



**Nova Scotia Policing Policy Working Group
2020 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire Results**

October 2020

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Acknowledgements

The NS PPWG would like to thank Dr. OmiSoore Dryden for providing financial resources to develop and distribute the questionnaire. We would also like to thank Tareq Yousef for his assistance in refining the data collected in this questionnaire. Key contributors to this document include, but are not limited to: Tari Ajadi, Nicole Blinn, Harry Critchley, Tiffany Gordon, El Jones, Jennifer Taylor and Sophie Trinacty.

Executive Summary

The Nova Scotia Policing Policy Working Group (“NS PPWG”) is a coalition of organizations and citizens concerned with advancing legislative and policy reform relevant to policing in the province. So far, the NS PPWG has been focused on policing in the Halifax Regional Municipality (“HRM”).

Candidate Questionnaire on Policing

October 17, 2020 is municipal election day in HRM. There are three candidates running for Mayor, and there are 82 [candidates](#) running for Council across HRM’s 16 districts.

The NS PPWG circulated a questionnaire to all declared candidates on September 8, 2020. The questionnaire asked 13 substantive questions related to policing in HRM. In total, the NS PPWG received 58 responses - a **response rate of 71%** for Council candidates. However, some respondents did not answer every question or complete the entire questionnaire.

None of the mayoral candidates initially responded before the deadline, but Mike Savage's team subsequently reached out to us and requested an opportunity to complete the survey. Upon receipt of his answers, we included them below in Appendix E.

This summary highlights some general statistics and trends from the questionnaire responses. Voters are also encouraged to review the candidates’ detailed answers in Appendix A. Some questions required “yes” or “no” answers, while others were more open-ended. A how-to guide for exploring the results on a district-by-district basis can be found below.

Questions on Implementing the Wortley Report and MMIWG Final Report

The first questions in the survey addressed two recent landmark reports containing recommendations on policing: the *Halifax, Nova Scotia: Street Checks Report* by Dr. Scot Wortley (“[Wortley Report](#)”) and *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* (“[MMIWG Final Report](#)”).

100% of respondents (52 total) answered “yes” when asked if they would support holding the Halifax Regional Police (“HRP”) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (“RCMP”) accountable for implementing the recommendations of the Wortley Report and the MMIWG Final Report.

Questions on the HRP Budget

Candidates were asked if they would support a more detailed line-by-line accounting of the HRP annual budget request. **96%** of the 50 respondents to this question said yes, while **72%** of these respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that amounts budgeted for polygraph tests (\$258,900) and the HRP mounted unit (\$264,700) in the fiscal year 2019/2020 could be better

Currently, policing services in HRM are provided by HRP and the RCMP. HRM is the only major municipality in Canada where policing services are provided jointly by a municipal police force and the RCMP. Candidates were asked whether they think this arrangement is effective. 48 of them responded and **79%** said no. Candidates who answered “no” were then asked what they would change. There were 45 answers to this question, indicating that some candidates who believe the current arrangement is effective still went on to provide further comments.

Answers included conducting a review of the current arrangement and/or a review of the *Police Act*; having the same accountability standards for HRP and the RCMP; expanding HRP’s service area and reducing the RCMP’s service area; moving to a unified municipal police force; and improving relations between police and community. Body cameras were again offered as a solution, as well as better training for police, and a mental health-focused alternative to 911.

Question on the *Municipal Elections Act* Ban on Incarcerated People Voting

Section 15(c) of the [Municipal Elections Act](#) says that “a person serving a sentence in a penal or reform institution” is not entitled to vote in a municipal election. The [Supreme Court of Canada](#) has held that it is unconstitutional to prevent incarcerated people from voting in federal and provincial elections. Candidates were asked if they would support working with the Province to repeal section 15(c).

Of the 47 respondents, 37 of them (**79%**) said yes, while 10 respondents (**21%**) said no.

Questions about Defunding the Police

Finally, the questionnaire asked two questions about defunding the police. Candidates were asked whether they supported the Board of Police Commissioners’ outline for a [committee](#) to define “defunding the police.” Candidates were also provided with the [NS PPWG’s definition](#) and asked whether they agreed with it.

About **70%** of the 47 respondents to this question either strongly agreed or agreed with the Board’s outline, while **51%** agreed with the NS PPWG definition. Another **34%** neither agreed nor disagreed, while **15%** disagreed and **0%** strongly disagreed.

How to Review the Results by District

To find each candidate, click on the tab on the bottom of the spreadsheet noting which district to which they belong. The candidates are listed along the top row, and the questions are listed along the column on the left of the spreadsheet. To see all the candidates’ responses, click on the “All responses” tab.

