



# The Case for a New Thunder Bay Police Campus

**Together**  
*Building Better*

Safety

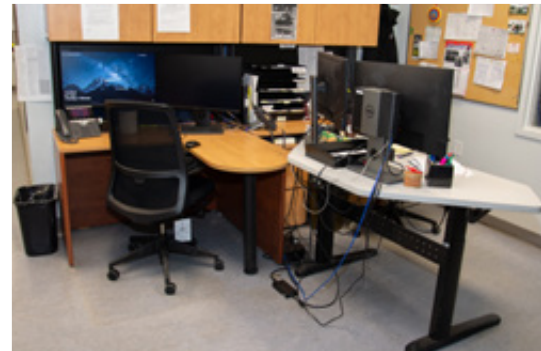
Wellness

Vision

Collaboration

Accountability

1200 Balmoral Street - Built in 1987 as a one-storey facility only.



**It's time to invest in modernized policing to keep the public and police service safe, healthy and protected.**



## ■ ■ Prioritizing Public Safety & Wellness

Thunder Bay has no choice but to build for modernized policing.

The status quo isn't an option.

Local policing is increasingly demanding and complex. Gangs, guns, drug trading, human trafficking, cybercrime, sexual exploitation, hate crime, and domestic violence are seriously impacting local safety.

Our community is also fighting an ongoing social crisis, meaning that Thunder Bay Police officers are responding to more mental health and addiction calls than ever before.

Today, we are at a critical junction when it comes to the future of policing in Thunder Bay. Our community needs a modern-day response to the policing challenges we face now and in the future. This means rethinking, collaborating, and building for policing transformation together.



## ■ ■ Building For Transformation

It's time to reimagine the future of policing.

While Thunder Bay's future vision for policing absolutely requires a new facility, it extends far beyond bricks and mortar. The vision supports safe, welcoming, inclusive and community service-oriented policing.

The Thunder Bay Police Service is proposing a responsible, community-based plan to keep the community and Thunder Bay Police Service safe, healthy, and protected for the long-term. The plan is forward-thinking, collaborative, efficient and accountable.

## ■ ■ Prioritizing Investments in Core Public Services

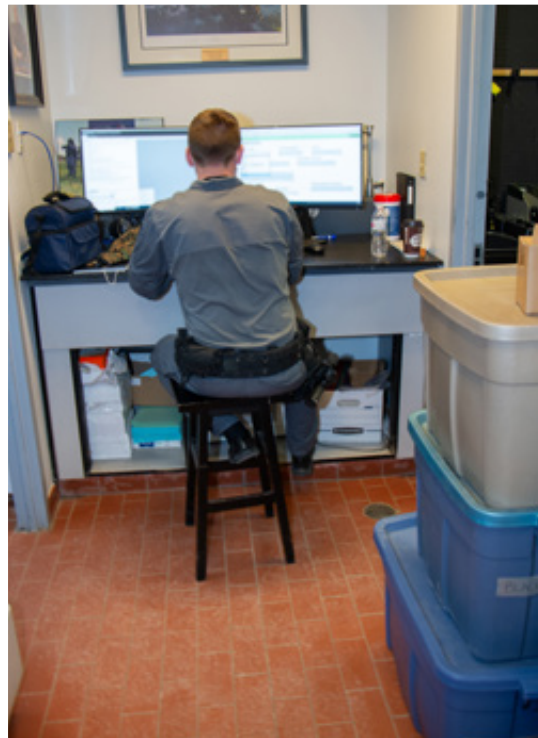
The proposal for a new police campus is not a want, it's a need. Investment is needed now, not tomorrow.

The proposal for a new police campus is one that requires immediate investment in the core police infrastructure and services we all rely on.

This isn't a case for renovation or any other potential band-aid fixes. The current building cannot be renovated or expanded to provide the must-have police and community resources that are fundamental to modern policing.

Thunder Bay Police Service members are working 24/7, 365 days a year, without adequate facilities and resources to keep the public and themselves safe. This cannot continue.

