



British Columbia's  
Office of the Human Rights  
Commissioner

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Letter to B.C. Ministers of Education, Public Safety regarding school police liaison officers and the firing of the SD61 School Board

Vancouver B.C. – In response to recent developments regarding school police liaison officers (SPLOs) and the firing of the School District 61 (SD61) School Board, B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner, Kasari Govender, issued a letter to Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care, and Garry Begg, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

Commissioner Govender in the letter states, "I believe the failure of the Provincial Government to fund research to develop evidence on which to base its SPLO approach, as I have been calling for over three years, is contrary to its human rights obligations and undermines its stated values to combat racism in our communities and improve public safety."

The full text of the Commissioner's letter is available here: [BCOHRC\\_Feb2025\\_Letter-to-Beare-Begg-re-SPLOs.pdf](#)

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### Media contact

To request an interview with Commissioner Kasari Govender, please contact [media@bchumanrights.ca](mailto:media@bchumanrights.ca) or 604-306-7369.

### Media kit

[Visit our media kit](#) for images of Commissioner Kasari Govender, pronunciation guidance, bios and more.

### About BCOHRC

BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner exists to address the root causes of inequality, discrimination and injustice in B.C. by shifting laws, policies, practices and cultures. We do this work through education, research, advocacy, inquiry and monitoring. Learn more at: [bchumanrights.ca](http://bchumanrights.ca)

### About the Commissioner

Kasari Govender began her work as B.C.'s first independent human rights commissioner in September 2019. As an independent officer of the Legislature, Commissioner Govender is uniquely positioned to ensure human rights in B.C. are protected, respected and advanced on a systemic level. In her first five-year term, her work through BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner included a public inquiry into experiences of hate in the pandemic, a report on systemic discrimination in policing, community embedded research about a range of human rights issues experienced by British Columbians, public awareness campaigns about ableism and racism and

guidance to government that, among other things, informed the creation of both the *Anti-Racism Data Act* and the *Anti-Racism Act*. Commissioner Govender was reappointed for a second term beginning in September 2024.

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