

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 29 October 2021

Statement by OPS Board Chair Diane Deans

(Ottawa) – Today, I join Ottawa Police Chief Peter Sloy in announcing that the Ottawa Police Service will be implementing a mandatory vaccination policy. As the Chair of the Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB), I share the opinion that all eligible OPS members should be fully vaccinated. This measure will ensure public confidence in the OPS. The mandatory vaccination deadline of January 31, 2022 will allow OPS to continue their vaccination efforts while mitigating any potential consequences of an understaffed service on emergency response time.

OPS will continue to regularly test unvaccinated members and will offer educational resources and on-site vaccination opportunities prior to the deadline. The cost of testing will not be borne by the public. The health and safety of the people of Ottawa remains our top priority. I urge all eligible Ottawa citizens, including members of the OPS, to get their COVID-19 vaccines. Together, we can continue to keep our City safe and I am pleased to have worked closely with Chief Sloy over these past few days to bring about this positive change to the policy.

The Ottawa Police Services Board is the civilian body responsible for governing the Ottawa Police Service. It is responsible for ensuring the provision of adequate and effective police services to the City of Ottawa's residents.

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For media inquiries please call, 613-580-2480 or email Diane.Deans@ottawa.ca