Voting Information

As noted, election day is October 17, 2020. Telephone and electronic voting starts on October 6, 2020 and runs to October 14, 2020. There are two advanced polling dates: October 10, 2020 and October 13, 2020.

Further details can be found on the HRM Elections [website](#). HRM also has an Online Voters' List [search tool](#) to help residents confirm whether they are on the Voters' List.

NS PPWG Media Contacts

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- Nicole Blinn (nicole.blinn@dal.ca)
- Harry Critchley (h.critchley@dal.ca);

Appendix A: Candidate responses

Individual candidate responses can be found in the linked questionnaire below:

[Complete questionnaire results - with breakdowns by district](#)

Appendix B: Selected graphical versions of candidate responses

Figure 1: Number of candidate responses by district

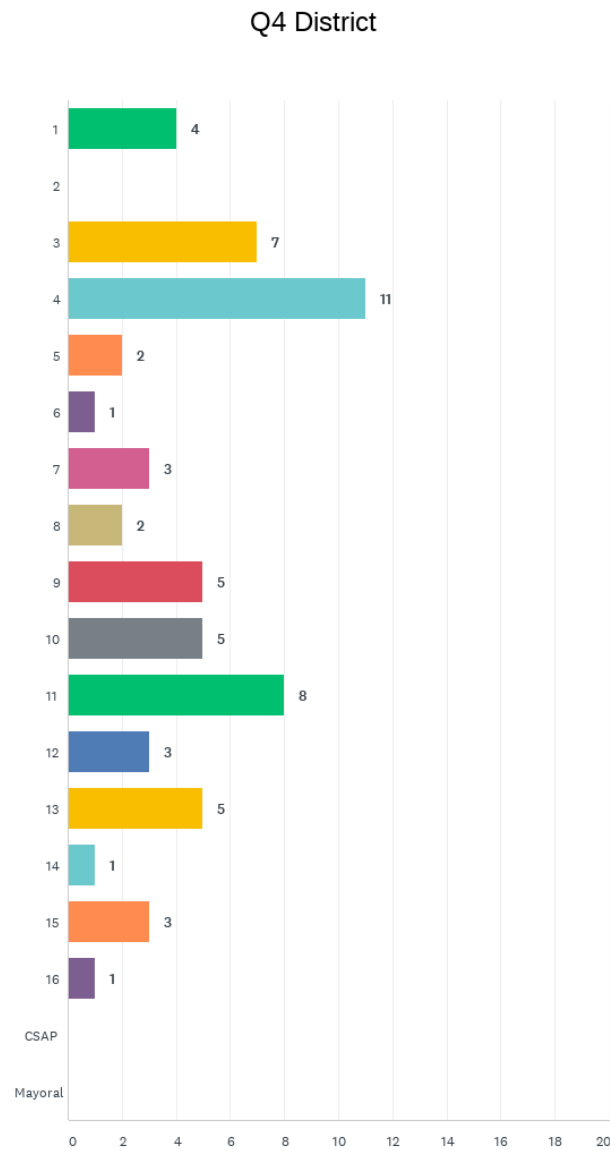


Figure 2: Percentage of candidates who support a more detailed accounting of the HRP Budget

Q7 Would you support a more detailed line-by-line accounting of the HRP annual budget request?

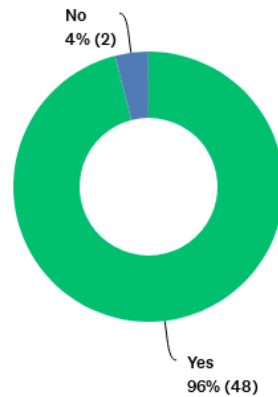


Figure 3: Percentage of candidates who support reallocating budget from Mounted Unit & polygraph tests

Q8 Do you agree that the funds mentioned above (for polygraph tests and for the Mounted Unit among others) could be better utilized by the city?

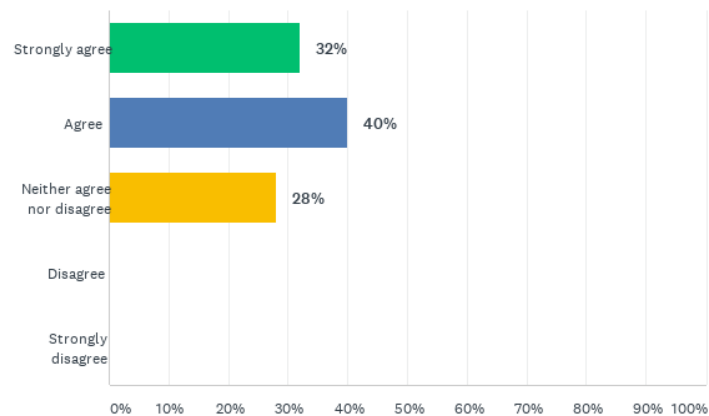


Figure 4: A word cloud comprised of responses to reallocation of police budgets

Q9 If so, where would you like to see those investments being made?



