoupling police from schools, from mental health response, and from immigration procedures.

- ☒ 2016 COPS OUT OF PRIDE
- ☒ 2018 COPS OUT OF TDSB
- ☐ 2020 TORONTO POLICE 50% DEFUNDED, DISARMED, DEMILITARIZED
- ☐ 2022 TORONTO POLICE DISMANTLED

IT'S POSSIBLE.
defundthepolice.org

BLACK LIVES MATTER — TORONTO | @BLM_TO

DECOUPLING POLICE FROM SCHOOLS

Currently, police are present in schools in every province across Canada, backed by million dollar budgets. However, a motion was just passed to successfully see the removal of police from schools in Hamilton, and the SRO program was put on pause—pending review—in the Waterloo region. After organizing efforts in Vancouver, their SRO program is now under review, and work by Black Lives Matter (BLM)-Edmonton has led to a review of the city's SRO program. This work helps to minimize the presence and subsequent harm of policing. There are many successful models for this in Canada, and some major wins! Work undertaken by the Latinx, Afro-Latin-America, Abya Yala Education Network (LAEN), Education Not Incarceration, and BLM-TO has seen the successful removal of SROs from schools. A study on the 2017-2018 school year, after the removal of the SRO program from the Toronto District School Board, found that suspensions dropped by 24% and expulsions by 53%. More recently, after suspending the SRO program in July, the Peel Regional Police announced in November 2020 that they will permanently dissolve the SRO program. While districts across the country currently spend millions of dollars each year on policing children in underfunded schools, these funds could be used for much-needed student supports for Black and other racialized children.



DECOUPLING POLICE FROM PRIDE

In 2016, Black Lives Matter-Toronto interrupted the Toronto Pride Parade and successfully demanded the removal the police from pride and re-invest in under-funded Black, South Asian, and other LGBTQ+ stages.



DECOUPLING POLICE FROM IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

Across Canada, police officers call immigration enforcement over 10,000 times every year: this puts undocumented residents, especially Black undocumented residents, at risk of deportation and indefinite detention. Work to create “Sanctuary Cities” by Solidarity Across Borders and No One Is Illegal have helped to decouple CBSA presence from women’s shelters and schools, work that has helped to minimize the immigration policing of our community members. Decoupling police from immigration controls would keep our community members even safer.

Police officers across Canada call immigration enforcement more than 10,000 times every year.

These calls are **racial profiling** where police “call to verify the immigration status of a subject because they have a **suspicion** that a subject **may not** have legal status in Canada.” As a result, many migrants, particularly Black migrants are ripped apart from their communities and deported.



DEFUND THE POLICE | BLACK LIVES MATTER

IMAGE: MIGRANTRIGHTS.CA

DECOUPLING POLICE FROM MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE

The policing of mental health itself is a public health crisis: the deaths of D'Andre Campbell, Regis Korchinski-Paquet, Ejhaz Chowdery Abdirahman Abdi, Andrew Loku, and so many more. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Canada's largest mental health teaching hospital, has recently called to divorce police response to mental health crisis. Activists across the country are demanding crisis intervention, mad co-led support teams, and other non-police alternative responses to mental-health crises.



IMAGE: ANILN SINGH

DECOUPLING POLICE FROM OVERDOSE/AMBULANCE RESPONSE

In this moment, people are dying of drug overdoses in record numbers. Drug user and harm reduction groups have advocated for years to end the practice of sending police to overdose calls. A study in Ontario found that the primary barrier to calling emergency assistance in overdose situations was fear of police presence and fear of criminal charges. Some jurisdictions in the United States have successfully decoupled police from overdose response. Removing police from overdose and ambulance related calls would mean our communities would feel safer in accessing life-saving health services.



REDUCING THE POWER OF POLICE

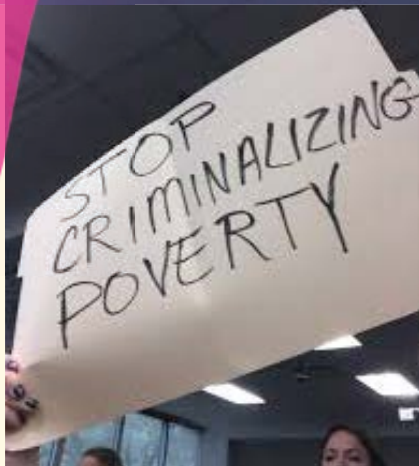
Reducing the power of police over Black, Indigenous, and other impacted communities asks us to look at the assortment of laws that criminalize people's survival. This includes the decriminalization of poverty and decriminalizing survival.

