

**Decision Regarding Findings Report  
INV-25-163 & INV-25-167  
Concerning the Conduct of  
Halton Regional Police Service Board Member  
Jeff Knoll**

**Decision By:**  
Ryan Teschner, Inspector General of Policing

## I. INTRODUCTION

[1] This decision addresses an allegation that Jeff Knoll, the Chair of the Halton Regional Police Service Board (the “Board”), committed misconduct by posting a political endorsement on his personal Facebook page during the 2025 federal election. This allegation was investigated by an inspector with Ontario’s Inspectorate of Policing (“IoP”) who prepared a Findings Report,<sup>1</sup> which is attached to this Decision as Appendix A.

[2] Following a review of the Findings Report and for the reasons that follow, I conclude that Mr. Knoll has not committed misconduct in contravention of the *Code of Conduct for Police Service Board Members* Regulation, O Reg 408/23 (“Code of Conduct”), enacted under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, SO 2019, c 1, Sch 1 (the “Act”).

## II. BACKGROUND

[3] On April 19, 2025, Mr. Knoll placed a public post on his personal Facebook account endorsing the Liberal Party candidate in his riding in the 2025 federal election.

[4] In the Facebook post, Mr. Knoll first canvassed his traditional support for the Progressive Conservative Party, his prior political activities, and his contributions of “public service work... primarily focused on community safety and crime prevention.” The post then proceeds to extoll the work of Liberal MP Anita Anand and Prime Minister Mark Carney, endorsing their leadership and supporting their vision of the country. His post does not refer to him being a member of the Board or its Chair.

[5] That day, Anita Anand re-posted Mr. Knoll’s Facebook page endorsement. In her re-post, she explicitly identified him as the Chair of the Halton Police Service Board.

[6] Members of the public, as well as the Halton Regional Police Association, expressed concern over the political endorsement and questioned whether Mr. Knoll’s endorsement represented a conflict of interest with his duties as the Board’s Chair.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 123 of the Act requires an IoP inspector who completes an investigation of a complaint to report their findings to the Inspector General. This report is redacted to comply with the *Publication of Findings Reports and Directions under Sections 123 and 125 of the Act* Regulation, O Reg 317/24.

### **III. ISSUES**

[7] Did Mr. Knoll's political endorsement:

- i. Represent a conflict of interest under the Code of Conduct; or
- ii. Otherwise undermine the public's trust in the Board or the police service?

### **IV. ANALYSIS**

[8] I adopt the facts as outlined in the Findings Report.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

[9] Conflicts of interest are defined in section 2 of the Code of Conduct as:

... a situation in which a member of a police service board's private interests or personal relationships place, or may reasonably be perceived to place, the member in conflict with their duties as a member of the police service board.

[10] The term "personal relationships" is further defined as including, but not limited to, a relationship with:

1. A current or former spouse or common-law partner of the board member;
2. A current or former intimate partner of the board member;
3. The board member's children, including biological and adoptive children and stepchildren;
4. The legal dependants of the board member;
5. A child in the board member's care;
6. The board member's grandparents, parents or siblings, including grandparents-in-law, parents-in-law and siblings-in-law

[11] Although expressly not limited in scope, the class of individuals captured by the term "personal relationship" might fairly be described as close family members and intimate relationships, past and present. There is no evidence that Mr. Knoll shares this kind of relationship with the subjects of his endorsement.

[12] Furthermore, there is no evidence of a private interest that was engaged by Mr. Knoll's political endorsement. As federal politicians, the two candidates held no authority over Mr. Knoll's appointment to the Board, which he holds based on his statutory office as a municipal elected official.

[13] The fact that Mr. Knoll, while the Chair of the Board, personally supported a political candidate that some viewed as politically antagonistic does not create a conflict of interest as defined in the Code of Conduct. A conflict of interest under the Code of Conduct only arises where a Board member's personal or private interests or personal relationships overlap or are otherwise engaged by his duties as a Board member. The personal views held by board members regarding political candidates, political organizations or even political positions in relation to policing and public safety need not align with those of the police association or members of the police service that they govern. It is only the conduct of board members that is subject to the Code of Conduct.

[14] Accordingly, the next issue to examine is whether Mr. Knoll committed misconduct in posting his politically held views on his Facebook account.

## Political Activity

[15] Mr. Knoll posted his endorsement on his personal Facebook page. In his interview with the inspector, he stressed that he did not mention his role on the Board, on the town council, or any of his personal business ventures in the post. He chose not to place the endorsement on his LinkedIn account to try to ensure its divorce from his professional life, and asserted his right to a freedom of expression in his personal capacity.

