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Police need more investment and resources, not less.

In the increasingly complex, dynamic, and continuously evolving political, socio-economic, and technological contexts of the modern world, the Toronto public deserves a vision of investment in accountable, effective, operational, and professionalized law enforcement institutions. Police across this city enjoy the majority of the public's confidence, including majorities of the black and minority ethnic populations. Their immense courage and sacrifices deserve our admiration and respect. We must ensure our city has an orderly, predictable, and safe future with a comprehensive and sustainable model for strictly securing compliance and observance of the law.

Robust and informative scientific models of the relationship between crime and policing exist consistently attribute powerful crime control and prevention effects to policing. Police provide a powerful force of deterrence through the certainty of detection and apprehension; a powerful disruption effect through increasing the costs of crime and interrupting criminal operations; an incapacitation effect through apprehension and detention; and an interruption effect through disrupting the cycles of disorder and violence. Beyond their law enforcement powers, policing can also function as the bedrock of efforts to involve other municipal and community resources in the task of ameliorating crime and disorder problems.

Drawing from the insights of a study published last year in the Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice, a 1% increase in Canadian police staffing is robustly

associated with reductions of 0.93% in homicides, 0.44% in property crimes, 0.63% in burglaries, and 1.37% in vehicle thefts. As the study notes, investment in policing has the potential to generate substantial marginal benefits to society "purely in terms of crime reduction and reduced victimization."

Policing today requires police institutions that work with various actors at multiple levels to address the public safety and security needs of communities. Police are one of the most effective tools for immediate and long-term crime control and prevention; they serve to use legal instruments in the task of reproducing public law and order—without law enforcement institutions, the law has no *force*. We need to recommit ourselves to the idea of ensuring Toronto police officers at all levels have the education, knowledge, skills and competencies, supports, and tools required to solve crimes and problems, enforce laws, and prevent crime. We must commit to building a police service that provides all citizens of Toronto with certainty, order, predictability, and security.

All citizens of Toronto are equal stakeholders in discussions that affect the public's fundamental safety and the capacity of our government to enforce laws and regulations that provide for our health, quality of life, and welfare. The battle against racism is not a battle against the rule of law; it is a struggle against the lawlessness of discrimination and impunity—a struggle for an equal and just rule of law. I am unapologetic about reiterating that today, more than ever, as part of much-needed reforms, we need to commit to long-term investments in police and law enforcement institutions, in addition to mental health services, victims' services, and other specialized first responder services.