The Edmonton SRO Research Project
Bashir, Researcher

Alex, Professor
The School Resource Officer (SRO) program was created in 1979 in partnership with the Edmonton Police Service, Edmonton Public School Board, and the Edmonton Catholic School Board. It began with four officers stationed in High Schools. The program later expanded to include Junior High Schools.

As of May 2020, there were 26 SROs in High Schools and Junior High Schools. The program has been highly praised with superintendents and school board trustees expressing a desire to eventually deploy police in elementary schools.
SRO Workload

2012 Occurrences by Type Investigated by High School SROs

- Single Officer Deployment
- Lockdowns
- Bait Phone

SRO Portfolios - Initiatives
F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #05 – February 6, 2018

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #05, held February 6, 2018, be approved as amended.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board of Trustees heard from Mr. Bashir Mohamed regarding the Edmonton Public Schools School Resource Officer program.

H. Reports

2. Report # 2 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held February 6, 2018)

Information was received regarding actions taken at the February 6, 2018, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Motion re Phasing Out Public Funding of Private Schools
In that time, **679** students were expelled and **5,228** students were suspended with SRO involvement.³

The application of criminal charges for occurrences (**2068**, or **47%**) is almost equal to the usage of alternative measures to address occurrences (**2306**, or **53%**).⁴
School Resource Officers programs across North America are often referred to as “community policing.” This definition is intended to differentiate from traditional views of policing where officers are primarily focused on enforcing the law. Wilfred Laurier University defines community policing as:

“A shift from traditional policing and focused on building trust and long term relationships in the community with the goal of reducing crime. It moves from a punitive focus to one based on prevention through mutual respect.”

Instead, our data has shown that our schools have become police precincts. Our schools have become places where students are investigated, surveilled, and charged by sworn police officers.

Not only is this unacceptable but it directly contradicts the way the program has been presented to the public. The goal of this primer is to give you a basic overview of the program and to help counter the myths surrounding School Resource Officers in Edmonton.