



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

SCHULICH SCHOOL OF LAW

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

Hon. John Hogan, Q.C.  
Minister of Justice and Public Safety  
Confederation Building, East Block  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6  
c/o First Voice Urban Indigenous Coalition

Dear Minister Hogan,

We the undersigned write to you as professors of law at the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University to express our support for the Proposals for Change that First Voice has put forward to strengthen civilian oversight of police services in Newfoundland and Labrador in line with MMIWG Calls for Justice 5.7 and 9.2.

In most provinces in Canada – including Nova Scotia – police services are directly accountable to civilian-led police boards or commissions that are established by statute and mandated to provide comprehensive and proactive oversight of police. Such oversight bodies are composed of civilians with the power to establish high-level policies in areas such as recruitment, training standards, and the use of force. Typically, these policies are established through community consultations and engagement, which ensures that police officers within a given jurisdiction conduct themselves in line with democratic norms and community expectations.

Ensuring the transparency and accountability of police through comprehensive oversight is critical to the rule of law. For this reason, we fully support First Voice's core proposals to establish a police oversight board in Newfoundland and Labrador that is civilian-led, independent of police, politically neutral, and representative of the province's diverse communities. We call on you to do the same.

Yours sincerely,

Naiomi Metallic  
Constance MacIntosh  
Michelle Williams  
Elaine Brooks-Craig  
Steve Coughlan

Cheryl Simon  
Adelina Iftene  
Sara Seck  
Sherry Pictou  
James Baxter

Copied to:

Hon. Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador