



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board appoints Jason Veltri to Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee

Veltri will represent the Board on the City of Thunder Bay-led committee.

THUNDER BAY, ON (January 8, 2024) — The Thunder Bay Police Services Board has formally appointed respected community leader and 2SLGBTQIA+ advocate Jason Veltri as the Board’s representative on the City of Thunder Bay’s Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee effective immediately.

The City of Thunder Bay’s Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee has representatives from diverse sectors including First Nations, Indigenous organizations, police, local service providers in health and mental health, education, community and social services, as well as children and youth services. The Committee advises City Council on how to make a safer Thunder Bay for everyone.

“We are pleased to have a strong community advocate in Mr. Veltri, who will support the Board’s efforts at transforming community safety and well-being through the important work of the committee” **said Karen Machado, Board Chair.** “The Board is proud to have such a strong voice supporting the committee’s vision of Thunder Bay being a safe, healthy, and connected community, where everyone is valued and has opportunities to thrive.”

Mr. Veltri is the founder and President of Rainbow Collective, an inclusive, supportive, and empowering home for the Gender and Sexual Diversity (GSD) communities of Thunder Bay & Northwestern Ontario. He also serves as the Chair of the City of Thunder Bay’s Anti-Racism and Equity Advisory Committee, board member of Thunder Bay Counseling and is serving as a volunteer on the Marketing and Communications Team for the 2024 Ontario Winter Games.

“Our work to reshape, rebuild, and reaffirm community policing in Thunder Bay goes beyond its board members, it drives to the heart of the community and the people who raise their hands to help,” said **Jason Veltri.** “I am deeply humbled and honoured to have been appointed by the Police Services Board to ensure its voice is included in the very important work building up community safety and well-being in Thunder Bay.”

The Board has previously created community positions on its Governance and Labour Relations Committees to build capacity and ensure meaningful community engagement in the development of policies. This vital work is in line with recommendations provided by the Independent Expert Panel.

Mr. Veltri’s appointment as the Board’s representative on the Committee is valid until November 30, 2026, or until otherwise replaced.

Notes to Editor: A biography and headshot of Mr. Veltri is attached

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Jason Veltri Biography

Jason is a dedicated community leader, currently serving as the Chair of the Anti-Racism and Equity Advisory Committee for the City of Thunder Bay since 2018. His commitment extends to the Clean, Green, and Beautiful Committee, where he actively contributes to enhancing the city's image through beautification and environmental sustainability. Jason is also serving member of the Marketing and Communications Team for the 2024 Ontario Winter Games.

In the past, he held the esteemed position of Chair at Thunder Pride Association from 2018 to 2020, demonstrating his strong leadership capabilities to modernize and grow Thunder Bay's Pride Festival and Pride events into a month-long celebration of love, acceptance, compassion. In 2021, he took a bold step by founding the Rainbow Collective, further solidifying his dedication to fostering diverse and welcoming communities. Jason previously served on the Community Communications Committee for the City of Thunder Bay. Jason also serves as a board member for Thunder Bay Counseling, showcasing his commitment to mental health and well-being.

Jason's volunteerism extends beyond regional boundaries, as he generously contributed his time to the 2022 and upcoming 2025 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Through these experiences, he has actively championed the causes of marginalized and oppressed communities, emphasizing equity and empowerment.

Passionate about advocating for those who are often unheard, Jason is shaping a community where everyone can take pride in their identity. His work is not just about addressing issues but creating a supportive environment where individuals are empowered to be the architects of positive change in their community.