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END THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY

Policing criminalizes poverty. Because poverty is systemically racialized, Black and Indigenous people are vastly overrepresented in homeless populations across Canada. It has long been recognized that criminalization of poor people's lives vis-à-vis bylaw infractions is a human rights abuse and does nothing to solve the issue of poverty, homelessness, or massive exclusion of Black and Indigenous communities from decently paid and/or unionized work. As Pivot Legal Society wrote in a challenge to bylaws criminalizing homelessness in Vancouver, "these bylaws and the fines associated with them criminalize poverty and push homeless people into dark corners of the City where they are at greater risk of assault and exposure." Instead, we need to dismantle and overturn ordinances that criminalize people in public space and especially those that criminalize poverty: loitering, fare evasion, sleeping in public, public urination, public intoxication, solicitation (squeegeeing, panhandling).



DECRIMINALIZE DRUGS RETROACTIVELY, EXPUNGE PEOPLES RECORDS.

Drug laws have disproportionately impacted Black communities for decades and are an important part of how Black people are surveilled, arrested, and charged by police officers. International public health bodies have highlighted the connection between the criminalization of drugs and the transmission of HIV and hepatitis C, and that the criminalization and policing of drugs is related to increased fatal overdoses. There are non-police approaches to drug use in society that are widely supported by evidence around the world including safe injection/inhalation sites, safe supply, and non-coercive, voluntary addiction counseling and treatment.



IMAGE: GEORGE WYLESOL

DECRIMINALIZE SEX WORK

In Canada, sex work is criminalized, and the enforcement of bylaws impacts migrant sex workers most intensively. They also have a disproportionate impact on people living in poverty. Black and Indigenous sex workers, especially cis and trans women, have long borne the brunt of police surveillance and enforcement around sex work and related laws and bylaws. In areas where sex work is decriminalized—like New Zealand—sex workers experience significantly less violence and report an increased ability to practice safer sex.



REDUCE THE VIOLENT EQUIPMENT AND MILITARIZATION OF POLICE

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In Halifax, after massive support for defunding the police, city councillors voted to cancel the purchase of an armoured vehicle set to cost over \$300,000. As research by Kevin Walby and Brendan Rozier found, SWAT team funding has increased 2000% over the last four decades, with especially high and routine use in Winnipeg, a city where Indigenous communities are routinely abused by police. Police militarization has also been used as a tool of violence against Black communities. The use of tactical squads with Project Traveller has led to the abuse of Somali elders in Toronto, while a 47-year old Haitian man, Bony Jean-Pierre, was killed by a tactical squad over a small-scale drug raid in Montreal. Calls to disarm and demilitarize the police and reduce the violent weapons available to law enforcement, coupled with support for existing and new forms of community-based anti-violence projects, keep our communities much safer.



POLICE DEFUNDING & DECOLONIZATION

The abolition of police can be understood as a decolonial practice, as part of a broader strategy of land restitution and liberation for Indigenous communities. Police have continually refused to protect Indigenous people from the violence of settlers, from the killing of Colten Boushie to the violent destruction of the Mi'kmaw lobster fisheries. In the words of Emily Riddle, making "The (First Nation) Case for Abolition":

"policing was established on this continent in part to aid in the theft of our territories, later upholding laws that criminalized our ceremonies and stole our children. We also know that Indigenous people are overpoliced and disproportionately represented in prisons in this country, and on the Prairies in particular. Police will not help us address the crisis of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls; they contribute to this violence. They invade our sovereign territories to ensure pipelines are built. To me, the case for abolition is clear."

