



Stratford Police Service News Release

FROM/DE: Stratford Police Service

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Community Equity Action Team

The Stratford Police Services Board continues to move forward with its plans to establish a Community Equity Action Team (CEAT).

CEAT will advise the board on matters related to equity, inclusion, and diversity. It will also provide community members with a forum to discuss their interactions with police, to critically examine local policing policies and procedures, and to make recommendations for changes that will address issues of systemic racism reflected in the experiences of local Black, Indigenous, people of colour, and other marginalized groups.

The Police Services Board has retained the services of Credence & Co. to help guide the creation and implementation of the local CEAT. The first step involved consultation with local stakeholders and community partners from across Stratford and area.

That process wrapped up in May 2021, and the feedback gathered from stakeholders highlighted the importance of the following:

- The overall success of CEAT depends on increased participation and representation from individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and people of colour
- Community leaders publicly recognizing there are issues of racism in our community
- CEAT being open to discussing the tough and uncomfortable topics of systemic racism and differential treatment in interactions with police services
- CEAT working to create and provide safe spaces for people to share often painful experiences around those issues of racism and differential treatment

“The Stratford Police Services Board looks forward to building a team that represents BIPOC communities and working with them to build trust and relationships with the Stratford Police Service in order to better serve the community,” Tim Doherty, Vice-Chair of the Police Services Board.

The focus now shifts to public engagement and community information sessions, and then the selection of CEAT members.

The team is expected to be in place by October 2021.