



FOR SOLUTIONS TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

VOTE ON
June 26

All Torontonians have the right to feel safe.

But an overreliance on police, racism and systemic discrimination, and chronic underfunding of community-based intervention and prevention have put communities and individuals at risk. And too many people are dying from preventable opioid-related deaths. **The upcoming mayoral by-election is an opportunity for you to vote for greater investments in keeping our communities safe and healthy.**

What's the Problem?

Gender-Based Violence Is on the Rise

Violence against women, girls, and Two Spirit, trans, and non-binary people has **intensified** since the onset of COVID-19. Amidst successive pandemic lockdowns, isolation, and heightened financial stress, the rise in



gender-based violence has been **labelled the Shadow Pandemic**.

Between late November 2021 to late November 2022, 52 lives were taken by GBV in Ontario.

People Who are Black, Indigenous, or Experiencing Homelessness are Overpoliced











Race-based data collected by the Toronto Police Service show that many racialized communities were **overrepresented** in use-of-force incidents and strip searches. For example, Black people were subject to almost **40% of all use-of-force incidents** involving Toronto police in 2020, even though they were involved in only 24% of police interactions.

Across Canada, Indigenous people are

5x  vs    

more likely to be incarcerated than the rest of the population.

People experiencing homelessness have

10x  vs         

more interactions with police than everyone else.

Police Should Not Be the First on Scene for Vulnerable and Marginalized Communities

Police-led, criminal justice-oriented responses to crises are costly, have tended to over-criminalize Indigenous, Black, and trans communities as well as sex workers, and can result in violence and even death. Pro-arrest



approaches to gender-based violence tend to deter reporting and penalize survivors themselves. For example, survivors are **64% more likely to die** after their partners are arrested and jailed. The Toronto Police

Service receives about **33,000 mental health calls** a year, which **disproportionately** result in use of force.

The Opioid Poisoning Crisis Is Only Getting Worse, and People Are Dying

Since the onset of the pandemic there has been an

84%

increase in deaths
from opioid toxicity

1,000+

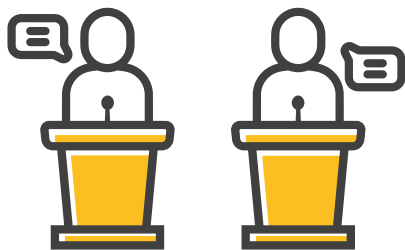
lives have been lost
in the past two years

As the federal government considers the City of Toronto's request to **decriminalize** the possession of all drugs for personal use for adults and young people, service providers are **calling for** a rapid increase in funding and expansion of harm reduction programs to address the growing crisis.

Take Action!

1. Ask the Mayoral Candidates If They Will Commit to The Following Actions:

- Fully resource Toronto's Gender Equity Strategy, including a Gender-Based Violence Action Plan.
- Redirect policing resources to implement non-violent, community-based programs that reduce the reliance on police in four key areas: youth violence prevention, homelessness, mental health crises, and gender-based violence.
- Immediately increase the resources for current [mental health pilot](#) partners, ensuring community organizations and grassroots groups — particularly Indigenous- and Black-led and mental health-focused groups — have the resources they need.
- Increase funding and expand harm reduction programming and services to stop preventable overdose deaths.
- Work with harm reduction experts to ensure that drug policy and City/City-funded programs and services are informed by harm reduction approaches.
- Advocate for the federal government to grant the City's request to decriminalize the possession of all drugs for personal use for adults and young people.



2. Learn More About the Candidates

Check out [our election resources](#) and attend an event, such as a Mayoral Debate, to learn more about the election issues and where candidates stand.



3. Pledge to Vote

[Election day](#) is on June 26.

[Advance polls](#) are from June 8-13.

[Apply to vote](#) by mail from May 1-26.