POLICE DEFUNDING & DECOLONIZATION

In 2013, a Human Rights Watch report on the RCMP in northern British Columbia outlined egregious physical and sexual assaults by RCMP officers against Indigenous women and girls. In the words of Pam Palmater, “The only way we are ever going to stop RCMP racism and brutality against Indigenous peoples is to declassify, deconstruct and defund the institution itself.” Just like defunding the police is only one step toward abolition, it is only one part of decolonization. It does not stand in for the need for land return, like the struggles we are seeing at 1492 LandBack Lane, where land defenders were arrested in large numbers over the summer.



DEFUND POLICE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

There is a growing recognition that policing is, itself, a threat not only to public safety but a major threat to public health. In the USA, voting representatives of the American Public Health Association—made up of 25,000 public health professionals—have adopted a policy statement that clearly identifies the violence of policing itself as a public health issue. It advocates instead for decriminalization measures, divestment from law enforcement, and alternatives to policing. This statement, “Advancing Public Health Interventions to Address the Harms of the Carceral System”, was adopted on October 24, 2020. This historic statement came out following the “Addressing Law Enforcement Violence as a Public Health Issue” statement was passed in 2018. We’ve seen a groundswell of support across Canada, including the statement “Nurses for Police and Prison Abolition” and this open letter signed by nearly 400 healthcare and social service providers demanding to defund police by 50%.

WHAT IS NOT IN THE SPIRIT OF DEFUNDING?

WHAT ARE SOME PITFALLS TO AVOID?



Because of this groundswell of support, the concept of defunding, while gaining popularity, is also being diluted and divorced from its broader political goals, making defunding only a fiscal policy.


This disguises the broader critique of policing. Misuse of the term includes commentators arguing that defunding the police means replacing police with smart surveillance technology or police themselves deciding what defunding means. For example, the Halifax police forwarded a motion to adopt a definition for defunding the police that “supports a role for policing” and that includes “police performing policing functions.” These actions are not in the spirit of defunding.

AS WE WORK TO ENVISION POLICE-FREE FUTURES

Here are some pitfalls to consider as we try to envision a world without policing: (these words are from the “Interrupting Criminalization “#DefundThePolice” document by Ritchie, Kaba and Ervin p. 19)

- * Do we want money to move from police to public housing (which is often heavily policed - by law enforcement AND by public housing authorities) or to community- based quality, affordable, and long-term housing without long waiting lists?*
- * Do we want money to move from police to hospitals and mental health providers who incarcerate disabled people or to community-based, voluntary harm-reduction focused community mental health providers?*
- * Are community-based violence interruption programs, drug treatment, or youth engagement programs tied to police or prosecutors who serve as a “stick” to gain compliance, or are they rooted in deepening relationships and resources in our communities?*
- * Do our community based organizations have the capacity to meet community needs? To apply for and receive city or county funding? What can we be doing to increase our capacity and get rid of red tape and burdensome requirements for government funding? How can we ensure that it is not used as a tool to infuse surveillance and policing into our community organizing work?*

DEFUNDING AS WORLDBUILDING DEFUND TO ABOLISH



DEFUNDING is part of a broader political vision that is rooted in reimagining public safety and acknowledging that policing is a source of harm for Black communities, for Indigenous communities, and for an assortment of other abandoned and disenfranchised people: people without stable housing, people living with mental health issues, sex workers, drug users. It cannot be understood separately from changing an economic system that relegates so many of our communities to acute poverty

DEFUNDING AS WORLDBUILDING

DEFUND TO ABOLISH

DEFUNDING is a shorthand for a broader vision based on ending police violence by diminishing —with the goal of eliminating entirely— the power that police have over our communities and the access that they have to our communities. It is a strategy. It is also part of a broader struggle toward abolitionist futures and building the world we want.