Figure 5: Percentage of candidates who support moving Victim Services and other non-core policing services into HRM Public Safety Office

Q11 Would you support moving Victim Services, the Youth Advocate Program, and other non-core policing units such as school crossing guards from out of the HRP and into the HRM's Public Safety Office?

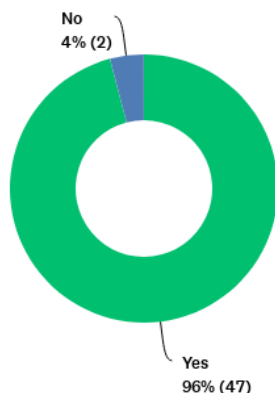


Figure 6: Percentage of candidates who support implementation of a gender-based lens in arrest, policing services and policing policy

Q12 If you were elected city councillor, would you support the implementation of a publicly available, gender-based lens in arrest, policing services, and policing policy?

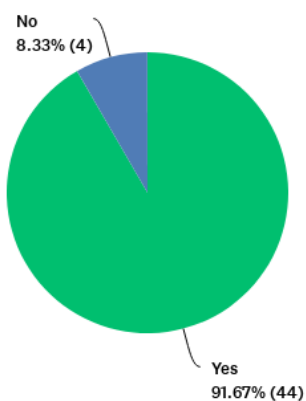


Figure 7: Percentage of candidates who believe present policing arrangement is effective

Q13 Do you think that the present policing arrangement is an effective way to provide policing services in the HRM?

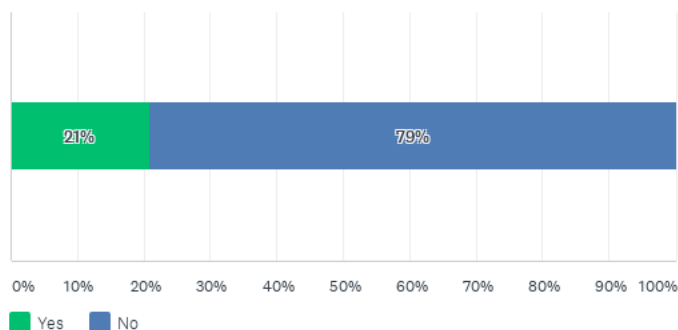


Figure 8: Percentage of candidates who support the repeal of section 15(c) of the *Municipal Elections Act*

Q15 Would you support working with the province to repeal section 15(c) of the Municipal Elections Act?

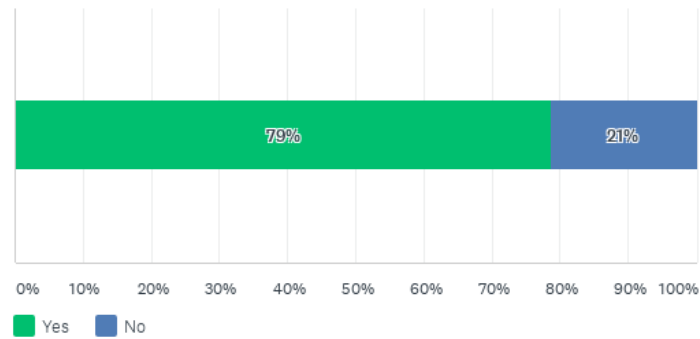


Figure 9: Percentage of candidates who agree with the Board of Police Commissioners' definition for defunding the police

Q16 Do you agree with the provisions that the Board has outlined for their community advisory committee?

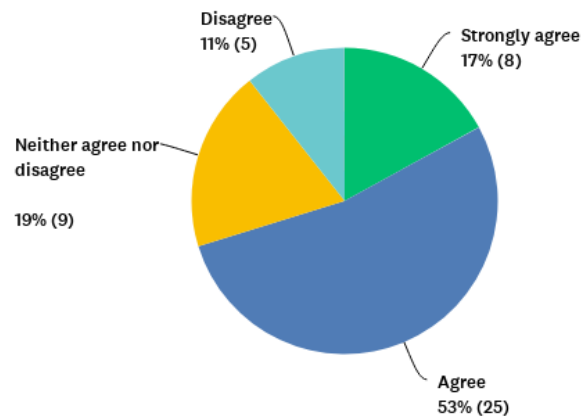
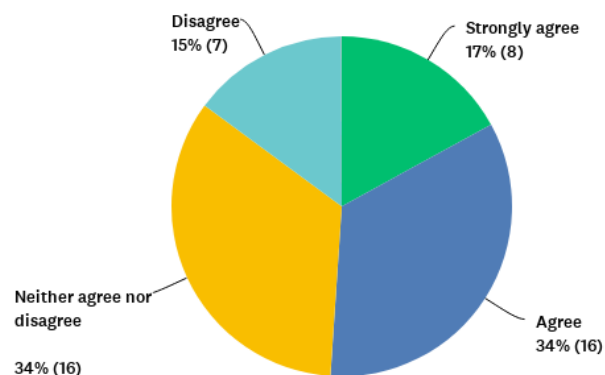


