

A review of the police, and Thunder Bay city council votes not to calling for senator to resign

[National News](#) | September 27, 2017 by [Willow Fiddler](#) | [Attributed to: | 0 Comments](#)



WillowFiddler
APTN National News

Northern Ontario's largest city was once again in the news this week – especially the police and the Thunder Bay city council.

Ontario's police watchdog, who is in the midst of an unprecedented review of the Thunder Bay police, held a public meeting to gauge the relationship between the law and Indigenous citizens.

More than 200 people packed a meeting hall in the city to talk about the police and racism.

Gerry McNeilly, the Office of the Independent Review Director said he was surprised by the turnout – and plans to hold another meeting.

“What I’ve heard is an open acknowledgment that there is racism, that there is discrimination and that there is a need for people to recognize that and to talk about it openly and it’s time to start that discussion,” said McNeilly.

“I heard that a lot tonight and that made a difference to me.”

At city hall, the mayor, back from taking personal leave, was having its own discussion about racism.

More specifically whether or not to support a call for Senator Lynn Beyak to resign.

Beyak first made the news in March when she opined that the good that came out of residential schools was overshadowed by the negative stories that make the news.

In September, Beyak also said Status Indians should trade their status cards for Canadian citizenship.

“We’re already citizens of this country,” said Marie Lands, a residential school survivor. “We were the First Nations of this country and to say give this up for this, it’s totally wrong.”

In the end, city council voted not to push for Beyak’s resignation.

It’s a move that could harm the already strained relationship First Nations people have with the city.