



## ***OCTEVAW demands #JusticeforChantelMoore and #MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA***

The Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW) honours and remembers the life of Chantel Moore who was killed by a police officer during a ‘wellness check’ as a result of gendered and racialized violence. We condemn police services in Canada and around the world for the deaths, disappearances, and disconnection they create in Indigenous and Black communities through racist acts of violence and incarceration. We condemn Canada’s criminal justice system which has actively used the police to marginalize, oppress, and kill Indigenous and Black communities for centuries. We condemn bystanders in our political community for failing to hold police accountable for their actions. We call on political leaders, community members and allies to join us in demanding that we #DefundThePolice. Chantel Moore, and thousands of other Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people across our country are loved, valued, and deeply missed. Police positions are replaceable. Indigenous and Black lives are not.

On the anniversary of the release of [“The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls”](#), Chantel Moore, a 26-year old Nuu-chah-nulth woman, was fatally shot in her home by an Edmundston police officer during a “wellness check.” The wellness check was requested by a loved one in response to the ongoing harassment and violence Moore faced after moving to Edmundston, New Brunswick to be closer to her mother and 5 year-old daughter.

Wellness checks are undefined and unregulated processes that give police the prerogative to enter civilian homes without cause. A wellness check can be called for any number of reasons, including but not limited to, mental health, gender-based violence, safety checks, or property damage. The police are an institution steeped in our white supremacist society, with people trained in lethal violence, yet they are often the first and only responders for women who are experiencing crises. If we continue to rely on the police to respond to our complex social and economic problems, mental health needs, and gender-based violence, we will continue to see “wellness checks” that end in the deaths of Indigenous and Black women.

We join a chorus of Black, Indigenous and Peoples of Colour (BIPOC) communities that have been advocating for defunding the police for decades. We commend the leadership of [Robyn Maynard](#) and [Sandy Hudson](#), among others, for bringing this issue to the forefront of the Canadian mainstream. For too long, our society has relied on the police to address a broad range of social challenges. The outcome is the over-criminalization, over-incarceration and under-protection of BIPOC communities. This has been made worse by investing in colonial

institutions, including social and child welfare systems, which have systematically stolen, neglected, abused and killed people in Indigenous and Black communities.<sup>1</sup>

***We need to stop funding guns, and start funding people:***

- Let's invest in safe drinking water
  - the most basic building block of healthy individuals, communities and societies;
- Let's invest in communities
  - that can develop, deepen and deploy techniques for non-violent deescalation;
- Let's invest in schools
  - that aren't racist and misogynist, and actively teach and advance decolonization and ending gender-based violence;
- Let's invest in safe and affordable housing and social supports
  - so that we don't rely on shelters and encampments as solutions to homelessness and precarious housing;
- Let's invest in mental health
  - including acute and sustained services and supports that are rooted in anti-racism and anti-oppression.

To do this, we must draw on the existing wealth of expertise housed in our neighborhoods, community programs, peer outreach, and care-based resources led by and for BIPOC communities to provide the support, safety, and security needed. Investing in community resources allows survivors to avoid police violence and instead be met with trauma informed, culturally appropriate, and gender responsive approaches.

Chantel Moore deserves accountability and transparency. The senseless violence that led to her death can never be undone, but we can prevent it from ever happening again. Defund the police. It's our money, so let's decide where to invest it.

**Recommendations for City of Ottawa:**

- 1) **Defund the Police:** The Ottawa Police Service receives [9.5% \(\\$358M\)](#) of the City's expenditures; meanwhile community agencies receive a stagnant [\\$24.2M](#) a year "to respond to current and emerging needs to promote equitable, inclusive and sustainable service access for a diverse population."<sup>2</sup> This represents less than 7% of the total police budget, and just 0.64% of the City's overall budget, without a sign of increasing in

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<sup>1</sup> Cannon, Martin J. "Race Matters: Sexism, Indigenous Sovereignty, and Mclvor." Canadian Journal of Women and the Law 26, no. 1 (May 2, 2014) Palmater, Pamela. "Shining Light on the Dark Places: Addressing Police Racism and Sexualized Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls in the National Inquiry." Canadian Journal of Women and the Law 28, no. 2 (August 27, 2016): 253–84. Young, Bryanne Young. "Killing the Indian in the Child: Materialities of Death and Political Formations of Life in the Canadian Indian Residential School System." Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2017. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1951788674/abstract/3BA732634FCF4777PQ/1>

<sup>2</sup> City of Ottawa (2019). [Operating and Capital Budget Tax and Rate Supported Programs Adopted December 11, 2019](#) page 65, available at Page 65

sight. The City has been clear that this amount will not increase; it will lead to competition for scarce resources amongst overstretched but vital social services.