Figure 10: Percentage of candidates who agree with the Nova Scotia Policing Policy Working Group's definition of defunding the police

Q17 Do you agree with the definition created by the NS PPWG?



Appendix C: Full list of questions sent to candidates

NS Policing Policy Working Group Candidates' Questionnaire

Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into MMIWG

In 2019, *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* was released. The mandate of the National Inquiry was to assess the root causes of the violence against Indigenous women and girls. The Inquiry determined that colonial structures and policies are persistent in Canada and constitute a root cause of the violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. The *Final Report* highlighted that the thousands of truths shared before the National Inquiry reinforce the existence of acts of genocide against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

The *Final Report* concluded with a large number of Calls for Justice. These Calls for Justice represent important ways to end the genocide against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people and to transform systemic and societal values that have worked to maintain colonial violence. **12 of these Calls for Justice deal with the provision of policing services in municipalities.**

Since the publication of the *Final Report* in 2019, neither the HRM nor the HRP have released any statement publicly committing to acting on the Calls for Justice. Recently, the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners voted to require the HRP and the RCMP to more publicly document their progress on implementing the recommendations of the Wortley Report.

If you were elected city councillor would you support holding the HRP and the RCMP accountable to implement the recommendations of the Wortley Report and the MMIWG Final Report?

If yes, what steps would you take to ensure the HRP and RCMP are held accountable?

HRP Budget

Scrutiny of the HRP Budget is of considerable concern to residents of HRM. In the past, there has been significant evidence that the budget has been under-scrutinized by Halifax Regional Council. Two examples are below:

- For fiscal 2019-2020, the HRP budgeted \$258,900 for polygraph tests. In 1987, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that polygraph results are inadmissible in court because of their inherent unreliability and because such admission would violate many rules of evidence. Notably, however, in 2000, the Supreme Court also ruled that police can use polygraph results to deceive a suspect in order to elicit a voluntary confession, provided the level of deception is not such that it would shock the community.
- In fiscal 2019-2020, the HRP also budgeted \$264,700 for the Mounted unit. The funds allocated for polygraph tests (noted above) and for the Mounted unit exceeded those

budgeted for the Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (\$232,800) and were similar to those devoted to Victim Services (\$271,600).

If you were elected as a city councillor, would you support a more detailed line-by-line accounting of the HRP annual budget request?

Do you agree that the funds mentioned above (for polygraph tests and for the Mounted Unit among others) could be better utilized by the city?

If so, where would you like to see those investments being made?

Budgetary reform

Recently, councillors have expressed interest in **tying approval of the police budget to policy reforms**. Two examples are below:

- At a meeting of the HRM Budget Committee on June 9, 2020, Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn committed to holding the police more accountable going forward by making her approval of future budgets contingent on the HRP demonstrating progress on implementing the Wortley Report recommendations. Similarly, in a presentation to the Police Board on January 20, 2020, Professor El Jones, an internationally recognized expert on policing, defunding, and abolition, argued for a freeze on the HRP budget until such time as the force could provide evidence that it had ceased all practices of racial profiling.
- In a HRM Budget Committee meeting on June 20, 2020, John Traves, the HRM's Legal Director, confirmed that tying the funding of an armoured vehicle for HRP to a policy limiting its use would not contravene the prohibition in the *Police Act* on exercising "day-to-day direction of the police department." This opinion from the HRM's Legal Director opens the door to the HRM Budget Committee tying its approval of the police budget request to the completion of other important policy reforms going forward.

If you were elected as a city councillor, how would you use your role on the HRM Budget Committee to push for greater police accountability and progressive policy reform?

Civilianization of units currently within HRP

Both Victim Services and the Youth Advocate Program, (an HRM initiative targeted at youth between the ages of 9 and 14 who show an engagement in criminal behaviour and which is intended to address factors such as lack of school attachment and role models, self-esteem, engagement in anti-social behaviours, family relationships, bullying, and gang membership), are included in the HRP budget.