[16] That same day, Ms. Anand re-posted Mr. Knoll's personal endorsement from his personal Facebook account to her public Facebook page, highlighting his position as Chair of the Board and their work together.

[17] The re-posting by Ms. Anand is demonstrative of the illusion that it is always possible to isolate the personal and professional aspects of our lives where social media is involved. Even in the absence of Ms. Anand's re-post, the professional identity of public figures in our communities is always but "a click away" from being discovered. It is for this reason that the courts have consistently held that, even "off duty", "members of regulated professions can still harm public trust and confidence in their profession by their statements and conduct".<sup>2</sup> As the Divisional Court recently explained: "... a member's conduct in his or her personal life, or outside the immediate context of practicing their profession, has nevertheless resulted in regulatory action."<sup>3</sup>

[18] It is clear that Mr. Knoll's Facebook post was political expression, endorsing a political candidate, in the course of a federal election. It is expression that is normally protected by section 2(b) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. As discussed, however, that freedom may be subject to limits imposed by legislation – here, the Code of Conduct. As an administrative decision-maker, I am obliged to balance that right against the statutory objectives that the administrative limitation seeks to achieve.<sup>4</sup>

[19] The Code of Conduct does not specifically address political expression or political activity by police service board members. In contrast, the police officers governed by the police service boards are explicitly subject to constraints by the *Political Activity* regulation, O Reg 402/23. It sets out a series of permitted and prohibited political activities in which police officers may participate. In short, police officers may vote, as well as join and contribute to political organizations. Police officers may not express their political views on any issue directly related to their duties, associate their political views with their position, or solicit or receive funds on behalf of a political organization or candidate in an election.

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<sup>2</sup> *Peterson v College of Psychologists of Ontario*, 2023 ONSC 4685 ("*Peterson*") at para 51, leave to appeal dismissed, 2024 CanLII 74731 (SCC).

<sup>3</sup> *Peterson*, at para 54, adopting *Dr. Jha v. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*, 2022 ONSC 769 (Div Ct) at para 119.

<sup>4</sup> *Doré v Barreau du Québec*, 2012 SCC 12; *Loyola High School v. Quebec (Attorney General)*, 2015 SCC 12. For an example in a policing context, see *Zarabi-Majd v Toronto Police Service*, 2025 ONSC 277.

[20] Nonetheless, political expression and political activity by police service board members may still be subject to constraint, most commonly by section 3(1) of the Code of Conduct, which reads:

3.(1) A member of a police service board shall not conduct themselves in a manner that undermines or is likely to undermine the public's trust in the police service board or the police service maintained by the police service board.

[21] How a board member might “undermine public trust” is not defined in the Act or the Code of Conduct. The wording of this conduct prohibition also represents a subtle change from its predecessor section, which prohibited board members from “engaging in conduct that would discredit or compromise the integrity of the board or the police force.”<sup>5</sup> I believe that the prior jurisprudence will at least inform the interpretation of the current standard, recognizing there is a difference in the standards that may result in modification. However, I need not decide this here. The absence of specific guidance “to define the line between proper and improper conduct” does not preclude misconduct.<sup>6</sup> It does, however, mean more than “the standard is whatever we say it is.”<sup>7</sup>

[22] In Canada, the protection afforded freedom of expression is measured on a sliding scale, depending upon the nature of the expression in question.<sup>8</sup> Political expression warrants some of the highest degree of protection.<sup>9</sup> As the Supreme Court of Canada has observed:

Freedom of expression is a crucial aspect of the democratic commitment, not merely because it permits the best policies to be chosen from among a wide array of proffered options, but additionally because it helps to ensure that participation in the political process is open to all persons.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Section 13 of the former *Members of Police Services Boards - Code of Conduct*, O Reg 421/97, enacted pursuant to the repealed *Police Services Act*, RSO 1990, c P 15.

<sup>6</sup> P Ceyssens, *Legal Aspects of Policing*, (Salt Spring Island: Earls court Press, 1994) (loose-leaf Update 46 – May 2026), ch 6 at 6-27: referencing *Spinks v Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board*, 2009 ABCA 405 at para 19.

<sup>7</sup> *Council for Licensed Practical Nurses v Walsh*, 2010 NLCA 11 (“*Walsh*”) at para 42, where the Court reviewed the various bases for supporting a finding of discreditable conduct in the context of a profession.

<sup>8</sup> *Irwin Toy Ltd v Quebec (Attorney General)*, 1989 CanLII 87 (SCC).

<sup>9</sup> *Harper v Canada (Attorney General)*, 2004 SCC 33 at para 84.

