June 4, 2026

City Hall: Winnipeg Services Board

Presentation: Agenda Item # 6 : Bias Free Policing

Boozho – I am Danko Makwa Kaapetewayaishete – My Totem is Makwa Clan

I speak today as an Ogichiidaakwe, Warrior, and as a Grassroots Elder, in my Territory , upholding my traditional moral responsibility to speak on this subject in my traditional territory.

Good Morning/Afternoon, we are meeting today in Treaty 1 territory, Sagkeeng First nation being one of the Nation Bands of this territory, which I am a member of, lands that the Boards own Strategic Plan promises to approach in the Spirit of Truth, Reconciliation and collaboration

The Boards official Bias Free Policing Policy explicitly acknowledges that social profiling and systemic bias causes profound physiological harm and disproportionate analyzing of racialized groups.

I am here today to state clearly what indigenous leaders, advocates, grassroots members have known for generations, bias free policing is not happening for the indigenous population in Winnipeg. There is a severe systemic gap between the progressive language in your policy hand books and the unsafe biased encounters occurring daily on our streets.

In the annual Bias Free Policing Reports, the WPS, consistently points to extensive internal diversity training, human rights modules and CALEA accreditation as proof of compliance. The Service notes that out of a yearly hundred formal internal complaints, only a single digit fraction officially allege improper bias, on paper, the Service claims the system is working, but this a dangerous data image. A lack of formal complaints does not mean a lack of racism. It means a complete lack of faith in the reporting mechanism. Indigenous people facing street checks, profiling, lack of care, disrespect, or excessive use-of- force do not walk into the police station to file a complaint with the very institution that targeted them.

Trust in the WPS, has plummeted, heavily, more so over the last decade among indigenous who encounter routine checks facing abusive language and discriminatory stop and frisk practices.

When the Board accepts internal administrative reviews that concludes 'no policy changes are required' it invalidates community trauma.

Ticking a box to show a percentage of indigenous recruits, establishing an appointed advisory committee which has not produced any concrete plans of action to address systemic bias policing does not change a culture.

When WPS shoot and kill indigenous community members, the Service refuses to track or publicly release disaggregated racial data regarding its use-of- force interactions. This internal lack of data creates an environment where systemic bias cannot be officially proven because the Service refuses to measure it.

We cannot train our way out of systemic racism with internal slideshows, true accountability requires transparent independent measures.

I urge this Board to utilize its legislative authority to mandate two immediate policy updates.

1. Mandate Disaggregated Race Bias Data Collection- Instruct the WPS to systematically track, analyze, and publicly report disaggregated racial data across all police stops, detentions, mental health wellness checks and use of force incidents.
2. Empower independent Community Led Oversight- This data must not be analyzed or guarded internally by WPS. It must be overseen by a Community Governed framework with the Indigenous Council on Policing, the Indigenous Appointed Advisory Committee and the Grassroots Community to ensure transparency and drive systemic policy overhauls.

The Boards current Strategic Plans aims to effect ' transformational changes ' Change cannot occur while masking systemic failures behind internal audits. Stop protecting the institution, start protecting the community and implementing independent data collection now.

Your 2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan designates advancing reconciliation as an urgent strategic priority, but reconciliation cannot occur without truth, and truth requires data. You cannot claim to build community trust while simultaneously refusing to measure the systemic bias that fractures it.

Meeqwetch for your time as you listen to me speak from my hearth to my mind so that what comes from my mouth is my truth.