

Saunders worked in variety of units over his 32 years in Toronto police service

Saunders is a 32-year veteran of the service after starting his career as a constable at 11 Division in 1982, according to TPS. Over the next 30 years, he worked in Special Investigations, Emergency Task Force and led the Homicide Squad.

He'll be the first black leader of the largest municipal police service in Canada.

Saunders said he first realized the significance of becoming the first black police chief of the service when he told his son about the appointment. "It resonated with me when I told my son. He said, 'Dad, that's history.'"

The married father of four holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Justice Studies from Guelph Humber University.

"I can't begin to tell you how honoured and excited I am to have this opportunity to work with you and with the Toronto police service," he said. "To say that I'm excited about this opportunity would be an understatement.

"I look forward to serving the great citizens of the city, a city in which I live and a city that I am proud to serve."

Saunders is currently in charge of Specialized Operations Command, where he oversees 1,200 police officers, 164 civilian members and a budget of \$175 million.

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— with files from the Toronto Star

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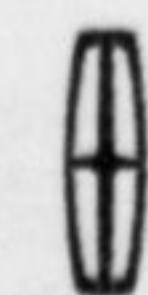
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