- 2) **Gender Equity and Inclusion Budgeting:** The Ottawa Police Service, and the Ottawa Police Services Board needs to undertake regular and ongoing gender equity and inclusion budgeting to ensure that spending is meaningful and effective for communities. Nationally, approximately 30% of all victims of violent crimes reported to police are victims of intimate partner violence. The majority of these victims are women<sup>3</sup>. How much of the OPS budget goes to responding to and investigating incidents of intimate partner violence? Do survivors feel a sense of compassion, fairness and justice in how OPS responds to their calls for help?
  
- 3) **Implementing MMIWG2SLGBTQQ Recommendations:** The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls directs [32 Calls for Justice](#) at police services, including RCMP, across the country. To date, none of these recommendations have been systematically implemented in police services across Canada. The Report finds a deep mistrust and fear of the police in Indigenous communities who face sexual violence, murder and disappearances both from Canadian society and at the hands of police.

### ***What can you do?***

[Support the Family of Chantel Moore HERE](#)

[Sign Petition to have the officer charged HERE](#)

***Donate to local Indigenous organizations who are experts in supporting Indigenous women, two-spirit folks and their families.***

- [Minwaashin Lodge](#) - provides a range of programs and services to First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and children (regardless of status) who are survivors of domestic and other forms of violence.
- [Tungasuvvingat Inuit](#) - provides a wide range of programs and services to Inuit women and children. The Alluriarniq program provides support for Inuit aged 16 and older living in Canada that are currently, or have in the past, engaged in sex work or are looking to

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<sup>3</sup> Section 2: Police-reported intimate partner violence in Canada, 2018 by Marta Burczycka JuristatArticle—Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2018 Statistics Canada—Catalogue no. 85-002-X, pg 24. Available at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00018-eng.pdf?st=xaj9Tb0O>

exit the sex trade and victims/survivors of human trafficking. It also supports victims of sexual violence and abuse.

- [Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth](#) - provides an Ottawa-based transitional home for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women, ages 16 to 29. We provide a safe, culture-oriented environment where women can celebrate their traditions and acquire skills that will help them in life. We offer a wide range of programs and services including cultural programs, financial planning, outreach supports, counseling, assistance finding permanent housing and more.
- [Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families](#) - serves Inuit children, youth and their families in the southern urban setting of the City of Ottawa. In partnership with parents and the community, we foster strong Inuit children, youth and families by providing a learning environment that will enhance children's overall well being, adaptability and strength in a proud Inuit cultural environment.
- [Assembly of Seven Generations](#) - is an Indigenous owned and youth-led, non-profit organization focused on cultural support and empowerment programs/policies for Indigenous youth while being led by traditional knowledge and Elder guidance.

### ***Calls to Action:***

*Call to abolish the police:*

<https://nsadvocate.org/2020/06/04/for-immediate-release-police-kill-young-indigenous-mother-chantel-moore-in-edmundston-nb/>

*Call to review justice system:*

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/first-nations-chiefs-seek-justice-system-review-moore-shooting-1.5601867>

*Calls for an independent investigation:*

<https://nuuchahnulth.org/sites/default/files/news/PRESS%20RELEASE%20Chantel%20Moore.pdf>

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/afn-national-chief-perry-bellegarde-calls-for-an-independent-review-of-the-police-shooting-of-chantel-moore-824515618.html>

### **British Columbia Indigenous leader responses:**

[https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/indigenous\\_leaders\\_condemn\\_police\\_actions\\_in\\_death\\_of\\_chantel\\_moore](https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/indigenous_leaders_condemn_police_actions_in_death_of_chantel_moore)

## The background and work being done on Defund the Police

- The call to Defund the Police can mean the reduction and reallocation of police dollars or the complete abolishment of the police. For decades, work has been done to prove the necessity of limiting the police force and expanding social and educational services in order to support survivors of violence and create stronger communities. For more information on the activism behind police abolition and defunding, read:
  - [Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present](#) by Robyn Maynard;
  - [‘Disband, Disempower, and Disarm’: Amplifying the Theory and Practice of Police Abolition](#);
  - [The End of Policing](#) currently available free online.