

RESEARCH NEEDED TO SUPPORT CLAIMS: JUSTICE TULLOCH

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the initiative critically important.

Halton Police Board Chair Rob Burton said directing Halton police to develop the data initiative is an important step forward and shows the board's desire to be leaders in community policing.

"The thing about a good reputation is you have to work on it every day in order to keep it," he said.

The prospect of a demographics collection program was also well received by Andrew Tyrrell, president of the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton.

"Data is always a good thing and we would support the collection of data. It is something that all parties to the conversation can go back to and it is something that is measurable," said Tyrrell.

"It is something that can be tracked. So, we can collect data in 2020 and see the interactions with the various groups and then in 2021 we can look back at the data and see if there have been increases or decreases and we can draw conclusions from that."

Kim Jenkinson, the executive director of the Halton Multicultural Council Connections said they are 100 per cent in favour of agencies like Halton police collecting disaggregated data.

She said that data is needed so society can quantify and measure the inequities in its systems and start to address those inequities. One possible issue pointed out by Jenkinson is that some communities will be afraid this data could be used to support increased inequities in the treatment of various racialized groups.

She said one possible solution is for police not to have access to the data, which is instead controlled by a community group or watchdog organization. It is also worth noting that a petition calling on Halton police to collect race-based data was posted on change.org in mid-June and in two weeks was signed by 1,500 supporters.

Burton emphasized that when a demographics data collection program is created for Halton police the results of that data collection will be made public.

The plan police develop will be subject to the police board's approval.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: With police conduct towards minority groups under heavy criticism, local residents should be aware that Halton police are developing a program that will show if certain segments of the population are being disproportionately targeted by police.



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August, 2020

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