I know I will be repeating many voices, but I hope this testimony adds to the weight of demand for a better, safer Toronto for ALL people. As a woman who has had to call the police in for domestic violence issues, I’m only beginning to realize how differently those calls might have gone if not for my white privilege. I have been hearing for years from friends who have experienced racial profiling themselves, locking up their bikes and getting harassed, or I’ve witnessed this on the TTC where young racialized youth are harassed and targeted. I didn’t realize what systemic patterns these incidents follow until I read the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The demands from the National Inquiry and from advocacy groups like Black Lives Matter must be adopted. I will be furious and continue to protest if more money is spent on evaluations or reports, when the changes needed have already been determined. The fear racialized people experience just trying to live their lives in our city is totally unacceptable. I’m a teacher who works hard to create safe learning environments for my students, understanding that learning cannot occur without the basics of a healthy psychological environment. How on earth are students supposed to learn in environments where cops are in their schools?! When they are already living in fear from armed presence in their home neighborhoods? If we are concerned about crime, we must immediately take proactive action to reduce poverty in areas that most need it. We know that racialized communities are more affected by the pandemic. Now more than ever is the time to ensure that every person in Toronto has what they need. We CANNOT accomplish this if the police force eats up more budget than housing, shelters, and essential resources like libraries combined. At this point I risk total repetition of everything campaigned for already by the voices that matter most in this issue: the communities experiencing police brutality. You know what to do. People like me will continue to demand change in support of their recommendations until you make these real changes. Thanks very much for reading, and good luck.