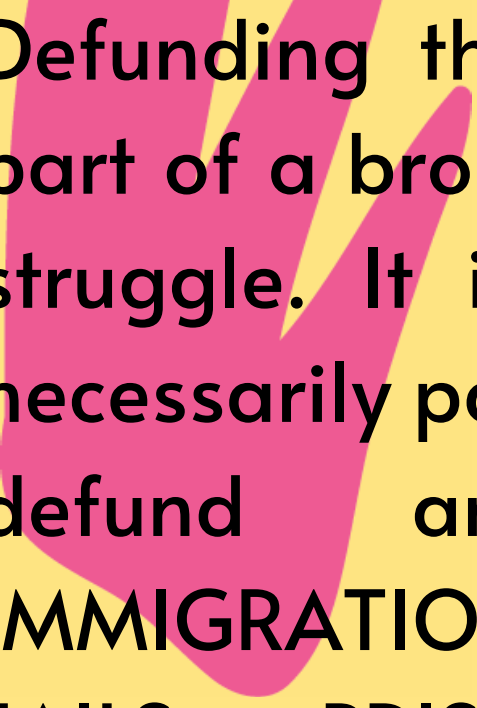


DEFUND

DECRIMINALIZE

DISMANTLE

**ABOLISH ALL
CARCERAL
SYSTEMS**



Defunding the police is one part of a broader abolitionist struggle. It is RELATED and necessarily part of the work to defund and dismantle IMMIGRATION DETENTION, JAILS, PRISONS, FORCED PSYCHIATRIZATION, CBSA, and CSIS.

DEFUNDING AS WORLDBUILDING

DEFUND TO ABOLISH

In the words of Black federally incarcerated prisoners, as told to El Jones, published in the Halifax Examiner, “We join the calls to defund the police, and we also say it is time to defund the prison. Canadians should ask themselves why so many Black and Indigenous people are incarcerated. You should ask yourselves why your money is going to a system that doesn’t work to solve crime. You should ask why a prison is being built in your community and whether it will actually make your life better.”

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BARRIERS TO CHANGE:

POLICE UNIONS AND POLICE FOUNDATIONS

Police unions are different from other unions in that they do not protect the interests of workers in the same way. They serve instead to extend and expand police budgets and police militarization. Police unions work to undermine even minor progressive shifts, including those toward increased oversight, and so are a major barrier toward police defunding.

Across North America, police unions often seek to influence public policy and “act as political interest groups, seeking to influence elections by endorsing ‘law-and-order’ candidates and opposing candidates that support higher levels of civilian oversight,” according to a 2020 peer-reviewed publication by Mark P. Thomas and Stephen Tufts.

