

Provincial HSJCC Conference Agenda
Day 2: Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre, 525 Bay Street, Toronto, ON

Time	Event	Location	Notes
0800-0900	Registration	B2 (Lower Conference Level) Grand Ballroom Foyer	Registration and breakfast.
0830-0900	Meet & Greet with Minister Lalonde	Simcoe Room	Minister Lalonde will arrive for a short meet & greet with Katie Almond, Heather Lumley, Gord Boyd, Alice Bellavance, Camille Quenneville, and Sue Khowessah. Some members of the Police Panel may also attend (TBD).
0900-0915	Welcome Address / Opening Remarks	Main Stage	Gord & Alice will welcome attendees and provide opening remarks.
0915-0930	Keynote Speaker: The Hon. Marie-France Lalonde, <i>Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services</i>	Main Stage	Katie Almond, P-HSJCC Co-Chair will introduce the Minister.
0930-1030	Police Panel - <i>Mental Health, Race and Police Interactions with People in Crisis</i>	Main Stage	Uppala Chandrasekera will thank the Minister and introduce the panel.

Provincial HSJCC Conference Plenary Presentation:
A Discussion on the Intersections of Policing, Race and Mental Health
Tuesday, November 21, 2017
9:30am - 10:30am

Chair of the Panel:

Justice Donald McLeod, Judge, Ontario Court of Justice

Panellists:

A/Superintendent Reuben Stroble, Professional Standards Unit, Toronto Police Service

Anthony Morgan, Lawyer, Falconers LLP

Aseefa Sarang, Executive Director, Across Boundaries

Dawnmarie Harriott, Voices from the Street Coordinator, Working for Change

Gerry McNeilly, Ontario's Independent Police Review Director

Panel Description:

This panel discussion will examine current police practices related to interactions with people with mental health and addictions issues. The aim of this dialogue will be to facilitate cooperation between sectors for the purpose of improving police relations with racialized communities and the mental health and addictions client population, with a view to preventing unnecessary harm or fatalities in the future. The invited panelists represent different functions within the human services and justice sectors, as well as offering lived experience as a member of a racialized community.

Agenda for the Panel Discussion

Item	Time	Presenter	Notes
Introduction of panellists	9:30am – 9:35am	Uppala Chandrasekera	Brief overview of each person's bio
Opening remarks	9:35am – 9:40am	Justice McLeod	
Question and answer period	9:40am – 10:25am	All	Justice McLeod will direct questions to specific panellists
Closing remarks	10:25 – 10:30am	Justice McLeod	
Thanking the panellists	10:30am – 10:33am	Uppala Chandrasekera	

Questions for Panel Discussion: 3min provided for each response

1) Opening Remarks by JUSTICE MCLEOD:

- Begin with defining race and racism:
Ontario's Anti-Racism Directorate defines **race**: "A term used to classify people into groups based principally on physical traits such as skin colour. Racial categories are not based on science or biology but on differences that society has chosen to emphasize, with significant consequences for people's lives. Racial categories may vary over time and place, and can overlap with ethnic, cultural or religious groupings."
racism: "Ideas or practices that establish, maintain or perpetuate the racial superiority or dominance of one group over another."
systemic racism: "When institutions or systems create or maintain racial inequity, often as a result of hidden institutional biases in policies, practices and procedures that privilege some groups and disadvantage others."
- The Anti-Racism Directorate has released a 3-year strategic plan, and the *Anti-Racism Act* was passed earlier this year
- This Act was passed to emphasize that racism exists across all sectors in Ontario, including in policing and healthcare
- We need to address disproportionalities in outcomes – all groups are not impacted in the same way – different communities are impacted in different ways
- There are differential health outcomes as well as justice outcomes based on race and ethnicity

2) Question for ALL panellists:

Given these definitions from the Anti-Racism Directorate, what does anti-racism mean to you, from a professional and a personal perspective?

3) Question for DAWNMARIE, ASEEFA, followed by GERRY, ANTHONY, REUBEN:

With regards to police interactions, what are the most immediate or pressing needs for racialized people with mental health and addictions issues? And what is the best way to meet those needs in the short-term and in the long-term?

(Answers should focus on system issues and system solutions).

4) Question for ANTHONY, REUBEN, GERRY, followed by ASEEFA:

How does mental health, addictions, and racism impact on your profession?

(Answers should focus on how these issues impact the professionals working in the justice system, especially policing).

5) Question for ALL panellists:

What is your one ask of government to address these issues we have discussed?

6) Closing remarks by JUSTICE MCLEOD:

- Provide a summary of the discussion
- A call to action to the audience: Now that you have all heard about the issues and solutions needed, how will you address these issues?
- If time allows, facilitate questions from the audience

Notes from our planning discussion on October 4, 2017:

- First conversation around anti-racism for this audience
- Audience is a combination of health care and justice system providers
- We (the panellists) may not all agree on what the solution is for addressing racism – and that's okay
- What we want to do is share a diversity of experience, because it's often assumed that folks from racialized communities all think the same way
- Racism exists across all sectors – we are not going to be focusing our discussion on proving that fact
- Keeping it high level to discuss what the province can do address mental health, addictions, policing and racism on systemic level
- Justice McLeod will provide a preamble, including defining racism as per the definitions of the Anti-Racism Directorate
- Justice McLeod will ask panelists questions directly in a specific order
- First question what does anti-racism mean to you? Accepting the premise that racism exists across all sectors and we are not going to prove that fact
- Personal and/or professional perspective welcome – to be answered by everyone
- Questions re: community can go to Dawnmarie & Aseefa – re: pressing needs
- Important to focus on social context
- Questions should be more critical in order to get to heart of issue
- How to address mental health and addictions issues that are so individualistic and often in silence in the profession
- The mental health impact of these interactions on police – potentially undiagnosed mental health issues on both sides of the interaction and the affect that has
- Good to put to Anthony & Reuben to get those perspectives
- Stressing that a collective effort is needed, not only within racialized communities
- Need to raise where the action items are coming from – government follow-up to inquest recommendations for example and lack thereof
- Need to show a courageous leadership in naming the questions – framing the conversation properly – more than just mentioning race – stereotypes, preconceptions about certain racialized groups when MH issues are present