

Deputation:

The Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention was founded by members of the South Asian LGBTQ+ community 29 years ago. Today, we are the only LGBTQ+ non-governmental organization in Ontario that specifically serves the South Asian and Middle Eastern LGBTQ+ communities.

The recent cases of missing and allegedly murdered South Asian, Middle Eastern, and LGBTQ+ persons have created a crisis in public trust with the Toronto Police Service. Community pressure for an effective police response into missing person cases, reports of inadequate investigative steps, and a failure to informatively and respectfully communicate lead to one conclusion. A different standard of policing and justice is the reality for racialized and LGBTQ+ persons in our city. That cannot continue.

On January 24, 2018, we issued a public statement calling for external accountability and constructive dialogue to repair the breakdown in public trust. On February 14, 2018, we met with the Mayor to discuss specific requests. We have also met with Chief Mark Saunders, Deputy Chief Barbara McLean, and LGBTQ Liaison Officer Danielle Bottineau to convey our concerns.

One request is for the TPSB to commission an independent review into how the TPS conducts missing person investigations, particularly of LGBTQ+ persons. To that end, we support the motion on the floor today. However, we would like to emphasize our position on three points for the TPSB as the review process unfolds.

1. Our position remains that the Board should commission the review, akin to the *Independent Civilian Review into Matters Relating to the G20 Summit*. As Justice Morden emphasized in his report, it is the TPSB that is statutorily responsible for active civilian oversight of the Toronto Police Service.¹ We support other reviews and inquiries, and they should supplement a review directly commissioned by the TPSB.
2. To be truly responsive to the LGBTQ community, the review process must include a direct role for the community at every stage. Therefore, the community should be involved in determining the final terms of reference and selection of the reviewer. Meaningful community engagement means more than consultation. The community must play an active role in shaping how our concerns are addressed, including on a technical level. We will continue to advocate that future motions at the TPSB maintain a direct role for affected communities.
3. We recognize that the review cannot compromise the McArthur investigation or criminal proceedings. However, the review should consider any prior TPS investigation into missing persons to inform its systemic analysis, within appropriate legal boundaries. For example, the review could assess whether the community was effectively consulted during Project Houston, but any information related to the McArthur case would be excluded. We respect and understand that the scope of the review requires measured and careful delineation.

¹ John W. Morden, *Independent Civilian Review Into Matters Relating to the G20 Summit*, at p. 3, <<http://www.tpsb.ca/g20/ICRG20Mordenreport.pdf>>.

Finally, we support the call for a provincial public inquiry upon the completion of the criminal proceedings of McArthur. The public inquiry should examine each case exhaustively. ASAAP and the broader community must be a part of the conversation on the subject of a public inquiry.

We will continue our advocacy and engagement with the Mayor, Toronto Police Services Board, and Toronto Police Service on these issues. Our hope is that out of these tragic circumstances comes meaningful change.

Sincerely,

The Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention

With Support From,

Community Organizations:

519 Church Street Community Centre	Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic
Africans in Partnership Against AIDS	Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre
AIDS Committee of Durham Region	Peel HIV AIDS Network
AIDS Committee of Toronto	Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network
AIDS Committee of York Region	Punjabi Community Health Services
Asian Community AIDS Services	Realize (formerly Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation)
Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention	Sherbourne Health Centre
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario
CATIE	South Asian Women's Centre
Council of Agencies Serving South Asians	The Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples
Indus Community Services	Toronto HIV/AIDS Network
Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Services	Toronto People With AIDS Foundation
Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment	HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic of Ontario

Community Leaders:

Doug Kerr. LGBTQ community advocate.

John McCullagh. LGBTQ and HIV community health advocate.

Kristyn Wong-Tam, City Councilor

Maurice Tomlinson. Canadian and Jamaican LGBTI activist.

Ron Rosenes CM. Community health advocate.

Sam Mukwa. Toronto Indigenous Health Advisory Council Youth Council Coordinator.