



...from the January 15, 2018 meeting

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Durham Region Chair Roger Anderson has been re-elected to lead the Police Services Board in 2018.

Chair Anderson joined the Board in 2003 and was first elected Chair in 2011. At today's Board meeting, he was elected to serve as Chair for another one-year term.

Retired Ajax Fire Chief Randy Wilson was elected Vice Chair. During his career, he served as the Durham Region Fire Coordinator and as chair of the Durham Region 911 Board Committee.

The Durham Regional Police Services Board (DRPSB) is the civilian governing body of the police service.

Update on Inquest Recommendations

The Board received a report on the progress being made regarding the 25 recommendations made by the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Michael MacIsaac.

Progress is being made in many areas and a more detailed report will be sent to the Board in February. The DRPS is formalizing a partnership with multiple universities and mental health experts to review education and training methods for officers to enhance interactions with people living with mental illness. The project has received federal funding.

As well, a Standing Committee on Mental Health is being considered to advise the DRPSB on policy, training and practice in this area. The group would include hospital reps, community mental health workers and people with lived experiences who can share their insights with the Board.



Focus on Mental Health: Chief Paul Martin, left, and PSB Vice Chair Randy Wilson, right, receive a conversation plate from Karim Mamdani of Ontario Shores, to help raise awareness about mental health issues in the community.

Keeping the Conversation Going

Karim Mamdani, President and CEO of Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences (Ontario Shores) presented a conversational plate ("convoplate") to DRPS Chief Paul Martin to help raise awareness about mental health issues in our community. The hand-painted plate was presented to the Chief during today's PSB meeting. The plates are created with special messages and circulated to community leaders. The plate presented to the Chief was made by an outpatient at Ontario Shores. The idea was started by Brian Hansell (<http://bit.ly/2D6GmL8>) to raise the level of awareness about mental health issues after his son Paul committed suicide in 2010.

ProAction Celebrates Another Great Year

Members of the local chapter of ProAction Cops & Kids provided the Board with an update on another successful year of bringing officers together with local youth. Since 2007, over 13,000 youth have participated in local programs, involving over 700 DRPS Officers. This has built more trust and created new relationships as kids get to know the person behind the uniform.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., at Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Rd. E., Whitby, Ontario. ■