

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **PACE seeking feedback on draft public engagement report and recommendations for Police Services Board**

(Ottawa) – PACE Public Affairs & Community Engagement is seeking the community's feedback on a [draft report](#) and a series of recommendations it is proposing for the Ottawa Police Services Board's (Board) public engagement process.

In June of 2021, the Board engaged PACE, who is working in collaboration with Middle Ground Policy Research, to support it in developing a fair and accessible community engagement process, as well as in learning how best the Board can provide information, engage, and consult with members of racialized communities.

"The Board recognizes that in order to fulfill its duty of providing adequate and effective policing in the City of Ottawa, it must maintain an open and constructive dialogue with the community in order to understand their interests and concerns," said Board Chair Diane Deans. "The Board also acknowledges that a number of local incidents over the past few years, and months, have further widened an existing gap between police and the community, particularly racialized members."

PACE held a series of interviews with leaders from Ottawa's racialized communities and from service agencies to look for solutions. Their draft report, which reflects the outcomes of those meetings, proposes reforms to the Board's public engagement process to help strengthen relationships and rebuild trust at the community level.

"The Board's monthly meetings are not structured to allow for constructive dialogue on things like systemic racism and police funding," said Greg Jodouin, PACE's President. "The Board needs a process - a deliberation stream - that will allow it to work more directly with the community, to advance complex and emotionally charged issues together."

**Those wishing to provide comments on the draft report can email [info@paceconsulting.ca](mailto:info@paceconsulting.ca). Feedback will be collected up until end of day November 3, 2021. The comments received will help inform a final report to the Board which will be considered at the January 2022 meeting.**

*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.*

- 30 -

For additional information, please contact Krista Ferraro, Executive Director, Ottawa Police Services Board, at 613-580-2424, ext. 21618.