BARRIERS TO CHANGE

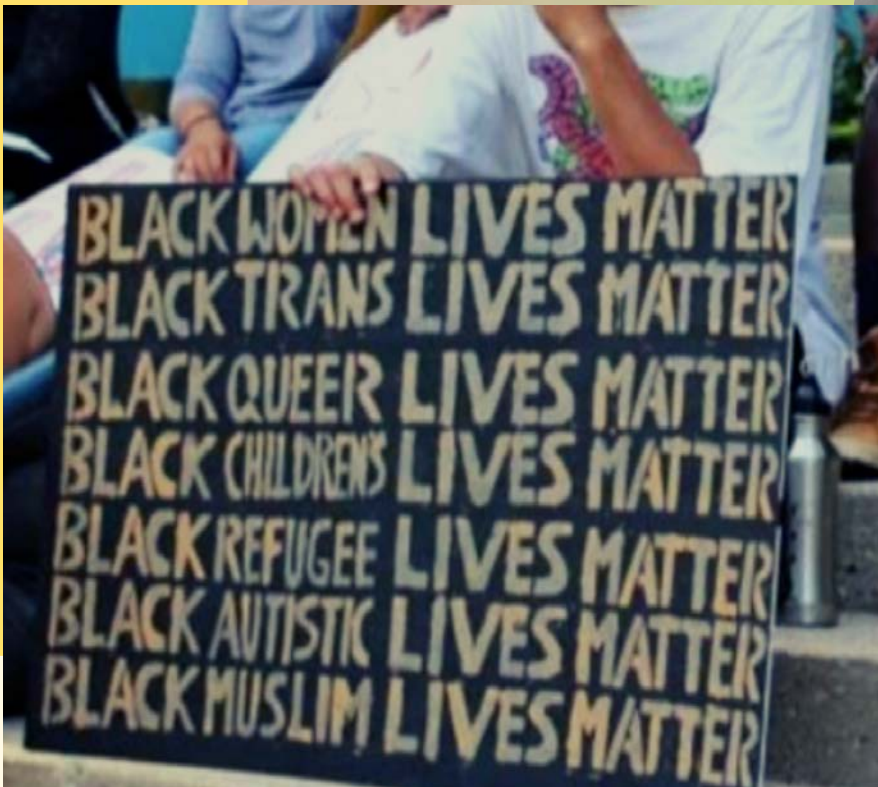
POLICE UNIONS AND POLICE FOUNDATIONS

In the words of investigative reporter Chelsea Nash: “In 2000, the Toronto Police Association (TPA) launched a highly criticized fundraising campaign (Operation True Blue) in order to raise money in part for the purpose of targeting political opponents. Targets included several members of the Toronto police services board who had been critical of the force, and then-deputy police chief Robert Kerr, all of whom were supportive of increased civilian oversight of Toronto police. Those members and Kerr publicly admitted they were afraid of Craig Bromell, the TPA president at the time, while Toronto city councillors said they were afraid to speak out against the union for fear the union would attack them in the next election”

One major and helpful call has been for labour unions to disaffiliate from police unions, as seen in some US cities. Another major barrier in democratic control over police itself is the increasing role of police foundations because they are relying on private rather than public funding. Investigative reporting by Martin Lukacs and Tim Groves found that the Vancouver Police Foundation—funded by LNG Canada, Royal Bank of Canada, and real estate companies—has given the Vancouver Police Department over \$3 million over the last five years, which has paid for a patrol boat, night-vision binoculars, and a drone program.

CROSS-CANADA WORK TO DEFUND POLICE

Here is a sample of defunding work happening across Canada right now. Note that these are all examples of local project working independently to #DefundThePolice, with links to their efforts, they are not being organized by the author of this text or by BLM-TO.



DEFUND POLICE IN KITCHENER-WATERLOO

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WWW.BLMWR.CA

DEFUND POLICE IN KITCHENER-WATERLOO

POLICE VIOLENCE DOES HAPPEN HERE:

The Waterloo Region is not exempt from police mistreatment and violence towards poor, Black, and racialized people. In this region, people of African, Caribbean, and/or Black descent only make up 2-3% of the population. However, a study from 2016 showed that Black people were disproportionately carded or stopped by the WRPS at four times their share of the regional population. Street checks and carding are not only ineffective, they are also racist. When asked why this happens in Waterloo Region, Police Chief Bryan Larkin said he did not have a “definite answer.” This is willfully ignorant of how anti-Black racism runs deep within Larkin’s own ranks.

BLMWR.ca

Indigenous Women and Black Women are underprotected by the police because we aren’t seen as the ‘right’ (i.e. white) kind of victim.



#EndGenderedPoliceViolence



BLMWR.ca

Police shooting deaths in Canada, by race or heritage

Indigenous and Black Canadians are significantly overrepresented among the 100 most recent deaths due to police shootings in Canada, according to a CTV News analysis.



CTV News was unable to determine the race or heritage of the person killed in 34 of the 100 shootings studied. Per cent out of those identified

Source: CTV News analysis

CTV NEWS

CTV News Analysis, June 2020

#EndGenderedPoliceViolence



DEFUND POLICE IN EDMONTON

TAKE ACTION

Now is the time to shift our focus and tax dollars from policing and surveillance to community-led initiatives that nourish our communities, now is the time to redirect our funds to generative solutions. Please use the letters linked below to support us and our initiatives.

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Take action now to stop City Council from increasing the EPS budget.

The Edmonton Police Service is asking Edmonton city council to increase their budget by \$10.8 million. The Edmonton City Council will begin debating this tomorrow (Friday, December 11th at 9:30AM.) This will undo the actions taken by City Council this past summer. Send a letter to your city councillor encouraging them to invest in community and divest from policing.

SEND
LETTER
NOW

DONATE

WWW.BLMYEG.CA

DEFUND POLICE IN CALGARY:

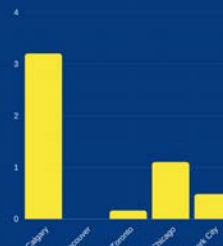
MORE INFO ON DEFUND CPS

#DEFUNDCPS

This is not just an
American problem.

Did you know that Calgary police officers shot and killed more people in 2018 than any other city in Canada? Alarming, this was also more than in either Chicago or New York, the two largest police departments in the US.