<sup>10</sup> *R v Keegstra*, 1990 CanLII 24, [1990] 3 SCR 697 at pp 763-764.

[23] Mr. Knoll's Facebook post was clearly political in nature, and represented political discourse in the midst of a federal election. Despite the fact that his position as Chair of the Board might have been considered notorious, he did not tie his position to his endorsement nor attempt to connect it in any way to his Board duties or the Halton Regional Police Service ("HRPS"). Accordingly, his political endorsement is entitled to considerable protection.

[24] I appreciate that some members of the public, and more particularly, some members of the police association, did not agree with his endorsement. They may have disagreed with the policies of the incumbent government, or felt that members of the Board should publicly support an opposing candidate in that election, who was a retired police officer. But a simple expression of political support for a political candidate and a political organization by a board member, in his personal capacity and in an election cycle, cannot reasonably be said to undermine public trust in either the Board or its police service.

[25] In these circumstances, I am satisfied that Mr. Knoll did nothing to undermine the public trust in the Board or the police service. I would not, however, foreclose the possibility that other political activities or forms of political expression by board members might not, in other circumstances, be free from constraint pursuant to the Code of Conduct.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

[26] There was no violation of the Code of Conduct by Mr. Knoll.

**Date:** September 24, 2026

***Original Signed By***

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**Ryan Teschner**  
*Inspector General of Policing*

# FINDINGS REPORT

Halton Police Service Board Chair:  
Jeff Knoll

**Section 106(1) Board Member  
Conduct Investigation**  
(INV-25-163)

**Submitted to:**  
Ryan Teschner  
Inspector General of Policing of  
Ontario

**April 28, 2026**

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## ABOUT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICING AND THE INSPECTORATE OF POLICING

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The Inspector General of Policing drives improved performance and accountability in policing and police governance by overseeing the delivery of adequate and effective policing across Ontario. The Inspector General ensures compliance with the province's policing legislation and standards, and has the authority to issue progressive, risk-based and binding directions and measures to protect public safety. Ontario's Community Safety and Policing Act embeds protections to ensure the Inspector General's statutory duty is delivered independently from government.

The Inspector General of Policing leads the Inspectorate of Policing (IoP). The IoP provides operational support to inspect, investigate, monitor, and advise Ontario's police services, boards and special constable employers. By leveraging independent research and data intelligence, the IoP promotes leading practices and identifies areas for improvement, ensuring that high-quality policing and police governance is delivered to make everyone in Ontario safer.

In March 2023, Ryan Teschner was appointed as Ontario's first Inspector General of Policing with duties and authorities under the Community Safety and Policing Act. Mr. Teschner is a recognized expert in public administration, policing and police governance.

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## INTRODUCTION

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This is a report to the Inspector General of Policing by an inspector appointed by the Inspector General, who has completed an investigation under Part VII of the [Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019](#) (CSPA).

## OVERVIEW OF INVESTIGATION

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### The Complaint

The Inspector General of Policing received a complaint alleging that the Chair of the Halton Police Service Board (HPSB), Jeff Knoll, contravened the Code of Conduct for Police Service Board Members after he publicly endorsed a candidate for the 2025 federal election on a social media page.

### The Subject Police Service Board Member

**Name of Police Service Board:** Halton Police Service Board

**Subject Board Member:** Jeff Knoll

**Length of service (Term):** 2012 – 2026

**Reappointed:** 2022 (Chair)

**Specific Roles Held on Police Service Board:** Chair & Board Member

**Previous Substantiated Misconduct:** None

**Appointing Authority:** Region of Halton

### Applicable Legislative and Regulatory Provisions

Section 35(6) of the CSPA provides that every member of a police service board shall comply with the prescribed code of conduct.

[Ontario Regulation 408/23: Code of Conduct for Police Service Board Members](#) was reviewed having regard to the allegations made in the complaint and the following sections were deemed to be relevant:

- a) Section 3(1) A member of a police service board shall not conduct themselves in a manner that undermines or is likely to undermine the public's trust in the police service board or the police service maintained by the board.
- b) Section 12 A member of a police service board shall not purport to speak on behalf of the police service board unless authorized by the board to do so.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED

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As part of the investigation process, interviews were conducted with the complainant and the subject, Jeff Knoll, as well as the President of the Halton Regional Police Association (HRPA). Additionally, complaints from the HRPAs were reviewed. Open-source media and information provided by the complainant also assisted with this investigation.

### Complainant Interview

The following is a summary of the complainant's recollections and views, as expressed during the interview.

