

My name is Ethan Sabourin and I am a resident of Ottawa (in River Ward), though I went to a small religious private school as a child. There, the presence of police was extremely rare, and I never had to have the intimidating and sometimes outright violent interactions with police that many students, especially Black, Indigenous, LGBTQ, low-income, racialized, and other marginalized students, experienced at schools with SROs present. While I have read many stories and testimonies about the harm that police do in schools, the Asilu report showed me how close-to-home these harms truly are.

I strongly encourage the Board to cut off its relationship with the police, starting with ending the SRO program.

Thank you,

Ethan Sabourin