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July 15, 2020

Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Re: Submission of CCA Reports Related to Policing Issues

Dear Mr. McKay,

On behalf of the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA), I want to thank you for your commitment to public service, and specifically for your recent efforts to examine systemic racism in policing in Canada.

As discussed with Jean-Marie David, I am pleased to provide two of CCA's reports that may help to inform the Standing Committee's study of this important topic. *Policing in the 21st Century: New Policing for New Challenges* (2014), and *Toward Peace, Harmony, and Well-being: Policing in Indigenous Communities* (2019) each examine the evolving role of police in supporting public and community safety. The reports were undertaken for Public Safety Canada and are authored by multidisciplinary panels of experts with extensive knowledge and experience in diverse aspects of policing - from research to policy to practice.

The 2014 report, *Policing in the 21st Century* addressed the external and internal challenges facing Canada's police, such as the changing nature of crime, the increasingly global context in which security actors operate, the impact of social trends and associated demands for police services, human resources, policing costs, and accountability issues.

The 2019 report, *Policing in Indigenous Communities* focuses on the past and current policing arrangements mostly on reserves, and found that many Indigenous communities do not receive policing services that meet their safety and security needs. The evidence suggests a relationship-based, community-driven approach provides an opportunity to make meaningful and sustainable improvements towards community well-being.

The CCA was established in 2005 to undertake independent, non-partisan assessments of the evidence on complex topics of public interest to inform decision-making in Canada. In this way we seek to inform — rather than influence — public policy in Canada. Our assessment process uses a combination of evidence synthesis, expert deliberations, and rigorous peer review to produce reports that are high quality, insightful, and available to all Canadians in both official languages.

I trust you will find these reports useful. As with all of our assessments, these are also available on our website at www.cca-reports.ca. Should you wish, our team would be pleased to brief you and the Standing Committee on the findings of either report. To arrange that, please contact Heather Ennis, Director of Communications, at 613-851-7723 or heather.ennis@cca-reports.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Meslin".

Eric M. Meslin, PhD, FCAHS
President and CEO