On April 19, 2025, at approximately 1:34 a.m., Jeff Knoll, Chair of the Halton Police Service Board, made a public post on his Facebook account endorsing Liberal Party candidate Anita Anand for the riding of Oakville East in the 2025 federal election. While the endorsement was posted on Mr. Knoll's personal Facebook account, the account prominently identifies him as a Town and Regional Councillor for the Town of Oakville. From the complainant's perspective, this made it difficult to clearly distinguish the endorsement as a purely personal expression.

Although the original post did not reference Mr. Knoll's role as Chair of the Halton Police Service Board, the endorsement was later re-posted by a member of Anita Anand's campaign team. That re-post identified Mr. Knoll as the Chair of the Halton Police Service Board, which, in the complainant's view, contributed to public concern regarding the endorsement.

Following the endorsement and its re-posting, the complainant reported receiving several telephone calls from members of the community who were upset by the endorsement. As their contact information is publicly available, community members reached out directly to express their concerns. These contacts included individuals connected to the HRPAs including its president and reflected that several police officers were unhappy with the endorsement.

In the complainant's view, the endorsement negatively affected the level of trust that some police officers and community members had in the Police Services Board, particularly given that it occurred during an active federal election. Concerns were described as heightened by the fact that the opposing Conservative candidate was a retired police officer, as well as by ongoing frustration among police officers regarding bail reform and public safety issues.

The complainant expressed the view that the endorsement, together with the subsequent re-post identifying Mr. Knoll as Chair of the Police Services Board, raised issues under the Code of Conduct for Police Service Board Members. These concerns related to maintaining public trust and clearly distinguishing personal opinions from official roles. In the complainant's view, the inclusion of language clarifying that the endorsement reflected a personal opinion would have significantly altered how the endorsement was perceived.

### **Witness Interview**

An interview was conducted with the President of the HRP.

The HRP was contacted by approximately 20 members of the Association who expressed concerns over the endorsement made by Jeff Knoll on April 19, 2025. The complaints were received via telephone call, text message, or email. Most of the complaints were received on or around April 19 and 20, 2025.

Based on the concerns expressed by the members, the President of the Association felt compelled to write a letter to the HPSB.

### **Subject Police Service Board Member Interview**

An interview was conducted with the subject, Chair Jeff Knoll.

Jeff Knoll is currently the Chair of the HPSB and has been the Chair for the past 5 years. This is his 4<sup>th</sup> term with the HPSB. He is also a Councillor with the Region of Halton and the Town of Oakville and has been a Councillor for the past 25 years.

Jeff Knoll made a post on his personal Facebook page on April 19, 2025, endorsing Liberal candidate Anita Anand for the 2025 federal election. The post was made on his personal Facebook page and did not mention his role on the HPSB. He was very intentional about the endorsement and ensuring that it was not associated with his position on the board, his role as a City Councillor, or any of his business ventures. The post was not made on his LinkedIn account so as to not be associated with his professional life. The Facebook page is used to post things of a personal nature, such as family events or vacations, and friend requests are monitored. There may be the odd post that mentions the board, such as when he was appointed, or when he was re-elected as a chair.

Jeff Knoll stated that the endorsement was a difficult decision to make, but he felt strongly that he needed to make the endorsement given the current political landscape.

The endorsement was a personal decision, and he was exercising a constitutional right.

He expressed frustration that police associations, including the HRP, often endorse political candidates, and that members have taken and posted photographs in uniform with political candidates, referring to it as a “double standard”.

Jeff Knoll expressed respect for the HRP and the members of the Halton Regional Police Service and understood their concerns. He stated that he thought the complaints were related to the fact that he endorsed a Liberal candidate as opposed to a Conservative.

Jeff Knoll stated that he loved his job on the HPSB. He stated that he’s committed to building a good relationship between the board and members of the service and discussed initiatives that he has undertaken to get closer to officers. He expressed his continued commitment to stand up for the safety and well being of the members of the Halton Regional Police Service.

### **Additional Material Collected and Reviewed**

#### **Halton Regional Police Association Complaints:**

The President of the HRP provided several written complaints that they had received from Association members regarding the endorsement made by Jeff Knoll on April 19, 2025.

The following is a summary of the complaints provided by the President of the HRP.

Some complaints expressed disappointment that Jeff Knoll didn’t remain publicly impartial and one questioned whether the endorsement was a conflict of interest under the CSPA. Many of the complaints expressed concern that Jeff Knoll would endorse a Liberal candidate as opposed to a Conservative candidate and referred to the Liberal Party’s bail reform policy as “catch and release”.

#### **Halton Regional Police Association Letter to Jeff Knoll and Chief Stephen Tanner:**

In response to complaints received from members of the HRP, the President of the HRP submitted a letter to Jeff Knoll and Halton Regional Police Chief Stephen Tanner.