Fatal police shootings in 2018 per 1,000,000 population



Source: CBC documentary Above the Law



We are asking The City of Calgary **#DefundCPS** and reallocate a percentage of that funding to social services.

We also ask The City of Calgary put out a request for proposals from the BIPOC community for culturally specific social services that can address the root causes of crime related to homelessness, mental health and poverty.

You can help make Calgary safer for not just the BIPOC community, but all Calgarians who've experienced police brutality.

Watch & share the Above the Law documentary with the hashtag **#DefundCPS** to spread the word so that the defunding movement in Calgary is unignorable.

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DEFUND POLICE IN WHITEHORSE/YUKON:

“NORTHERN VOICES RISING” :
BLACK & INDIGENOUS ORGANIZING

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DEFUND POLICE IN MONTREAL

COALITION TO DEFUND THE POLICE
community groups working toward
defunding the police in Montreal.

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10 Demands



DEFUND

1. Immediately cut at least 50 percent from the \$665 million SPVM budget and redirect these funds to the programs and services, managed by and for affected communities, listed below.

DISARM AND DEMILITARIZE

2. Withdraw all weapons from police officers, including tasers, batons, firearms, rubber bullets, tear gas, pepper spray, and sound canons; disband militarized police units, including SWAT teams and other units using military grade weapons and surveillance equipment.



DECOLONIZE

3. Invest in Indigenous models of justice and empower Indigenous communities to address all harms committed by Indigenous people through these models; empower other oppressed communities, especially Black communities, to develop and run similar approaches to justice.

REINVEST

4. Invest in programs created and run by communities to prevent harm (including harms related to violence, mental illness, and drug use) and support transformative justice; empower communities to develop and manage programs that work for them, with the understanding that communities are not monolithic, experience multiple intersecting axes of oppression, and require leadership and programs that integrate and utilize an intersectional approach (e.g., LGBTQ2S, disability, sex work, drug use).

5. Create and fund unarmed service teams outside the police to address mental health and drug related crises, traffic violations, gender-based violence, juvenile "summary" offenses, and missing persons cases.



6. Invest in programs and services, including youth programs, recreation programs, and social housing, in presently criminalized communities; empower communities to develop and manage programs that work for them.

DECRIMINALIZE



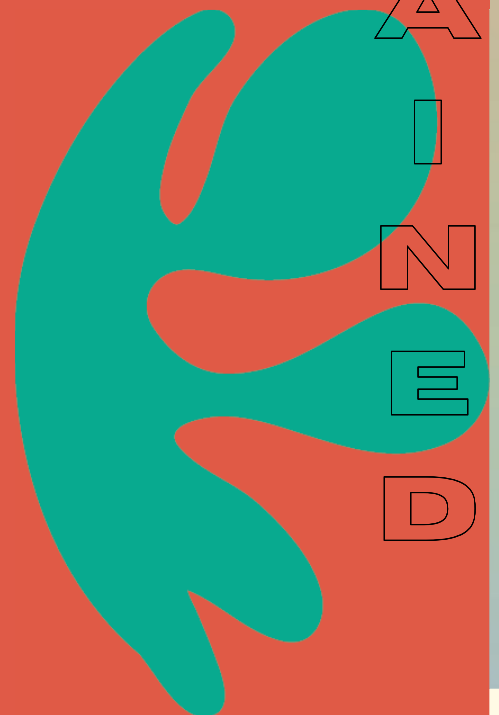
7. Decriminalize all drugs, sex work, and HIV status; eliminate the SPVM drug squad, morality squad, Eclipse squad and all other units targeting marginalized communities, as well as all proactive surveillance programs, and release and expunge criminal records for drug and sex work charges.

8. Eliminate social control bylaws related to "incivilities," and release and expunge all records related to these bylaws (including unpaid bylaw fines), including surveillance and enforcement in public transit.

9. Permanently withdraw police from schools and sports programs, and cease police patrols of public parks, community events, and other spaces in which youth congregate.

10. End the criminalization and surveillance of migration by eliminating all collaboration between the police and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) agents and any other form of involvement of the SPVM in immigration matters.

WWW.DEFUNDTHESPVM.COM



DEFUND POLICE IN VANCOUVER

POLICE-FREE SCHOOLS IN VANCOUVER

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CALL TO ACTION!



