



# The Thunder Bay Police Services Board

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## **BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE 15, 2021**

THUNDER BAY, ON, June 15, 2021 — The Thunder Bay Police Services Board (TBPSB) convened for its regular session this morning. Following is a summary of notable items:

### Community Inclusion Team Strategic Plan

The Board welcomed members of the Community Inclusion Team (CIT) — also known by its Ojibwe name, *Gawendum Gaakina Awaya*, which means, "Protect everyone/everything" — as they presented their strategic plan for the Service.

This was the first opportunity for the current Board to meet the five-member team, a centralized hub of the Thunder Bay Police Service that is working to repair relationships with Indigenous and other racialized and underrepresented communities.

"This is a unit that is focused on building relationships with Indigenous people and organizations, while we recognize the need to be inclusive of everyone," Insp. Derek West told the Board.

The team is guided by the Seven Grandfather Teachings of Love, Truth, Humility, Honesty, Respect, Bravery and Wisdom. It operates on four pillars:

- **Engage:** Enhance community connections to foster relationships, provide support and ultimately build trust with Indigenous and other racialized and underrepresented groups.
- **Support:** Strengthen interactions with vulnerable people and develop opportunities for cultural and diverse training, while embracing the Provincial Liaison Team framework.
- **Recruit:** Focus on strategies essential to increasing the interest of diverse community members to consider a career in policing and opportunities to successfully prepare for the hiring process.
- **Communicate:** Showcase the ongoing efforts to engage, support and recruit, while being transparent with the commitment to improve service delivery.

"It is my pleasure to welcome members of this critical team and see their plan for the months to come," said Board Chair Kristen Oliver. "Over the past two decades, this unit has grown from a single officer to five members, including one civilian. This signals a significant investment by the Service in community engagement, and is aligned with recommendations from the [OIPRD](#) and [Sinclair](#) reports."

### Strategic Plan: Community Engagement Survey

The Board is encouraging residents of Thunder Bay and Oliver Paipoonge to help shape the future of policing by completing an online survey. Input from the survey, along with a series of focus groups and interviews, will be used to determine policing priorities over the next three years.

"We are encouraged by the strong initial response to the survey," said Board Secretary John Hannam. "Two weeks in, common themes are already emerging from the focus groups. This bodes well for a strategic plan that the community can connect with."

Community engagement activities will continue for the next six weeks, with the final 2021-2023 strategic plan expected to be released later this year. The survey will close Friday, June 25. It can be accessed [here](#).

### Other Matters

- The Board passed a motion from member Michael Power to amend how the budget request for the new police headquarters is presented. The full cost of the project will now be included for consideration in the 2022 capital budget.
- The Board received a refined estimate of \$607,917.40 for the cost of building a security fence and other security measures around the current Balmoral St. police headquarters. Details of the estimate can be found within the agenda, [here](#).
- Thunder Bay Police Youth Corps presented a letter to Board Chair Kristen Oliver expressing their, "most sincere appreciation for the donation of two cheques totalling \$4,800.00 from the Police Services Board." The money will be used for uniforms, activities and the organization's firearms safety program.

The full agenda can be accessed [here](#).

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