The letter quoted 3 written complaints written by Association members. One of the complaints quoted questioned whether the endorsement was a conflict of interest. Another referred to the Liberal parties “catch and release policies”. One of the complaints quoted expressed disappointment that Jeff Knoll did not remain “at least publicly impartial in relation to the federal election.”

The letter stated that “as an Association, we feel compelled to put our disappointment on the record.”

### **Open-Source Information: Collection and Review**

#### **Facebook:**

The complainant provided a copy of the endorsement posted to Jeff Knoll’s personal Facebook page on April 19, 2025. In the post, Jeff Knoll endorses Liberal candidate Anita Anand in the 2025 federal election:

## Jeff Knoll's Post



Jeff Knoll

April 19 at 1:34 AM · 🌐

Our Endorsement of the Honourable Anita Anand and the Right Honourable Mark Carney

As lifelong Progressive Conservatives, this is not a decision we make lightly, and we have not typically endorsed a candidate, but we feel it is our civic responsibility to speak out for what is the best choice for our country at this crucial time.

Jeff has served as a candidate for the Ontario PC Party, worked on staff for both the federal and provincial Conservative parties, and served as political staff to several PC MPs and MPPs. [Michelle Knoll](#) has volunteered on countless PC campaigns over the years—in fact, we met while working together on the same Progressive Conservative campaign. Michelle's stepfather, the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, was a long-serving Ontario PC Cabinet Minister and a leadership contender following the retirement of Premier Bill Davis in 1985. Many of our closest friends and colleagues are committed Tories. For us, the Progressive Conservative Party has always been more than just a political affiliation—it's been a part of our personal identity.

We've always identified as Red Tories—moderate, community-focused conservatives who believe in traditional conservative values with a strong emphasis on social responsibility, public service, community, and nation-building. These are values that we share with Blue Liberals like Mark Carney.

We share all of this to underscore the difficulty we had in reaching this decision to cross party lines and make a choice that reflects what we believe is in the best interest of Canada today. For us, our choice is to look past loyalty to a political party; it is about choosing the leadership that can best navigate the threats to our economy, our jobs, and even our sovereignty. At this time, we believe the absolute best choice in Oakville East is Anita Anand and Mark Carney.

In a world where misinformation spreads rapidly and division too often defines political debate, we believe Canada needs calm, principled, and capable leadership—leaders who bring people together, act with integrity, and focus on real solutions over rhetoric. People who reflect the best of what it means to be Canadian: respectful, steady, informed, and driven by a genuine desire to serve. This is why we are inspired by Mark Carney. His positive, principled approach to politics is a breath of fresh air in a time of global uncertainty and political chaos. His financial expertise is unmatched, and his international stature makes him an ideal ambassador for Canada—especially in our relationship with the United States. He brings vision, dignity and credibility to the role of Prime Minister.

We have come to know Anita Anand over the past several years. Jeff, whose public service work has been primarily focused on community safety and crime prevention, has seen firsthand her accessibility and commitment to addressing local and national issues like auto theft and violent crime. She has consistently shown a willingness to work across jurisdictions and party lines to deliver real results.

Michelle, as Executive Director of a local charity, saw in Anita's role as Minister of Public Services and

Procurement during the pandemic a leader who met crisis with clarity and compassion. From securing PPE to overseeing the national vaccine rollout, she embodied competence and calm in a time of national urgency.

We won't pretend to agree with the Liberal Party on every issue—just as we don't always agree with any party. But at this critical time, Anita reflects the values that are most important to us, has the most experience, and is best suited to represent our riding in the House of Commons. We believe Anita Anand and Mark Carney represent the kind of thoughtful and principled leadership that Canada needs right now.

We reject the view—too often expressed—that Canada is broken. Yes, there are serious challenges we must address, but we believe this country remains strong, resilient, and full of potential. Over the past several months, as chaos has unfolded south of the border, we've seen this demonstrated in real time as Canadians have come together with resolve and clarity of purpose. That's the Canada we believe in—and the one we want to build upon.

Our decision reflects what we believe is right—for our country, our community, our economy, and our family.

This is the most consequential election of our generation. And in this moment, we are proud to support leaders like Anita Anand and Mark Carney—not because of partisanship, but because they represent a hopeful, inclusive, and dignified path forward for Canada.