The termination and removal of the SLO program in Schools is in the best interest of keeping all students safe, but ESPECIALLY Black & indigenous Youth. They need your help NOW!

COPS OUT OF SCHOOLS

BHM ACTION #1 : EMAIL BUZZ!



Fill out the email template to send to VSB trustees

<See next slide for how>



HOW TO DO IT

- 1) click our link in bio
- 2) Select 'BHM Trustee Email Buzz'
- 3) This link will take you to a pre-populated template on your iPhone, android, or computer
- 4) Feel free to customize the email with your own words and Subject line to avoid those pesky Spam filters and get your thoughts across
- 5) if you receive a response from a trustee follow up with them and hold them accountable!

COPS OUT OF SCHOOLS

The VSB know you want SLO'S GONE, AND the active Silencing of Black & indigenous community members throughout this entire review process will not be tolerated!

LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD!



COPS OUT OF SCHOOLS

#COPSOUTOFSCHOOLS

DEFUND POLICE IN TORONTO

BLACK LIVES MATTER - TORONTO
@blm_to

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WWW.BLACKLIVESMATTERTORONTO.CA

DEFUND POLICE IN TORONTO

NOT ANOTHER BLACK LIFE

[@notanotherblacklife](#)

FOR FULL LIST OF DEMANDS LINK IN BIO!



We encourage you to read more about abolition
& why we're considering defunding the police to begin with!

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DEFUND POLICE IN TORONTO

NO PRIDE IN POLICING



**DEFUND & ABOLISH
ALL POLICE**

NO PRIDE IN POLICING COALITION

STATEMENT OF DEMANDS



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DEFUND POLICE IN HAMILTON

DEFUND HPS



HOT TOPICS

SEARCH Q



Students celebrated outside the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board meeting on June 22 when a program to match police officers with schools was cancelled. (Image credit: @HWDSBKids/Twitter)

Hamilton kids celebrate no more police in their schools

CBC Kids News - Published July 9, 2020



Defund Hamilton Police

[About](#) [Demands](#) [Media](#) [Donations](#)

About

Policing isn't just an American issue. Here in Hamilton alone we've seen the deaths of many at the hands of the Hamilton Police Services. In 2007 a Cambodian refugee, Soun Saing, living in Hamilton was shot and killed by HPS. In 2011 Andreas Chinnery was shot and killed by HPS who was alone in his apartment experiencing a mental health crisis. In 2012, Phonesay Chanthachack was shot and killed by HPS. In 2013, Chevranna Abdi, a black trans woman, was killed by HPS by being dragged down 7 flights of stairs, face-down. In 2013 Steve Mesic was killed outside of his house by HPS after he left hospital in crisis and was trying to return home. In 2016, Anthony Divers was shot and killed by HPS during a mental health crisis. There are many more people who have been harmed or killed by police that aren't as well documented.



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DEFUND POLICE IN OTTAWA

CRIMINALIZATION AND PUNISHMENT
EDUCATION PROJECT (CPEP)

@cpepgroup

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DEMAND
DEFUNDING OF
OTTAWA POLICE

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- MAKE YOUR **#DEFUNDPOLICE** SIGN
- TAKE A PICTURE WITH YOUR MESSAGE
- SEND TO **CPEP.DEFUNDTHEPOLICE@GMAIL.COM**
- POST THE PICTURE TO SOCIAL MEDIA TAG **@CPEPGROUP**
- **CPEP WILL POST PICTURES TO SOCIAL MEDIA LEADING UP THE THE NOV 4TH POLICE BUDGET MEETING**

Dec 2020

Political Statement

By the Canvassing to #DefundOPS Team

CPEP

Criminalization
and Punishment
Education Project



#DEFUNDOPS
CAMPAIGN

DEFUND POLICE IN OTTAWA

**OTTAWA BLACK DIASPORA
COALITION**

[@ottawablackdiasporacoalition](https://www.instagram.com/ottawablackdiasporacoalition)

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Ottawa Black Diaspora Coalition

LIST OF DEMANDS

RE: Excessive Force on December 27, 2020 against
7 Black Men at St. Laurent Shopping Centre

