

Hello,

I'm Frances Loiselle, and I wish to submit this statement as a concerned resident of Toronto.

Black and Indigenous activists in our community have made it very clear that the Toronto Police Services, as it currently exists, is an institution that is discriminatory and dangerous towards our Black, Indigenous, and otherwise marginalized communities. They are calling for the defunding of the TPS, and re-directing those funds into community services, working with those services to help develop alternative crisis response programs.

They are not calling for the same attempts at reform, for body cameras, for more money into the TPS budget. They are calling for a radical and complete overhaul of our systems of crime prevention and response.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission in a 2018 report found that a Black person was nearly 20 times more likely than a White person to be involved in a fatal shooting by Toronto Police Services. CTV news in a 2020 report found that Indigenous people make up 5% of Canada's population, but 38% of recent deaths due to police shootings.

The police force as we know it is not serving and protecting us. I have no interest in the so-called protection of my White self by a police force that is in fact endangering the lives of my Indigenous and Black friends, co-workers, relatives. This is unconscionable. It is horrifying. I am finally hearing how exhausted and afraid they are, and I am finally seeing how resilient and courageous they are, and I demand that you too finally listen to them and work for and with them, not against them.

In a breakdown of a 2019 tax bill, TVO using data from the City of Toronto found that the portion that went to the TPS was more than the portions allotted to Toronto Community Housing, to Shelter, Support & Housing, to the Toronto Public Library, to Toronto Employment & Social Services, and to Children's Services *combined*. The money for developing crisis response through community programs is there- in the TPS budget. Give the responsibility and funding to those who will use it effectively, with the interest of marginalized communities at heart.

Community activists such as Black Lives Matter Toronto have made their demands for defunding- not reform- very clear, and have for years. I would strongly urge you to refer to those demands, easily found on their website, and fight for them, to work to make our city truly free of racial injustice. Thank you.