— Jeff & Michelle [Jeff Knoll](#)



The complainant provided a copy of the re-post made on Anita Anand's Facebook page. On the re-post, Ms. Anand stated that "it has been a privilege to work with Jeff in his capacity as Chair of the Halton Police Board":



The complainant provided a link to a post made on Jeff Knoll's personal Facebook page on October 18, 2025. In this post, Jeff Knoll identified himself as Chair of the Halton Police Service Board and included pictures of him wearing what appears to be a board jacket at a board function. Although the post referenced Mr. Knoll's role as Chair and included images of him in board-branded attire at a board-related setting, it was made in connection with a personal family milestone and was primarily celebratory in nature.

## INVESTIGATION FINDINGS

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I make the following findings, relying on the material and information collected during the investigation and now contained in this report:

- 1. On April 19, 2025, HPSB Chair Jeff Knoll publicly endorsed a candidate for the 2025 federal election.**
  - a. The endorsement was made on Jeff Knoll's personal Facebook page.
  - b. The endorsement made no mention of Jeff Knoll's position on the HPSB.
  - c. Jeff Knoll's Facebook page is not directly associated with the HPSB, however it does contain posts that mention his role as well as photographs of what appear to be Jeff Knoll at HPSB functions wearing a HPSB jacket.
- 2. Also on April 19, 2025, the Facebook page of the then Liberal candidate Anita Anand re-posted the original endorsement made by Jeff Knoll.**
  - a. Ms. Anand's re-post stated that Jeff Knoll is the Chair of the Halton Police Board.
- 3. Some members of the public as well as some members of the HRPAs expressed concern over the political endorsement.**

# FINDINGS REPORT

Halton Police Service Board Chair:  
Jeff Knoll

**Section 106(1) Board Member  
Conduct Investigation**  
(INV-25-167)

**Submitted to:**  
Ryan Teschner  
Inspector General of Policing of  
Ontario

**August 5, 2026**

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## INTRODUCTION

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This is a report to the Inspector General of Policing by an inspector appointed by the Inspector General, who has completed an investigation under Part VII of the [Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019](#) (CSPA).

## OVERVIEW OF INVESTIGATION

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### The Complaint

The Inspector General of Policing was forwarded a complaint from the Vice Chair of the Halton Police Service Board (HPSB) in accordance with section 108(1) of the CSPA. The Chair of the HPSB received a letter from the President of the Halton Regional Police Association (HRPA) in regard to several association members who raised concerns about the Chair, Jeff Knoll, publicly endorsing a candidate in the 2025 federal election on social media.

### The Subject Police Service Board Member

**Name of Police Service Board:** Halton Police Service Board

**Subject Board Member:** Jeff Knoll

**Length of service (Term):** 2012 – 2026

**Reappointed:** 2022 (Chair)

**Specific Roles Held on Police Service Board:** Chair & Board Member

**Previous Substantiated Misconduct:** None

**Appointing Authority:** Region of Halton

### Applicable Legislative and Regulatory Provisions

Section 35(6) of the CSPA provides that every member of a police service board shall comply with the prescribed code of conduct.

[Ontario Regulation 408/23: Code of Conduct for Police Service Board Members](#) was reviewed having regard to the allegations made in the complaint and the following sections were deemed to be relevant:

- a) Section 3(1) A member of a police service board shall not conduct themselves in a manner that undermines or is likely to undermine the public's trust in the police service board or the police service maintained by the board.
- b) Section 12 A member of a police service board shall not purport to speak on behalf of the police service board unless authorized by the board to do so.

## **SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED**

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As part of the investigation process, interviews were conducted with Vice Chair Ingrid Hann, and the subject, Chair Jeff Knoll, as well as the President of the HRP. Additionally, complaints from the HRP were reviewed. Open-source media also assisted with this investigation.

### **Complainant Interview**

An interview was conducted with the President of the HRP.

The HRP was contacted by approximately 20 members of the Association who expressed concerns over the endorsement of a Liberal candidate in the federal election made by Chair Jeff Knoll on his personal Facebook page on April 19, 2025. The complaints were received via telephone call, text message, or email. Most of the complaints were received on or around April 19 and 20, 2025.

Based on the concerns expressed by the members, the President of the Association felt compelled to write a letter to the HPSB.

### **Witness Interview**

An interview was conducted with Vice Chair Ingrid Hann.

Ingrid Hann is the Vice Chair of the Halton Police Service Board and is currently serving her third term on the Board. She described Jeff Knoll as having served as Chair since approximately 2021 and as having a long tenure on the Board of approximately 13 years. In her view, he is an experienced board member with extensive involvement in municipal governance.

She explained that Chair Knoll received a letter from the President of the Halton Regional Police Association expressing concern about his public endorsement of a Liberal Party candidate in the upcoming federal election. The letter included excerpts of written feedback from Association members expressing disappointment and concern regarding the endorsement, though it did not identify the individual complainants.