Policing is a core municipal responsibility that cannot be neglected. Comparative cities across the province and country are investing now to build for modern policing and safer communities. Thunder Bay must keep the pace.



## ■ Physical Policing Needs

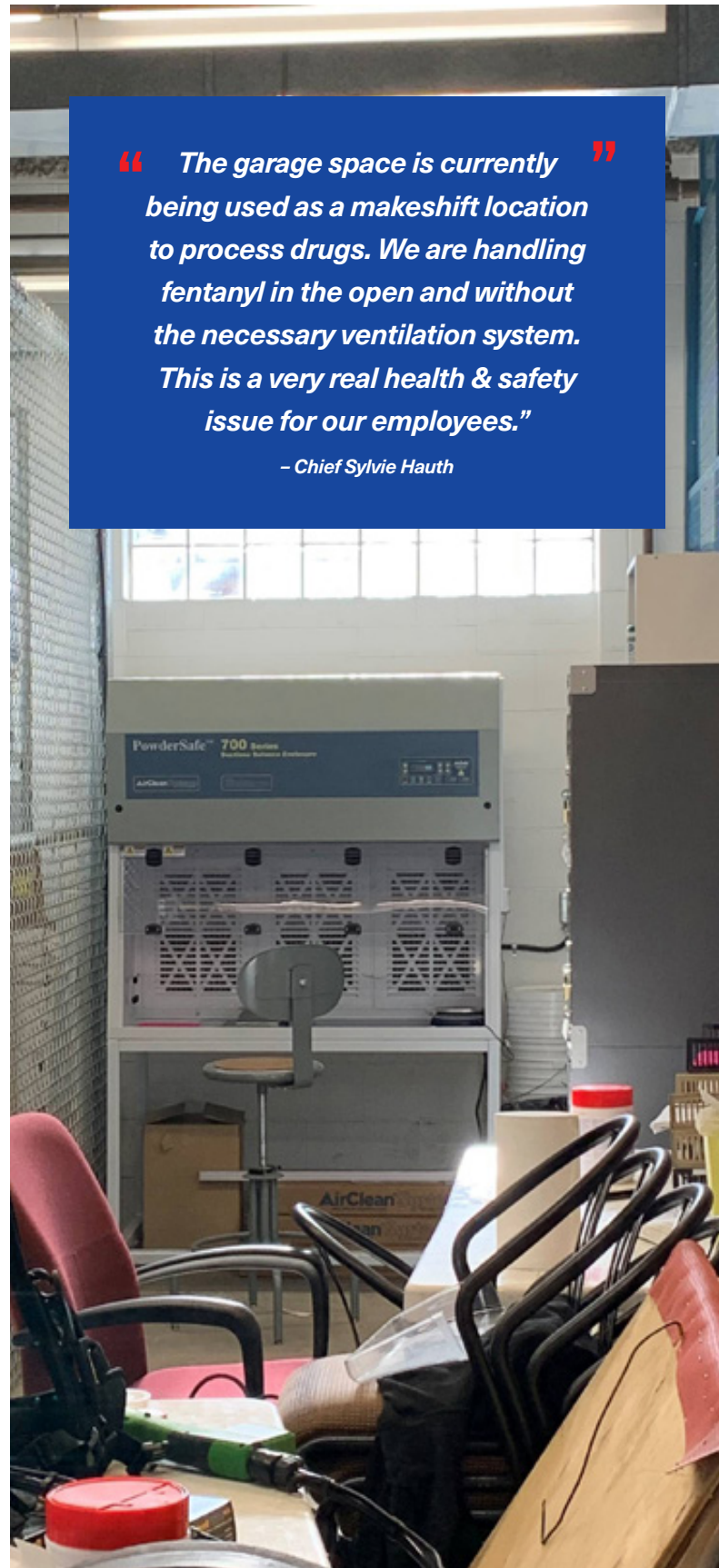
The list of deficiencies, limitations and serious health & safety liabilities at the Balmoral Street facility is long. Effective policing that is compliant with current codes, standards and best practices requires the right space, equipment, technologies, and resources.