The funds provided to Victim Services have increased only marginally in the past several years and, currently, the unit employs two FTE staff members.

Call for Justice 5.6 in the *The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* made clear that “victim services must be independent from prosecution services and police services.” Members of the Victim Services team are not HRP officers, but the unit has no institutional independence insofar as the funds allocated to it are determined annually by the Chief of the HRP.

If you were elected as a city councillor, would you support moving Victim Services, the Youth Advocate Program, and other non-core policing units such as school crossing guards from out of the HRP and into the HRM's Public Safety Office?

Gender and Policing

In January 2020, Santina Rao was shopping in a Halifax Walmart with her young children when she was approached by store security and police officers and accused of shoplifting. After escalating the situation, multiple officers attacked her and handcuffed her in front of her children, whom she was then separated from. Following the incident, Santina was never charged with shoplifting, and police have yet to be held accountable. This is one example of racial profiling, a lack of transparency and accountability in policing, and gender-blind police interactions with the public.

In response, Women's Wellness Within members and partners collaborated to develop Calls for Change, which call for accountability from the HRP, public engagement, policy transparency, and a gendered lens in policing.

For example, Calls for Change include:

- ensuring that mothers and primary caregivers should not be arrested in the presence of children,
- that mothers and caregivers can arrange childcare before they are taken to lock up
- that police should never detain a breastfeeding mother, pregnant woman, or primary caregiver.

In August 2020, Women's Wellness Within chair, Martha Paynter, presented on applying a gendered lens to arrests to the Board of Police Commissioners, asking the Halifax Regional Police and Halifax Regional Police Board of Commissioners to respond through public engagement and transparent policy change to avoid gendered harm and discrimination in policing. Currently, we are unaware of any publicly accessible Halifax Regional Police policies that provide direction for police interactions with women, gender-diverse people, families, or children, or policies that consider the gendered impacts of arrest.

If you were elected city councillor, would you support the implementation of a publicly available, gender-based lens in arrest, policing services, and policing policy?

Delivery of Policing Services by the HRP and RCMP

Halifax is the only major city in Canada where policing services are provided jointly by a municipal police force and the RCMP.

Although this arrangement permits the HRM to receive some federal funds to support the costs associated with the RCMP, it is deeply flawed in many respects.

Historically, the RCMP has been openly defiant of attempts by the HRM to hold the force more accountable. This has been demonstrated by the RCMP's unwillingness to apologize to the HRM's African Nova Scotian community for their discriminatory use of street checks, as well as by Chief Superintendent Janice Grey falsely claiming on a number of occasions that Nova Scotia's *Police Act* does not apply to the RCMP.

Do you think that the present policing arrangement is an effective way to provide policing services in the HRM? If not, what would you change?

Disenfranchisement of Incarcerated Persons

The *Municipal Elections Act* governs the administration of elections by municipalities in Nova Scotia. Under section 15(c), a "person serving a sentence in a penal or reform institution" is not "entitled to be registered on the list of electors or to vote." In practice, this means that HRM residents who are incarcerated either federally or provincially at the time of the election (including those who are remanded pending trial and thus legally innocent) are unable to vote. This has a disproportionate effect on Indigenous and African Nova Scotian residents who are incarcerated, as both groups are significantly overrepresented both in remand and in sentenced custody populations.

Would you support working with the province to repeal this provision of the Municipal Elections Act?

Board of Police Commissioners

The NSPPWG has, alongside many other activists and residents, called for HRM to defund the police. For us, defunding the police includes, but is not limited to:

- The decriminalization of unnecessary and harmful laws and by-laws that criminalize Black, Indigenous, and poor communities.
- An end to "broken windows" models of police surveillance and harassment that have been debunked as a way to improve community safety.
- The demilitarization & disarmament of police units to prevent the use of force that has been increasingly levied on Black and Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- ***The redirection of funds currently used to support policing into initiatives that support community safety, provide safe and secure housing for all, and offer mental health and addictions services.***

The Board of Police Commissioners has voted to appoint a community advisory committee to adopt a definition of defunding the police based on the following provisions:

- Police performing core policing functions

- Allocating appropriate resources to perform non-police functions
- And investing in resources that have been proven to support community risks and promote crime prevention

Do you agree with the provisions that the Board has outlined for their community advisory committee?

Do you agree with the definition created by the NS PPWG?

Where do you stand on the concept of defunding the police?

Appendix D: Resource document sent to candidates

This document is designed to provide you with resources to support the NS PPWG Candidate Questionnaire. Links that correspond with the questions can be found below:

Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into MMIWG

Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. To access the Final Report click [here](#).

