



Toronto Police Services Board

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For immediate release

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Sexual Assault Audit Steering Committee Established

Toronto: A Sexual Assault Audit Steering Committee has been established and is meeting to work together in an inclusive process to improve the way in which the Toronto Police Service investigates sexual assault.

The Steering Committee was established by the Toronto Police Services Board in February 2005 in response to the Auditor General's Follow-Up Review on the October 1999 Report entitled "Review of the Investigation of Sexual Assaults – Toronto Police Service." This review contains 25 recommendations that build on the 57 recommendations contained in the original audit and are aimed at improving the investigative process for women who have been sexually assaulted.

The composition of the Steering Committee, which is chaired by Toronto Police Services Board Chair Councillor Pam McConnell, includes both police officers and members of the public who work in the women's anti-violence community. From the Toronto Police Service, the members are Chief William Blair, Staff Superintendent Jane Dick and Detective Sergeant Elizabeth Byrnes. The community members are Beverly Bain, Sexual Assault Educator and Consultant; Amanda Dale, Director of Advocacy at YWCA Toronto; Peggy-Gail Dehal-Ramsen of Parkdale Community Legal Services and Jane Doe, the woman whose successful civil action against the police for negligence and discrimination prompted the original audit. A mediator from St. Stephen's Community House, Margaret Corion, will assist the Steering Committee in its work.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held on July 8, 2005 at Toronto City Hall. The Steering Committee is looking forward to dealing with the important issues raised in the Auditor General's report and intends to engage the broader women's community as part of its comprehensive consultation process.

- 30 -

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