

Hello, I am writing to you to address the ways in which I believe we should reallocate the funds from the SPVM. I am sure you are getting hundreds, hopefully thousands of emails addressing the same 10 demands as written by the SPVM, and I hope that you are finally listening to the grave importance and the truths behind why we are begging you to consider our pleas.

1. DEFUND. In a perfect world we would love to see 50% of the budget cut from the SPVM. Considering it is a whopping 665\$ million, I think we can all agree that those funds won't be missed so gravely if they are reallocated properly.

Defunding the police is not to make the SPVM's lives harder. Distributing those funds to social and community let services will actually make their lives easier. That's the whole purpose of a community, we work TOGETHER to support each other.

2. DISARM AND DEMILITARIZE. Guns create gun violence. If there are no guns present, you're a heck of a lot less likely to get shot. It's 2020 and there's no need and your everyday police officer does not need to be armed to kill his local civilians. How would you feel being pulled over for speeding and having a gun pointed at your chest? When you, a regular civilian were simply speeding, a common misdemeanour that is not worth purposely killing someone over. the SPVM does not to be armed with weapons, being weaponized, you are asking them to use them. You are asking the SPVM to hurt people, and isn't that what they're trying to prevent?

3. DECOLONIZE. Contrary to what is commonly stereotyped about Indigenous people for disobeying the law and being drunks, they actually have an incredibly fair and just legal system in place. Their model doesn't just dispose of people in prison, essentially placing a bandaid over a deeply ingrained wound. Instead Indigenous communities work together to get to the root of the trauma that led said person to cause such harm and together they try to heal that trauma to prevent that person from committing yet another crime. Now doesn't that just make... sense? The Canadian government could benefit from their incredibly efficient models and go so far to encourage and empower Indigenous communities to address all harms committed through these same models.

4. INVEST in community led and run projects to prevent harm, especially related to violence, mental illness, and drug use to support transformative justice. Every community has unique needs, that require an intersectional approach to include every different aspect of their community. Everyone, LGBTQ2+, sex workers, drug user, people with disabilities, we all have different needs, and we need our government to help us with the funding for the tools to develop and manage programs that work for them.

5. INVEST and create unarmed service teams outside the police to address mental health and drug related crises, traffic violations, gender-based violence, juvenile "summary" offenses, and missing persons cases. This is so

straightforward, people falling into any of these categories do not need to be treated as dangerous criminals. They are everyday people and want to be seen and treated as just that, people.

6. INVEST in programs and services, including youth programs, recreation programs, and social housing, in presently criminalized communities; empower communities to develop and manage programs that work for them. It's hard to change a system that we're already comfortable in. Maybe you can't imagine a city where people were actually engaged in their communities and the programs led by them. You're probably not the only one that can't imagine that, but it's possible. If you are to start funding these programs, the people will follow suite, they will begin to engage, and slowly we can build up a stronger, more resilient community.

7. Decriminalize all drugs, sex work, and HIV status, everyone makes choices in their life, and for some those decisions involve drugs and sex. There are actually plenty of people that live healthy, lifestyles that contribute immensely to their communities that are both drug users and sex workers. The next step would be to eliminate the SPVM drug squad, morality squad, Eclipse squad and all other units targeting marginalized communities, as well as all proactive surveillance programs, and release and expunge criminal records for drug and sex work charges. If we decriminalize sex work, the only logical next step would be to clear formally convicted sex workers of all charges, right? Right.

8. Eliminate social control bylaws related to "incivilities," and release and expunge all records related to these bylaws (including unpaid bylaw fines), including surveillance and enforcement in public transit. There are far too many tickets that are given out that are gravely undeserved, and this so desperately needs to be acknowledged.

9. WITHDRAW police from schools and sports programs, this is TRAUMATIC to children. You are raising them to know and fear violence. It is their presence that is inciting violence in children. We also need to cease police patrols of public parks, community events, and other spaces in which youth congregate.

10. END THE CRIMINALIZATION and surveillance of migration by eliminating all collaboration between the police and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) agents and any other form of involvement of the SPVM in immigration matters. Immigrants are an integral part of our economy and our communities. It's about time we started treating them as such.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email, I truly hope you will take my words into consideration.

Cheers,
Stevie Smylie