The Board of Police Commissioners held a meeting on July 9, 2020. In the meeting, the Board voted to require the HRP and RCMP to publicly document their progress on implementing recommendations of the Wortley report. For more information about this meeting and vote, click [here](#).

For more information about the recommendations made in the Wortley Report, click [here](#) to read the full report.

HRP Budget

To read the full HRM Budget for 2020-2021 click [here](#). The Budget for the HRP is outlined on pages 8-12.

In [R. v. Béland](#), [1987] 2 SCR 398, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Polygraph tests are inadmissible.

In [R. v. Oickle](#), 2000 SCC 38, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that police could use polygraph tests for the purpose of extracting a confession from a suspect.

Budgetary reform

For a summary of the presentation made by El Jones at the Police Board of Commissioners Meeting on January 20th 2020, click [here](#).

To access the minutes for the Budget Committee Special Meeting on June 9 2020, click [here](#).

To access an article summarizing John Traves' advice at the HRM Budget Committee meeting on June 20 2020, click [here](#).

Civilianization of units currently within HRP

For more on the Victim Services program, [click here](#). For more information on the Youth Advocate program, [click here](#). For more information on the HRM Budget, please see the [2020/21 Budget recast for COVID-19 impacts](#). Below are the budget lines for the Victim Services and Youth Advocate programs:

Expenditures	2018/19	2019/20	2019/20	2020/21			Revised 2020/21	
	Actual	Budget	Projections	Budget	Δ 19/20 Budget	Δ %	Budget	Δ
P425 East	12,209,166	13,402,600	13,431,400	13,622,400	219,800	1.6	13,447,100	(175,300)
P490 QRU - East Patrol	913,385	937,600	904,300	924,800	(12,800)	(1.4)	913,900	(10,900)
*** Operations East	13,122,551	14,340,200	14,335,700	14,547,200	207,000	1.4	14,361,000	(186,200)
P420 West	11,461,690	12,006,800	12,039,000	11,927,300	(79,500)	(0.7)	11,790,300	(137,000)
P495 QRU - West Patrol	909,496	938,000	895,600	896,400	(41,600)	(4.4)	885,500	(10,900)
*** Operations West	12,371,186	12,944,800	12,934,600	12,823,700	(121,100)	(0.9)	12,675,800	(147,900)
E123 Comm. Response	15	30,200	26,400	30,200	-	-	15,500	(14,700)
P365 Accidents	275,468	263,600	270,000	265,300	1,700	0.6	265,200	(100)
P410 Shared Resources	2,231,780	1,756,700	2,026,000	1,998,100	241,400	13.7	1,695,800	(302,300)
P430 Victim Service	308,572	271,600	271,600	261,600	(10,000)	(3.7)	211,000	(50,600)
P435 Canine	65,164	32,700	31,400	32,700	-	-	32,700	-
P440 ERT	61,993	154,400	104,400	154,400	-	-	123,200	(31,200)
P450 Public Safety Unit	(297,036)	36,700	36,700	36,700	-	-	36,700	-
P455 Bike Patrol	23,597	16,000	16,000	16,000	-	-	16,000	-
P460 Sch. Crossing Guard	1,718,697	1,791,000	1,803,500	1,845,600	54,600	3.0	1,454,800	(390,800)
P465 Mounted	290,570	264,700	264,700	266,100	1,400	0.5	266,100	-
P470 Port's Policing	95,205	131,500	42,500	126,500	(5,000)	(3.8)	126,500	-
P480 CR/CP	1,115,829	1,136,500	1,155,900	1,142,800	6,300	0.6	1,136,300	(6,500)
P481 Youth Advocate Prg	790,152	779,100	779,100	961,000	181,900	23.3	865,900	(95,100)
P485 Traffic	1,325,344	1,513,700	1,483,200	1,512,700	(1,000)	(0.1)	1,411,000	(101,700)
P486 Mental Health Crisis	277,881	232,800	244,300	223,300	(9,500)	(4.1)	223,300	-
P488 Aviation Security	(228,663)	(99,400)	(253,000)	(136,200)	(36,800)	37.0	(186,600)	(50,400)
*** Shared Services	8,054,568	8,311,800	8,302,700	8,736,800	425,000	5.1	7,693,400	(1,043,400)
**** Patrol Operations	47,587,855	51,016,500	51,286,500	51,571,000	554,500	1.1	50,022,100	(1,548,900)
***** Operations Division	80,709,440	84,836,600	84,018,600	85,364,500	527,900	0.6	81,928,500	(3,436,000)
***** HRM Police	85,458,230	89,294,500	88,925,600	89,776,000	481,500	0.5	86,275,100	(3,500,900)
Net Total	85,458,230	89,294,500	88,925,600	89,776,000	481,500	0.5	86,275,100	(3,500,900)

