



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATEMENT – SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORMING THE POLICE ACT

August 17, 2020

The all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act has been mandated by the Legislative Assembly to undertake a broad inquiry into policing, including examining the role of police with respect to complex social issues; examining the scope of systemic racism within BC's police agencies; and ensuring consistency of a modernized *Police Act* with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The important tasks of the Committee have generated a high level of public interest in its work. The Committee aims to engage with British Columbians and to identify solutions and opportunities for reform with respect to the policing system including anti-racism measures, and improved social and health outcomes.

To this end, the Committee intends to take a phased approach to undertaking its work beginning with background and informational briefings. Last week, the Committee met with representatives from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to receive a technical briefing on the *Police Act*. In the coming weeks, the Committee will follow-up with other ministries and independent offices, and seek input from identified provincial organizations, community advocacy groups, Indigenous communities, subject matter experts, and individuals with frontline experience in several related areas. These include policing and law enforcement, health, mental health and addictions, racism and diversity, and homelessness to gather more information on the policing and public safety landscape in BC.

In the second phase, expected to take place in the winter and early spring, the Committee will hold an open public consultation to provide opportunities for additional stakeholders and all British Columbians to share their views.

Updates on the work of the Committee, including details with respect to each phase of its inquiry, will continue to be posted on the Committee's website, as well as shared on the Legislative Assembly's social media accounts; British Columbians can also join the Committee's email distribution list to receive direct updates.

Committee Members also encourage everyone to follow their meetings; live webcasts, transcripts and audio recordings are available on the Committee's website: <https://bcleg.ca/3eGxca8>.

A final report to the Legislative Assembly will be released no later than May 14, 2021.