

My name is Lili Miller. I am Wolastoqew of Negotkuk.

You all **now know** there is tremendous racism in law enforcement and let's not be naïve- that means the Ottawa Police too.

Black, Indigenous and people of colour have always known, but we rarely speak of it. Now you know, the children know it and the parents know it. Until the police fix their systemic racism problem, they must NOT interact with our children.

I am calling for the SRO program to end.

I am calling for the full time employment of police in the OCDSB high schools to end.

I am calling for police presence as a behavior tool, to end.

The modus operandi of the police is - intimidation. Does the OCDSB believe that intimidation is really what the children and teens need? You know that they need "a culture of caring" (please refer to OCDSB Strategic Goals). They need professionals in de-escalation, conflict management, mental health counselling for children and youth. **Any and all monies earmarked for Ottawa police, need to be directed to these services.** These professionals would serve a great number of students, many of whom are struggling with mental health issues which, as you know, manifest as aggression, school refusal, oppositional behavior, self-harm, and many other troublesome effects. Address the root of the issues rather than react to the symptoms.

In elementary schools police officers come for various reasons- career day, bullying, behavioural issues, etc. They walk into the school fully armed. Their guns within a few feet of the children, who are obviously fearful of the guns and rightly so! How is it ok that guns have been permitted in schools? A trained professional counsellor is a safe and sensible alternative.

What if you **don't** act? What message are you sending? To the parents? To the students?

You are saying, "We know that there is racism in the law enforcement but we don't care."

You are saying "We have heard from black, Indigenous and students of colour that they have been racially profiled and mistreated by the police in our schools. But we don't care."

If you don't act, you are saying to the parents of black, Indigenous and students of colour, "We know that there is systemic racism in law enforcement, but are going to continue to use them in our schools."

You are saying to all the white parents and students, "There is no racism problem."

Or maybe, you just don't believe that there really *is* a problem with systemic racism in law enforcement.

You are entrusted with the education and care of all students. You are educating them with **inaction with regards to police in schools.**

Sure, there may be times that the police need to be called. But there needs to be strict protocols developed **before the police are permitted to interact with racialized students.**

We cannot go backwards in time, and unsee what we have seen. I expect change, the students expect change and the parents expect change. I urge you not to sweep this issue under the rug.

Police presence affects racialized students.

Police presence affects the white onlookers to the interactions.

Protect the students, take action, remove police from schools.