

November 16, 2020

Chief Paul VandeGraaf
Cobourg Police Service
107 King Street West
Cobourg ON K9A 2M4

Dear Chief VandeGraaf,

Re: Update to Breaking the Golden Rule: A Review of Police Strip Searches in Ontario

On March 22, 2019, the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) released the systemic review "[Breaking the Golden Rule: A Review of Police Strip Searches in Ontario](#)." As part of the OIPRD's mandate to monitor and respond to systemic policing issues, the then Interim Director, contacted police services to determine the progress made since the release of the report.

Based on the responses received from Ontario police services, we found that many services have attempted to ensure their policies are consistent with the report recommendations, but there were still significant differences throughout the province. The responses highlighted that the next steps required to safeguard proper strip searches in Ontario cannot be achieved through the OIPRD's powers. For this reason, we have forwarded our findings to the Ministry of the Solicitor General to continue the work and provide greater clarity regarding police strip searches in Ontario.

As always, the OIPRD will continue to address allegations of illegal strip searches through the public complaints system and our [Notifications program](#).

Sincerely,

 Stephen Leach
Independent Police Review Director