Expenditures	2018/19	2019/20	2019/20	2020/21			Revised 2020/21	
	Actual	Budget	Projections	Budget	Δ 19/20 Budget	Δ %	Budget	Δ
P425 East	12,209,166	13,402,600	13,431,400	13,622,400	219,800	1.6	13,447,100	(175,300)
P490 QRU - East Patrol	913,385	937,600	904,300	924,800	(12,800)	(1.4)	913,900	(10,900)
*** Operations East	13,122,551	14,340,200	14,335,700	14,547,200	207,000	1.4	14,361,000	(186,200)
P420 West	11,461,690	12,006,800	12,039,000	11,927,300	(79,500)	(0.7)	11,790,300	(137,000)
P495 QRU - West Patrol	909,496	938,000	895,600	896,400	(41,600)	(4.4)	885,500	(10,900)
*** Operations West	12,371,186	12,944,800	12,934,600	12,823,700	(121,100)	(0.9)	12,675,800	(147,900)
E123 Comm. Response	15	30,200	26,400	30,200	-	-	15,500	(14,700)
P365 Accidents	275,468	263,600	270,000	265,300	1,700	0.6	265,200	(100)
P410 Shared Resources	2,231,780	1,756,700	2,026,000	1,998,100	241,400	13.7	1,695,800	(302,300)
P430 Victim Service	308,572	271,600	271,600	261,600	(10,000)	(3.7)	211,000	(50,600)
P435 Canine	65,164	32,700	31,400	32,700	-	-	32,700	-
P440 ERT	61,993	154,400	104,400	154,400	-	-	123,200	(31,200)
P450 Public Safety Unit	(297,036)	36,700	36,700	36,700	-	-	36,700	-
P455 Bike Patrol	23,597	16,000	16,000	16,000	-	-	16,000	-
P460 Sch. Crossing Guard	1,718,697	1,791,000	1,803,500	1,845,600	54,600	3.0	1,454,800	(390,800)
P465 Mounted	290,570	264,700	264,700	266,100	1,400	0.5	266,100	-
P470 Port's Policing	95,205	131,500	42,500	126,500	(5,000)	(3.8)	126,500	-
P480 CR/CP	1,115,829	1,136,500	1,155,900	1,142,800	6,300	0.6	1,136,300	(6,500)
P481 Youth Advocate Prg	790,152	779,100	779,100	961,000	181,900	23.3	865,900	(95,100)
P485 Traffic	1,325,344	1,513,700	1,483,200	1,512,700	(1,000)	(0.1)	1,411,000	(101,700)
P486 Mental Health Crisis	277,881	232,800	244,300	223,300	(9,500)	(4.1)	223,300	-
P488 Aviation Security	(228,663)	(99,400)	(253,000)	(136,200)	(36,800)	37.0	(186,600)	(50,400)
*** Shared Services	8,054,568	8,311,800	8,302,700	8,736,800	425,000	5.1	7,693,400	(1,043,400)
**** Patrol Operations	47,587,855	51,016,500	51,286,500	51,571,000	554,500	1.1	50,022,100	(1,548,900)
***** Operations Division	80,709,440	84,836,600	84,018,600	85,364,500	527,900	0.6	81,928,500	(3,436,000)
***** HRM Police	85,458,230	89,294,500	88,925,600	89,776,000	481,500	0.5	86,275,100	(3,500,900)
Net Total	85,458,230	89,294,500	88,925,600	89,776,000	481,500	0.5	86,275,100	(3,500,900)

Gender and Policing

For more on Santana Rao's arrest, [click here](#).

For more information about the Women's Wellness Within Calls for Change, click [here](#).

On August 17th 2020 the Police Board of Commissioners held a meeting at which Martha Paynter presented on the application of a gendered lens to policing. To see the meeting minutes, click [here](#).

Delivery of Policing Services by the HRP and RCMP

For more information about the joint policing services provided by the RCMP and the HRP, click [here](#).

To see an article about the RCMP's refusal to apologize for street checks, click [here](#).

Disenfranchisement of Incarcerated Persons

To see the *Municipal Elections Act* click [here](#).

For more information about the overrepresentation of Indigenous and African Nova Scotian residents click [here](#).

Professor El Jones wrote an article for the *Halifax Examiner* on incarcerated persons and voting. For more information, click [here](#).