With the Board's knowledge, Chair Knoll approached her in her capacity as Vice Chair to submit the matter to the Inspector General in accordance with obligations under the Community Safety and Policing Act. She explained that the Board consulted with an advisor and determined that notifying the Inspector General was appropriate. Given her role as Vice Chair, and Chair Knoll's removal from the process, she was asked to submit the correspondence on behalf of the Board.

She expressed the view that Chair Knoll had not committed misconduct and described his conduct on the Board as consistently focused on governance, community safety, and maintaining public trust. In her view, he is a dedicated Chair who regularly seeks opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness of the Board and improve relationships between Board members and the police service.

Although she did not personally take issue with the endorsement, she believed it would have been inappropriate to leave the Association's letter unaddressed. Submitting the matter to the Inspector General was viewed as necessary to ensure transparency, accountability, and compliance with the Board's legislative obligations.

Throughout her time serving on the Board with Chair Knoll, she indicated that she has never been aware of any prior allegations of misconduct involving him. On the contrary, she described him as someone who routinely goes beyond his required duties to support Board initiatives and engagement with officers.

### **Subject Police Service Board Member Interview**

An interview was conducted with the subject, Chair Jeff Knoll.

Jeff Knoll is currently the Chair of the HPSB and has been the Chair for the past 5 years. This is his 4<sup>th</sup> term with the HPSB. He is also a Councillor with the Region of Halton and the Town of Oakville and has been a Councillor for the past 25 years.

Jeff Knoll made a post on his personal Facebook page on April 19, 2025, endorsing Liberal candidate Anita Anand for the 2025 federal election. The post was made on his personal Facebook page and did not mention his role on the HPSB. He was very intentional about the endorsement and ensuring that it was not associated with his position on the board, his role as a Councillor, or any of his business ventures. The post was not made on his LinkedIn account so as to not be associated with his professional life. The Facebook page is used to post things of a personal nature, such as family events or vacations, and friend requests are monitored. There may be the odd post that mentions the board, such as when he was appointed, or when he was re-elected as a chair.

Jeff Knoll stated that the endorsement was a difficult decision to make, but he felt strongly that he needed to make the endorsement given the current political landscape.

The endorsement was a personal decision, and he was exercising a constitutional right.

He expressed frustration that police associations, including the HRP, often endorse political candidates, and that members have taken and posted photographs in uniform with political candidates, referring to it as a “double standard”.

Jeff Knoll expressed respect for the HRP and the members of the Halton Regional Police Service and understood their concerns. He stated that he thought the complaints were related to the fact that he endorsed a Liberal candidate as opposed to a Conservative.

Jeff Knoll stated that he loved his job on the HPSB. He stated that he’s committed to building a good relationship between the board and members of the service and discussed initiatives that he has undertaken to get closer to officers. He expressed his continued commitment to stand up for the safety and well being of the members of the Halton Regional Police Service.

### **Additional Material Collected and Reviewed**

#### **Halton Regional Police Association Complaints:**

The President of the HRP provided several written complaints that they had received from Association members regarding the endorsement made by Jeff Knoll on April 19.

The following is a summary of the complaints provided by the President of the HRP.

Some complaints expressed disappointed that Jeff Knoll didn’t remain publicly impartial and one questioned whether the endorsement was a conflict of interest under the CSPA. Many of the complaints expressed concern that Jeff Knoll would endorse a Liberal candidate as opposed to a Conservative candidate and referred to the Liberal Party’s bail reform policy as “catch and release”.

#### **Halton Regional Police Association Letter to Jeff Knoll and Chief Stephen Tanner:**

In response to complaints received from members of the HRP, the President of the HRP submitted a letter to Jeff Knoll and Halton Regional Police Chief Stephen Tanner.

The letter quoted 3 written complaints written by Association members. One of the complaints quoted questioned whether the endorsement was a conflict of interest. Another referred to the Liberal parties “catch and release policies”. One of the complaints quoted expressed disappointment that Jeff Knoll did not remain “at least publicly impartial in relation to the federal election.”

The letter stated that “as an Association, we feel compelled to put our disappointment on the record.”

### **Open-Source Information: Collection and Review**

#### **Facebook:**

As part of the investigation, the inspector obtained a copy of the endorsement posted to Jeff Knoll’s personal Facebook page on April 19, 2025. In the post, Jeff Knoll endorses Liberal candidate Anita Anand in the 2025 federal election:

## Jeff Knoll's Post



Jeff Knoll

April 19 at 1:34 AM · 🌐

Our Endorsement of the Honourable Anita Anand and the Right Honourable Mark Carney

As lifelong Progressive Conservatives, this is not a decision we make lightly, and we have not typically endorsed a candidate, but we feel it is our civic responsibility to speak out for what is the best choice for our country at this crucial time.

