



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board Highlights for March 18, 2025

THUNDER BAY, ON, March 18, 2025 — The Thunder Bay Police Service Board (TBPSB) convened on Tuesday March 18th. Following are notable items from the meeting:

2024 Citizens' Satisfaction and Trust Survey Results for the Thunder Bay Police Service were presented.

[*Results Here](#) (click to open)

Survey Summary

Disparities Across Demographics

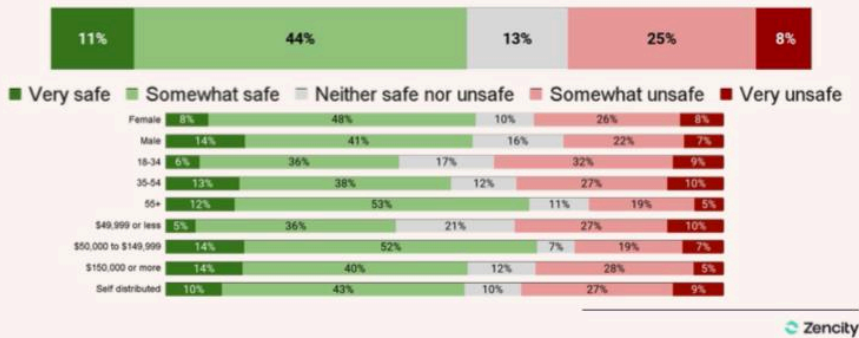
- There are substantial differences in how younger and lower-income respondents perceive and experience policing, with concerns about fairness and equity contributing to feelings of mistrust and reduced safety. These groups largely feel less safe, believe the police do not treat everyone equally, and lack trust and confidence in law enforcement.

Perceptions of Crime and Safety

- Most respondents say they feel safe in Thunder Bay, though nearly half believe crime has increased over the past year. Findings also reveal considerable differences in perceptions of safety across demographic groups, with younger and economically disadvantaged respondents expressing greater concerns.

Perceptions of Safety: Half of respondents (54%) feel at least somewhat safe in Thunder Bay, though perceptions vary across demographics. Older respondents report the highest sense of safety, while younger individuals say they feel less safe. Furthermore, lower-income respondents feel less safe compared to those who have an income of at least \$50K.

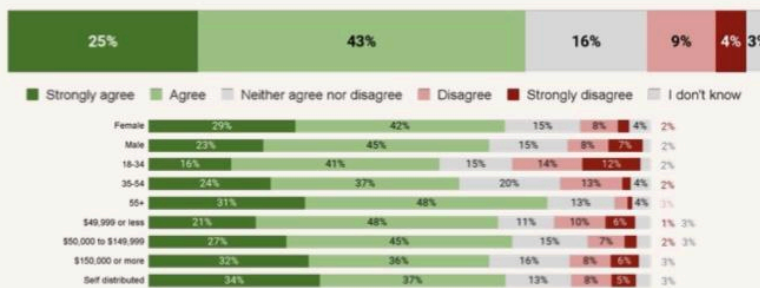
Q2: Overall, how safe do you feel in Thunder Bay?



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Respect: A large majority (68%) of respondents feel that the Thunder Bay police would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. Only 13% of respondents citywide disagreed with this statement, but those under the age of 35 were considerably more likely to disagree (26%).

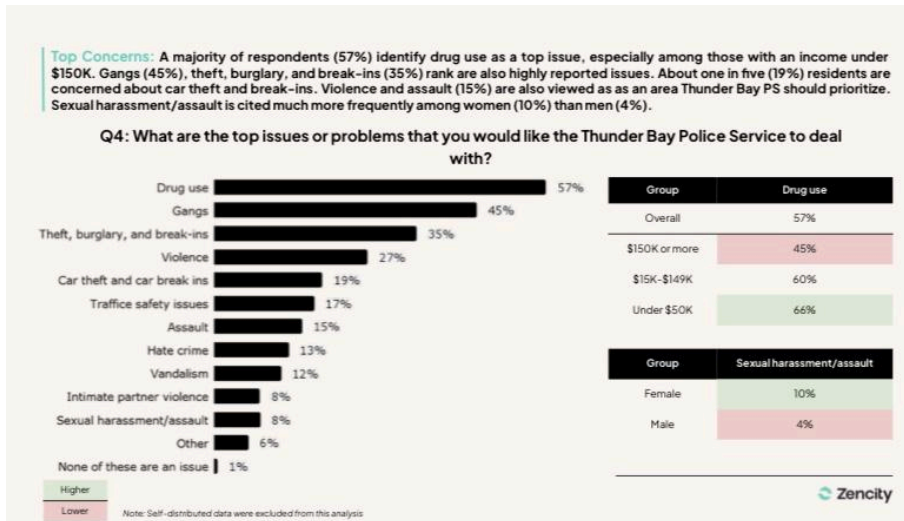
Q13: Thunder Bay police would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason.



Zencity

Priorities and Concerns

- Community members identify violence, illegal firearms, and drug-related issues as their top concerns for policing efforts. Almost half of respondents also say they want the police to prioritize patrolling neighbourhoods and interacting with residents.



