PREFACE

For more than a decade, we have been working with many community partners to identify and eradicate racial profiling in all of its forms. As our work continues, we have developed a clearer picture of racial profiling as a unique form of racial discrimination, and one that the average Indigenous or racialized person experiences all too often.

Racial profiling often begins in childhood, and the cumulative damage of profiling throughout one's life can be devastating. That damage often includes facing systemic barriers and discrimination when coming into contact with a child welfare agency, or facing harsher discipline in school. As a young adult, it might involve facing more scrutiny from police and even from security at the local mall. The damage continues as racialized and Indigenous people are investigated and charged by the police more often than other people. And ultimately, we see disproportionate numbers of Indigenous and racialized prisoners in our jails and correctional centres. In short, racial profiling can be an insidious cycle that lasts a lifetime.

The OHRC is working on new policy guidelines that will help service providers identify racial profiling and take concrete steps to eliminate it. This work can only succeed if we link academic knowledge and expertise with understanding of the lived reality of people who experience racial profiling.

At the Ontario Human Rights Commission, we envision an inclusive society where everyone takes responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights; where everyone is valued and treated with equal dignity and respect; and where everyone's human rights are a lived reality. And in this vision, there is no place for racial profiling.

I thank all of the contributors for sharing their insights, their expertise and their personal experiences – this knowledge will guide us as we work towards our goal of eliminating racial profiling in all its forms. This job is vital. The future of this generation – and generations to come – depends on us getting it right.

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