



ENDORSE OUR STATEMENT

PROTECT BLACK & ALL STUDENTS

SAY NO TO BRINGING BACK POLICE-IN-SCHOOLS PROGRAMS

#NotGoingBack #PoliceInSchoolsCauseHarm

Actions and social media shareables at end of document

[Endorse HERE](#)

PROTECT BLACK AND ALL STUDENTS: FORD WANTS POLICE BACK IN SCHOOLS — SAY NO!

We are a group of Black and allied parents, educators and researchers voicing our opposition to the Ontario government's legislation which mandates [the return of police-in-school \(SRO\) programs](#) under Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025.

Schools must remain safe places for young Black and Indigenous students to learn. Racism in policing is endemic, causing mass surveillance, arrest, incarceration and brutality against Black communities, and particularly young Black people: this has been recognized by the Toronto Police Service, the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and the [Supreme Court of Canada](#).

The proposed legislation—to return to the failed policy of stationing police in schools—endangers the safety, health, and well-being of Black, Indigenous and racialized youth. Generations of young Black people have been harmed by SRO programs, and Bill 33 rolls back the clock on racial progress, threatening to expose a new generation of Black learners to harm and violence in their schools. This must be stopped immediately.

SCHOOL BOARDS HAVE SPOKEN: SRO PROGRAMS HARM STUDENTS, ENABLE SYSTEMIC RACISM

- The [Peel District School Board](#) called dismantling SRO programs in 2020 “a necessary change to disrupt systemic racism in our school communities.”
- The **Toronto District School Board** found that large numbers of students felt intimidated due to the presence of SROs and that SROs felt like racial discrimination and made them feel uncomfortable attending school. After [extensive consultation](#), TDSB trustees [voted](#) 18-3 in favour of cancelling the SRO program in 2017.



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- The **Ottawa-Carleton District School Board** ended SRO programs in 2021 after conducting [research](#) that found that police in schools prevented students “from fully enjoying their right to education without discrimination.”
- The **York Regional School District Board** acknowledged in 2021 [that](#) “When police are used to handle disciplinary issues for Black students in particular, this can escalate minor infractions into criminal incidents. The presence of SROs also negatively impacts the learning environment for Black and other racialized students.”
- The **Hamilton Wentworth District School Board** voted in 2020 to terminate its police-in-schools program, after students [reported](#) “feeling targeted and intimidated by having police in their schools,” stating that if students were not feeling safe in the presence of armed law enforcement at school, “we need to validate that and work to build a better system where all of our students feel safe in our schools.”
- The **Upper Grand District School Board** voted to end the police-in-schools program in April 2021.
- The **Waterloo Region District School Board** voted to cancel the SRO Program in 2021 after the SRO Review Committee recommended that WRDSB trustees issue “a public apology acknowledging the harms of the program to Black, Indigenous, and racialised students.”

SRO’S CRIMINALIZE YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPACES MEANT FOR LEARNING

SRO programs enable the racial profiling and the criminalization of Black and Indigenous children and youth, creating a “school-to-prison” pipeline that channels our young people into jail and prison instead of college, university, and sustainable employment.

Black and racialized students told the [Ontario Human Rights Commission](#) (OHRC) that “they were inappropriately stopped, questioned and were subjected to over-scrutiny by police in schools.” In one police response to a non-violent incident involving Indigenous children [in Ottawa](#):

“several patrol cars arriving, and the children being forcibly restrained face down on the floor, handcuffed and dragged across the floor during a struggle. It resulted in several of the students facing criminal charges for resisting being



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restrained by the police and it significantly and permanently impacted on the children's family status, relationships, housing security and education."

POLICE-IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS CONTRAVENE PROVINCIAL EQUITY POLICIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS

SRO programs endanger the legal rights of Code-protected groups. The OHRC [found](#) that Black, Indigenous and racialized students were disproportionately impacted by police presence in schools and that police-in-school programs "may subject Black and other racialized children... to a higher level of surveillance that could ultimately significantly impact their mental health and education."

