

To: City Council

Re: Re-consider appointment of London Police Services Rep

Item #8 on the City Council Agenda for Tuesday April 4, 2023

12th Report of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest
2. (2.1) Music Incubation
3. (2.2) 3rd Report of the Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Community Advisory Committee
4. (4.1) Council's Draft 2023-2027 Strategic Plan
5. (4.2) Consideration of Appointment to the London Police Services Board

Looking at the agenda from the March 28th Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee meeting, as with life in general, many of these issues are interconnected.

In principle, Council seems to **support Diversity** as they have an Advisory Committee on this issue.

Council seems to **support Reconciliation** efforts as it is the first Strategic Area of Focus in the Draft Strategic Plan.

Yet, Council missed an important opportunity to act on these issues. How is it that when a candidate that garnered 47% of the first-round votes who was both qualified for the job AND is from an under-represented group AND is a member of a First Nations community, did not ultimately get a majority of votes? Different people bring different skills and perspectives. Police services across Canada are under scrutiny. First Nations are over-represented in the jail system. Something needs to change.

On September 14, 2022, The London Free Press published an article headlined: [“Years pass and no sign of jail's promised Indigenous sweat lodge”](#). *A healing lodge promised for London's jail by the end of 2021 shows no signs of being built, with few answers about its future coming from the province.*

I ask you to consider the maxim: “Nothing about us, without us”. You can respond to your goals of increased Diversity and Reconciliation by appointing an Indigenous appointee to the Police Services Board.

Myself and others will be viewing the meeting from the Gallery on Tuesday in hopeful anticipation of further discussion on this matter.

Respectfully,

Mary Ann Hodge