

## Policing & Militarization

### Preamble:

The police are an institution empowered by the state to enforce the law, protect property, and limit civil disorder. However, as an institution, the police force often acts to perpetuate violence, misconduct, discrimination, and oppression against already marginalized people. Racial profiling, excessive use of force, targeted surveillance, victim-blaming, immigration raids and criminalization of political dissent are a few of the many ways in which the police uphold systems that perpetuate sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, colonialism and other forms of marginalization. Similarly, military forces act as government agents who work to protect the state's best interests and carry out policies rooted in colonization. In many cases, police and military forces are used interchangeably and often train and work together on policing initiatives in communities in Canada and around the world, often under the guise of peacekeeping.

The creation of Canada's police force (The RCMP) was not to maintain peace but to uphold and enforce Canadian authority on Indigenous nations through colonial policies, land theft, and assimilation of Indigenous peoples. Furthermore, they aid in the suppression of immigration and minority groups. Within Peterborough, we have seen an increase in policing from local forces of BIPOC, Racialized, 2SLGBTQ+, and houseless communities.

The excessive use of force by police can also be seen in low-income, marginalized communities, where groups of people who are Racialized, impoverished, status and non-status Indigenous peoples or dealing with mental health and addiction are targeted, placed under surveillance, harassed and profiled on an ongoing basis.

As a response to this, communities are developing alternative and community-based policing models, ensuring community-wide accountability, and curbing high rates of brutality, criminalization, and incarceration. All people should be free from endangerment and unfair treatment, both in Canada and globally. Governments have the responsibility to support people living within their borders and act on their behalf at home and internationally. The police and the military both share a history of targeting marginalized communities and a history of recruiting members from those very groups they target. Students are among those groups the police and military have worked to repress dissent, target student activists and vulnerable low-income students when recruiting new members.

### The TCSA Supports:

- i. Alternative, community-based policing and accountability that focuses on trauma-informed crime prevention and rehabilitation.

- ii. Trauma-informed, community-based outreach/recruitment initiatives that are respectful of the experiences that Trent's diverse student population has with policing / military institutions.
- iii. Domestic and foreign policy that aims at peace-building, disarmament, and demilitarization and promotes the safety and human dignity of all people.
- iv. Pacifism as state and societal policy which calls for the abolition of the institutions of the military and war.
- v. The idea of multilateral disarmament.
- vi. The elimination of all nuclear weapons as a step towards global peace.
- vii. The reallocation of police and military funding to equitable community programs.
- viii. The collaboration between Forensic Studies, other academic departments and community organisations for the purposes of program requirements

The TCSA Opposes:

- I. Insensitive recruitment initiatives or presence on campus that are not for educational or safety-related purposes.
- II. Plainclothes or uniformed police on campus as a form of general surveillance or intimidation.
- III. The use of police force to perpetuate racism, colonialism and systemic discrimination.
- IV. War and occupation as state policies.
- V. The use of police to further the Prison-Industrial Complex.
- VI. Cuts to social and educational programs that increase military spending.
- VII. Forced military conscription.
- VIII. Brutality in domestic policing and foreign military actions, including but not limited to actions classified as "peacekeeping" and "security."
- IX. The aggressive use of force by police or military against protestors or any civilians to repress dissent.
- X. University funding being allocated towards nonacademic pro-policing initiatives.
- XI. Negligent university programming or communications by departments that coerce students to seek unsafe police intervention.
- XII. Genocide, Apartheid, attrition, and war crimes against any people or sociopolitical group.
- XIII. Militant occupation of unceded land and territory.

**Policy**

No TCSA resources, space, recognition, or funding will be allocated to enhance groups/individuals' support toward nonacademic police and military activities. Such activities are defined as any campaigns (demonstrations, distribution, solicitation, or lobbying efforts) that

seek to recruit or promote recruitment and are not for program or education requirements. This policy extends to all funding allocated to TCSA-registered clubs.