The OHRC suggests that SRO programs undermine the Ontario Ministry of Education's [Equity Action Plan](#) (2017 and 2021), which commits schoolboards, staff, and trustees to "identify and eliminate discriminatory practices, systemic barriers and bias from schools and classrooms," particularly for Black, Indigenous, racialized students, LGBTQI students and students with disabilities.

EFFECTIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED ALTERNATIVES EXIST TO MAKE SCHOOLS SAFE

SROs do not make schools safer: studies show that having police in schools results in [no improvement in school safety](#), but they do facilitate more punishment.

Removing SROs has improved outcomes for vulnerable learners: youth [arrests](#) in Toronto have decreased since the removal of SROs, especially in low-income neighbourhoods. Research shows overall improvement in outcomes for students in TDSB schools since moving away from punitive zero tolerance education policies: suspension rates are down, dropout rates are down, graduation rates have increased, and admission to University and College have increased.

Creating safer schools requires increasing funding and resources for non-punitive programs and supports like counselors and after-school programs, rather than criminalizing young people.



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DEMANDS

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

Do **not** allow for the police-in-school programs to be mandated by the provincial government: stop the passage of Bill 33 and protect young people from harm so that schools can be places of learning instead of criminalization.

SAFETY FOR ALL

Commit to school safety for all through funding supports rather than criminalization, including resources for counselors and mental health supports.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Say no to the Conservative [take-over](#) of local school boards

HOW TO SUPPORT

- [ENDORSE](#) these demands as an organization or as an individual
- **ATTEND** the **RALLY** and **PRESS CONFERENCE**, **JUNE 26th at 12PM** at **Queens Park (family friendly, ASL-interpretation on-site)**
- **SHARE** your support for this campaign on socials using the hashtag **#NotGoingBack #PoliceInSchoolsCauseHarm** [using these shareable graphics](#)

Original signatories:

Freedom School Toronto
Education Not Incarceration
Another Toronto
Jane Finch Action Against Poverty
Latinx, Afro-Latin America Abya Yala Education Network (LAEN)
Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC)
Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance
BLM-Canada
Trans Pride Toronto
Uplift Black in Barrie
The Mocha Project
Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion



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Original Signatories (continued)

Parents of Black Children
Disability Justice Network of Ontario

Organizations Endorsing (updated regularly)

Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, ETFO
Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation
Unit 2
LGBT Youthline
OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change
A Dutty Boukman Bookclub
The Obstetric Justice Project
A Different Booklist
Black Pledge Collective
ByBlacks.com
Black Daddies Club
UGDSB Black Parents Council
OPSEU/SEFPO CORW (Coalition of Racialized Workers)
Parkdale Community Legal Service (PCLS)
Thatz Showbiz Theatre Project
Unifor Local 2003E
Planned Parenthood Toronto
Toronto Childcare Collective
Toronto World Beyond War
Toronto Palestinian Families
Toronto Jewish Families
Jews Say No To Genocide
Another Story Bookshop
Sudan Solidarity Collective
Toronto Alternative Schools for Palestine
Ecohesian
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - Toronto
Spring Magazine
Wakely's Law



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Integrative Counselling Resources
Toronto Street Medics
Christie Refugee Welcome Centre
Shelter & Housing Justice Network
Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Toronto Disability Pride March
Black Lives Matter-Sudbury
Soulful Colour
Alliance for Trans Youth
Cops off Campus Ontario
Queen's University Students Vs Cuts (QUSVC)
Queen's University Apartheid Divest
The Rickshaw Collective
Legal Clinic at Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University
University-Rosedale for Palestine
Anti-Colonial Queer Trans Collective (ACQTC)
Precious Eriamiator
Christie Refugee Welcome Centre
University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union (UTGSU)
Laidlaw Foundation
The Enchanté Network
Students for Safe Schools
OPIRG Toronto
OPSEU Local 5118 PCLS
Policing-Free Schools
BC Civil Liberties Association
Writers Against the War on Gaza Toronto
All African People's Revolutionary Party-Canada
Race Equity Caucus, York University Faculty Association



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