Barriers to Engagement

- Issues of trust and confidence in the police deter crime reporting and weaken relationships with law enforcement. Less than half of respondents citywide feel police provide equitable services to all individuals, and even fewer consider TBPS officers to be “very approachable.” Furthermore, one in five respondents say they don’t feel they’re able to provide input to the Thunder Bay Police Service. Younger and lower-income individuals are more likely to express these negative views.

Connecting to the Community

- Respondents identified a disconnect between the police and the communities they serve. Less than half of respondents are satisfied with the Thunder Bay Police Service’s enforcement of the law, and only 9% of respondents believe TBPS collaborates effectively with the public.

Survey Focus on Indigenous Population Response

[Link to survey results](#)

Indigenous population responses include:

- 53%** of respondents do not feel safe in Thunder Bay.
- 65%** of respondents would be willing to contact the Thunder Bay Police Service if they were the victim of a crime or were worried about something.
- 77%** of respondents feel the police presence in their neighbourhood is far too low/too low.
- 59%** of respondents do not think the Thunder Bay Police Service provides the same level of service to all individuals.
- 58%** of respondents do not think the Thunder Bay Police Service officers are approachable.
- 52%** of respondents feel “working with diverse people and communities” are the most important police actions required to keep their community safe.

Attached are open comment examples

Nov 27, 2024 · Area: Area 1
Female, 18-34, White

More involvement with the community and working with First Nations people and have less of a initial thought that First Nations are jsut drunks or homeless and more that they went through residential schools, lost family members and their culture and need mental support. Also being more involved and kinder to individuals they come in contact with. More understanding.

Indigenous Relations Compassion Presence Community Relations

Nov 14, 2024 · Area: Area 1
Female, 35-54, Ethnicity Not Provided

Interacting with our most vulnerable in the community in a helpful way. Treat them with respect or how you would want your own child treated if they were in that situation and trust me they could be in that same predicament with just a couple bad decisions.

Oct 29, 2024 · Area: Area 1
Female, 55+, Ethnicity Not Provided

again -we do not have enough police- they are dealing with so many issues and i think they are doing a great job especially with nailing dealers -drugs etc. the work that goes into this behind the scenes must be phenomonal. They work hard at trying to locate missing people - they face a wall when it comes to getting information on any missing case because people do not come forward with what they know - even anonymously - i think the police force having to undergo another deep dive because NAN is demanding the thunder bay police be disbanded.- is totally uncalled for -and I am Indigenous.Do not disband this police force- they are OVERWORKED, and need more support with increased members

Budget Allocation Officer Increase Staffing Needs Drug Issues

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Strategic Communications Plan

[The Strategic Communications Plan was presented to the board, and adopted.](#)

Reports of The Thunder Bay Police Service

Firearm Data Submission

The Thunder Bay Police Service advised 267 firearms were seized in the 2024 calendar year (compared to 139 in 2023.)

Type of Firearm		Classification of firearms	
Rifle	108	Non-restricted	167
Shotgun	59	Restricted	49
Handgun	49	Prohibited	51
Prohibited	51		
Total	267		

Firearms - property status			
Disposed		Returned	
Rifle	36	Rifle	26
Shotgun	24	Shotgun	21
Handgun	32	Handgun	3
Prohibited	11		
Total	103	Total	50

Sudden Death Investigations—2024 Annual Report

The Thunder Bay Police Service reports from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, the total number of Sudden Death Investigations is **328**.

Of this total...

- 8 determined to be homicides
- 6 deemed accidental
- 12 suicidal deaths
- 170 natural deaths
- 8 undetermined deaths
- remaining reported deaths include those that remain in the *open classification* status, ie: fatal motor vehicle collisions, overdose/apparent overdose.

Missing Persons Investigations—2024 Annual Report

The Thunder Bay Police Service reports from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, the Service received a total of **1901** reports of missing persons.

Of that total, all but **two (2)** of those reported missing persons have not been located.

The number of missing persons investigations where foul play was suspected is reported to be one **(1)**.

Policies

The Board adopted three policies related to:

- 1)
Body-Worn Cameras
- 2)
Sudden and Unexplained Death Investigations and the discovery of found human remains.
- 3)
Policies on Roles and Responsibilities related to the Board.

Board Budget

2024 Budget and 2025 Year-To-Date

2024

As had been previously reported, the principal area of concern is the cost of legal services, which ended the year in an unfavourable position. That was mitigated by spending in other areas, resulting in the Board ending the fiscal year under budget.

2025

New reporting for 2025 includes the year-to -date, along with the prior's month spending.