-  Erase Contact Records
-  Release names of OPS officers involved
-  Release original 9-1-1 call transcript
-  Written Public Apology
-  Full review of de-escalation tactics
-  File use of force report
-  Remove "thin blue line" on all uniforms
-  Release names of Garda Personnel involved
-  Remove Mall Ban
-  Release Video footage

Rally for a People's Budget

December 9th
9:00 AM EST

Marion Dewar Plaza
(110 Laurier Avenue W)



DEFUND POLICE IN WINNIPEG

PETITION: CALL FOR ACTION: DEFUND THE WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

Call for Action: Defund the Winnipeg Police Service



Defund the Winnipeg Police started this petition to Mayor Brian Bowman and Winnipeg City Council

This petition has been created by concerned citizens to express outrage and opposition to the funding of the Winnipeg Police Service.

46,022 have signed. Let's get to 50,000!



Ryan Lien signed 6 hours ago

Mariant Torres signed 1 day ago

Robyn Maynard Montreal, Canada

I'm signing because... (optional)

☐ Please share my name and email address with Defund the Winnipeg Police, so that I can receive updates on this campaign and others.

☒ Display my name and comment on this petition

Sign this petition

POLICE-FREE SCHOOLS WINNIPEG

Police-Free

Schools

WPG

A group of teachers, parents, students, and community members for healthy, equitable, and police-free Winnipeg schools

... I've witnessed **students (refugees) who broke into tears**, shaking, by the presence of police in uniform due to traumatic experiences in their former countries.



Teacher



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OTHER STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF DEFUNDING

Canada Union of Postal Workers: Statement on Defunding the Police

**No Pride in Policing Coalition:
Defund, Disarm, Demilitarize, Abolish Police! A Public call for
Immediate Action**

**CUPE 3906 Executive Statement on Anti-Black Racism and
Policing**

**Amnesty International: "Canada: Hold police accountable for
anti-Black racism"**

Nurses for Police and Prison Abolition

**The OCAD Faculty Association (OCADFA)
Statement in Solidarity With Black Lives Matter**

**Over 1250 scholars and lawyers call on the Canadian government
to #DefundThePolice**

**Health Providers Against Poverty: Nearly 400 Healthcare and
Social Service Providers Sign Open Letter Demanding Toronto
City Council Defund Police by 50%**

Scholars and Lawyers Call on Government to Defund Police

**Mining Injustice Solidarity Network: Defund, Dismantle,
Demilitarize the Police!**

**Friends of Chinatown TO supports calls to defund the Toronto
Police Service**

OTHER STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF DEFUNDING

Vancouver Pride Society: Black Lives Matter

Criminalization and Punishment Education Project (CPEP)
Demands City Hall Defund Ottawa Police Services and Plans
Upcoming Community Forum on Alternatives to Policing

Indigenous Activist Collective:

CUPE 3903 Statement of Solidarity Against Anti-Black Racism

Sexual Assault Voices of Edmonton (SAVE): Sexual Assault Voices
of Edmonton: Call to Defund the Police in Solidarity with Black
Lives Matter

Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP): Supporting Black &
Indigenous People & De-funding Police

Doctor's for Defunding Police: "Policing is a public health crisis"

Indigenous Climate Action: Black Lives Matter: ICA Statement of
Solidarity and Support

Durham Black Accountability Coalition: Divest Durham Regional
Police Services and Reinvest in Communities Instead

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH): CAMH
Statement on Police Interactions with People in Mental Health
Crisis:

Statement: OFL and CBTU call for defunding of the police and
redirection of funds to community services:

Greenpeace: Call to Action

OTHER RESOURCES

LEARN MORE

[Defund.ca](https://defund.ca)

[DefundThePolice.Org](https://defundthepolice.org)

[“Interrupting Criminalization”
Defunding Toolkit by Andrea J.
Ritchie, Mariame Kaba and
Woods Ervin](#)

[Abolish The Police: The Financial
Cost Of Law Enforcement In
Prairie Cities by Emily Riddle](#)

[Reformist vs. Abolitionist steps in
Policing, by CriticalResistance](#)

[Black Lives Matter in Prison, Too
by El Jones](#)