Board of Police Commissioners

On July 9th 2020, the Police Board of Commissioners voted to establish a community advisory committee and adopt a definition of defunding the police. To see the minutes from this meeting click [here](#).

Appendix E: NS PPWG Questionnaire Response: Mike Savage

1. If you were elected city councillor would you support holding the HRP and the RCMP accountable to implement the recommendations of the Wortley Report and the MMIWG Final Report?

Both of these reports represent significant change in policing policy and practice. Police forces must be accountable for reporting on progress.

If yes, what steps would you take to ensure the HRP and the RCMP are held accountable?

As I have consistently said, I believe Council and the independent oversight body the Police Commission must require regular, public reporting on progress to implementation of recommendations of the Wortley report. In addition, I believe it's critical that sufficient resources be appropriately allocated (to police or other services) and tied to achieving the goals of the Wortley report and working with others in ensuring MMIWG calls for justice are answered.

2. If you were elected as a city councillor would you support a more detailed line-by-line accounting of the HRP annual budget?

There has been more scrutiny in recent years of the HRP budget, and I believe it's important that Council understand the expenditures by police.

Do you agree that the funds mentioned above (for polygraph tests and for the Mounted Unit among others) could be better utilized by the city?

If so, where would you like to see those investments being made?

Policing tools are always changing, and we need to ensure that policing tools are as reliable and as fair as possible. I think we need a comprehensive approach to assigning priority to spending. This is, in part, the reason I support the review of police services that was recently approved by Council. That being said, I understand that the operations of the Mobile Mental Health Crisis Team and of Victims Services are not optimal. I would hope the review will give us a better sense of the resources required from both municipal and provincial sources to make these two services as effective as possible.

3. If you were elected as a city councillor how would you use your role on the HRM Budget Committee to push for greater police accountability and progressive policy reform?

In the recasting of the budget to accommodate the demands of the pandemic, Council shifted funds from police and other areas. The police budget saw a reduction of \$3.5 million, including \$350,000 that had been allocated to acquisition of an armoured vehicle. This amount was reallocated to the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs and the non-police Public Safety Office to support anti-Black racism efforts. In addition, Council has approved consideration of sobering centres to replace locking people up for drunkenness. I have personally followed up with the proponents of this idea.

4. If you were elected as a city councillor, would you support moving Victim Services, the Youth Advocate Program, and other non-core policing units such as school crossing guards from out of the HRP and into the HRM's Public Safety Office?

Although the Public Safety Office was established in 2009 as in response to the report of the Mayor's Round Table on Violence, it was initially part of the police service. After I became Mayor in 2012, the Public Safety Office was moved from the police to become a division within the municipal government. This was a step to enable that office to be more effective in implementing the Public Safety Strategy, which is a broad mandate for the development of safe, healthy communities, based on the social determinants of crime. Certainly, there are some functions currently within the police services that could be more effective operating from some other area of government. But we must consider the implications of such a shift. For example, pedestrian safety may be enhanced by the inclusion of crossing guards within the police structure. Alternatively, the logistical and human resource management of this function may detract the Public Safety Office from their more strategic mandate. This is the sort of decision on which I hope the comprehensive review will give us some direction.

5. If you were elected city councillor, would you support the implementation of a publicly available, gender-based lens in arrest, policing services, and policing policy?
Yes, I think such a lens may be helpful.

6. Do you think that the present policing arrangement is an effective way to provide policing services in the HRM? If not, what would you change?

Overall, I believe the Integrated Policing arrangement has worked well for the unique requirements of HRM.

HRM is nearly unique in our large rural areas, as well as the urban and suburban communities within the municipality. Each of these has specific policing requirements, and the RCMP bring more experience and expertise in rural policing than HRP. In addition, the RCMP provide us access to their national crime labs and investigative expertise.

There are some challenges with the dual responsibility for policing within the municipality, and I would like to see a clear accountability of the RCMP under the provisions of the provincial Police Act.

I believe it's important to continue to review the arrangement and monitor the relationship between the two agencies to ensure our citizens have access to the most effective policing services.

7. Would you support working with the province to repeal this provision of the Municipal Elections Act?

Yes. I believe those eligible to vote in federal or provincial elections should have the same right in municipal elections. I would be happy to take this idea forward to the provincial government.

8. Do you agree with the provisions that the Board has outlined for their community advisory committee? Do you agree with the definition created by the NS PPWG? Where do you stand on the concept of defunding the police?

I support the motion of Council on defunding, and will work with the Commission. I believe it is important that police have resources required to effectively safeguard public safety. I also believe that other professionals, including mental health experts, mediation specialists, social workers, and other services must play more prominent roles in emergency response.