Thunder Bay Police Board				
Jan 1, 2025 to Dec 31, 2025				
Year to Date (YTD) Comparison				
INCOME	2025 BUDGET	ACTUAL	Jan-Dec ACTUAL	YTD Variation
Income				
Rent	-2400		-15232.4	232.4
Income Total	\$ (2,400.00)		\$ (15,232.40)	\$ 232.40
EXPENSES	2025 BUDGET	ACTUAL	Jan-Dec ACTUAL	YTD Variation
Salaries/Honorariums & Travel/Expenses				
Member Honourariums & Benefits	\$ 31,000.00		\$ 4,034.90	
Travel & Training	\$ 10,000.00		\$ -	
Salaries/Honorariums & Travel Total	\$ 41,000.00		\$ 4,034.90	\$ 36,965.10
General Administration				
Telecommunications	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Office Supplies and Stationary	\$ 2,500.00		\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
General Expense	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 3,618.79	\$ 6,381.21
Memberships and Subscriptions	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 12,904.80	\$ (2,904.80)
Rental Office Space	\$ 42,000.00		\$ 21,369.60	\$ 20,630.40
Equip/Maint Software	\$ 2,700.00		\$ -	\$ 2,700.00
General Administration Total	\$ 67,200.00		\$ 37,893.19	\$ 29,306.81
Contracted Services				
Consultant Fees	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 16,027.20	\$ 33,972.80
Professional Fees	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 18,726.10	\$ 231,273.90
Legal Fees	\$ 300,000.00		\$ 28,482.62	\$ 271,517.38
Legal Fees - Indemnified	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 2,035.20	\$ 47,964.80
Purchased Services	\$ 180,000.00		\$ 26,203.30	\$ 153,796.70
Administration Subtotal	\$ 830,000.00		\$ 91,474.42	\$ 738,525.58
Total Operational Expenses	\$ 935,800.00		\$ 118,170.11	\$ 817,629.89
	2025 BUDGET	ACTUAL	Jan-Dec ACTUAL	YTD Variation

Thunder Bay Police Board				
Jan 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024				
2024 Year End				
INCOME	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL	Jan-Dec ACTUAL	YTD Variation
Income				
Rent	-15000		-15232.4	232.4
Income Total	\$ (15,000.00)		\$ (15,232.40)	\$ 232.40
EXPENSES	2025 BUDGET	ACTUAL	Jan-Dec ACTUAL	YTD Variation
Salaries/Honorariums & Travel/Expenses				
Member Honourariums & Benefits	\$ 31,000.00		\$ 32,077.77	\$ (1,077.77)
Travel & Training	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 6,338.73	\$ 3,661.27
Salaries/Honorariums & Travel Total	\$ 41,000.00		\$ 38,416.50	\$ 2,583.50
General Administration				
Telecommunications	\$ -		\$ 1,096.00	\$ (1,096.00)
Office Supplies and Stationary	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 1,291.47	\$ 1,208.53
General Expense	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 4,796.80	\$ 5,203.20
Memberships and Subscriptions	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 8,869.09	\$ 1,130.91
Rental Office Space	\$ 38,700.00		\$ 28,777.73	\$ 9,922.27
Equip/Maint Software	\$ 2,700.00		\$ -	\$ 2,700.00
General Administration Total	\$ 63,900.00		\$ 44,831.09	\$ 19,068.91
Contracted Services				
Consultant Fees	\$ 125,000.00		\$ 106,639.70	\$ 18,360.30
Professional Fees	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 158,385.70	\$ 91,614.30
Legal Fees	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 428,379.10	\$ 178,379.10
Legal Fees - Indemnified	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 27,821.26	\$ 22,178.74
Purchased Services	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 175,098.00	\$ 24,902.00
Administration Subtotal	\$ 875,000.00		\$ 896,323.76	\$ (21,323.76)
Total Operational Expenses	\$ 964,900.00		\$ 964,338.95	\$ 561.05
	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL	Jan-Dec ACTUAL	YTD Variation

Waterways Policing and Search and Rescue- Risk Analysis

In this jurisdiction, TBFR is the primary agency dispatched to any water or ice rescue calls for service. These include calls where persons are, or believed to be, in the water or on ice and requiring rescue. TBFR is trained and equipped to enter the water for this purpose. TBPS is dispatched as a secondary responder to these calls. Paramedics are also generally dispatched for calls involving persons in the water.

Historically, though not commonly, TBPS officers have entered waterways to initiate a rescue when arriving first on scene and preservation of life is needed. TBPS procedure P6c135 *Floodway Patrol* details considerations officers may make when deciding if they should enter the water for this purpose.

For calls where persons are near but not in the water, and some concern for their safety is raised, police are normally dispatched as the primary responder. In these cases, TBFR or EMS may be dispatched as needed.

Over the past 3 years, **TBPS has responded to an average of 442 calls per year pertaining to persons near waterways where safety was deemed to be an issue. The majority of these calls do not involve persons in the water.** For example, a complainant may call out of concern for persons near the water (e.g. sleeping under a bridge or on a river bank). Other calls involve police dealing with an individual on an unrelated matter close to a body of water (for example an intoxicated shoplifter near a river). Given the time constraints of the request, a brief review of data was conducted showing that during that time period, a total of one person was found deceased in relation to the jurisdiction's waterways. The person was discovered as deceased.

Update On Waterways Report:

At the March 18th meeting, a fulsome report was presented by the Service. The Board passed a motion, asking the Service to return with more information to better understand the implications of required legislation, and to assist the Board in drafting a supporting policy.

Board Meetings

The Board's next meeting is **Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 10:30 AM.**