### Thunder Bay Police Service needs:

- ✓ Enhanced security and privacy and increased prisoner holding cells
- ✓ Ventilated labs for processing illicit and hazardous substances such as fentanyl
- ✓ Adequately soundproof interview rooms
- ✓ A fire and water protected Property and Stores area for the safe storage of evidence and records
- ✓ A Next Generation 911 Hub with capacity for advanced mobile, text and video technology capabilities
- ✓ More space for specialized cybercrime technology
- ✓ Additional server and IT equipment storage
- ✓ Spaces to ensure privacy and respect for victims of crime
- ✓ A Police training centre
- ✓ A use-of-force, firearms and shooting range
- ✓ Collaborative and multifunctional meeting spaces
- ✓ Indigenous and culturally welcoming facilities
- ✓ Barrier free and Accessibility compliant infrastructure
- ✓ Sufficient washrooms and locker rooms
- ✓ Appropriate and functional workstations for all on-duty sworn and civilian employees

**“ The garage space is currently being used as a makeshift location to process drugs. We are handling fentanyl in the open and without the necessary ventilation system. This is a very real health & safety issue for our employees.”**

*– Chief Sylvie Hauth*



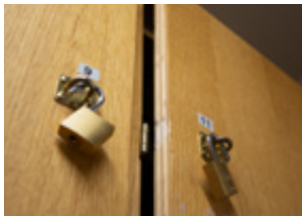
## ■ ■ Prioritizing Employee Health & Retention

The sworn and civilian members of Thunder Bay Police Service have incredibly stressful and difficult jobs to protect and serve the community. Ignoring their needs isn't an option.



“I’ve been a police officer for 20 years now and it’s essential that we have a new police facility. The current building has health & safety issues. There’s major water damage, it’s heavily used and very worn down at this point. We can’t fix this with continued band-aids. It just doesn’t have the space that we need to do our jobs and work effectively.”

**Constable Ian West**  
*Uniform Patrol Branch*



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Just some of the issues affecting employees include:

- Overcrowding in offices and locker rooms
- Personal security and confidentiality issues
- Very limited training space
- Lack of appropriate meeting rooms
- Disjointed units
- Inadequate heating and cooling
- Poor ventilation
- Lack of Accessibility
- Limited technology
- Limited equipment space

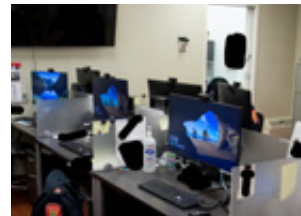
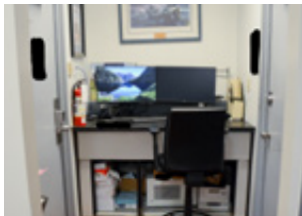
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“The building that we’re in is not made for policing in 2021 or the future. Within the Major Crimes Unit, we are using space that was not designed for its current use. We have problems such as staff finding seating or desk areas to work at, storage for files and difficulties bringing the new technology we need into the building.”

***Detective Constable Sean Verescak***  
*Criminal Investigations Branch/Major Crimes Unit*



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# ■ Many Voices. One Vision 2030

The Thunder Bay Police Services Board has developed a plan for how Thunder Bay can recover from the current policing crisis. The new Strategic Plan includes a vision of becoming a trusted and progressive leader in policing, and making Thunder Bay among the safest and best protected cities in Canada. It also recognizes the need to empower the Thunder Bay Police Service workforce and collaborate with community partners to design and deliver innovative police services.

The Strategic Plan 2021-2023 identifies building a new police facility as a key objective to transforming Thunder Bay policing by 2030.



This isn't about bricks and mortar, it's a clear case for prioritizing investments in public safety, finding efficiencies through community partnerships, and ensuring the health and safety of the Thunder Bay Police Service workforce.

***Together, we can build better.***



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Thunder Bay Police  
Services Board