Jeff has served as a candidate for the Ontario PC Party, worked on staff for both the federal and provincial Conservative parties, and served as political staff to several PC MPs and MPPs. [Michelle Knoll](#) has volunteered on countless PC campaigns over the years—in fact, we met while working together on the same Progressive Conservative campaign. Michelle's stepfather, the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, was a long-serving Ontario PC Cabinet Minister and a leadership contender following the retirement of Premier Bill Davis in 1985. Many of our closest friends and colleagues are committed Tories. For us, the Progressive Conservative Party has always been more than just a political affiliation—it's been a part of our personal identity.

We've always identified as Red Tories—moderate, community-focused conservatives who believe in traditional conservative values with a strong emphasis on social responsibility, public service, community, and nation-building. These are values that we share with Blue Liberals like Mark Carney.

We share all of this to underscore the difficulty we had in reaching this decision to cross party lines and make a choice that reflects what we believe is in the best interest of Canada today. For us, our choice is to look past loyalty to a political party; it is about choosing the leadership that can best navigate the threats to our economy, our jobs, and even our sovereignty. At this time, we believe the absolute best choice in Oakville East is Anita Anand and Mark Carney.

In a world where misinformation spreads rapidly and division too often defines political debate, we believe Canada needs calm, principled, and capable leadership—leaders who bring people together, act with integrity, and focus on real solutions over rhetoric. People who reflect the best of what it means to be Canadian: respectful, steady, informed, and driven by a genuine desire to serve. This is why we are inspired by Mark Carney. His positive, principled approach to politics is a breath of fresh air in a time of global uncertainty and political chaos. His financial expertise is unmatched, and his international stature makes him an ideal ambassador for Canada—especially in our relationship with the United States. He brings vision, dignity and credibility to the role of Prime Minister.

We have come to know Anita Anand over the past several years. Jeff, whose public service work has been primarily focused on community safety and crime prevention, has seen firsthand her accessibility and commitment to addressing local and national issues like auto theft and violent crime. She has consistently shown a willingness to work across jurisdictions and party lines to deliver real results.

Michelle, as Executive Director of a local charity, saw in Anita's role as Minister of Public Services and

Procurement during the pandemic a leader who met crisis with clarity and compassion. From securing PPE to overseeing the national vaccine rollout, she embodied competence and calm in a time of national urgency.

We won't pretend to agree with the Liberal Party on every issue—just as we don't always agree with any party. But at this critical time, Anita reflects the values that are most important to us, has the most experience, and is best suited to represent our riding in the House of Commons. We believe Anita Anand and Mark Carney represent the kind of thoughtful and principled leadership that Canada needs right now.

We reject the view—too often expressed—that Canada is broken. Yes, there are serious challenges we must address, but we believe this country remains strong, resilient, and full of potential. Over the past several months, as chaos has unfolded south of the border, we've seen this demonstrated in real time as Canadians have come together with resolve and clarity of purpose. That's the Canada we believe in—and the one we want to build upon.

Our decision reflects what we believe is right—for our country, our community, our economy, and our family.

This is the most consequential election of our generation. And in this moment, we are proud to support leaders like Anita Anand and Mark Carney—not because of partisanship, but because they represent a hopeful, inclusive, and dignified path forward for Canada.

— Jeff & Michelle [Jeff Knoll](#)



As part of the investigation, the inspector obtained a copy of a re-post made on Anita Anand's Facebook page of the original endorsement made by HPSB Chair Jeff Knoll. On the re-post, Ms. Anand stated that "it has been a privilege to work with Jeff in his capacity as Chair of the Halton Police Board":

As part of the investigation, the inspector obtained a link to a post made on Jeff Knoll's personal Facebook page on October 18, 2025. In this post, Jeff Knoll identified himself as Chair of the Halton Police Service Board and included pictures of him wearing what appears to be a board jacket at a board function. Although the post referenced Mr. Knoll's role as Chair and included images of him in board-branded attire at a board-related setting, it was made in connection with a personal family milestone and was primarily celebratory in nature.

## INVESTIGATION FINDINGS

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I make the following findings, relying on the material and information collected during the investigation and now contained in this report:

- 1. On April 19, 2025, HPSB Chair Jeff Knoll publicly endorsed a candidate for the 2025 federal election.**
  - a. The endorsement was made on Jeff Knoll's personal Facebook page.
  - b. The endorsement made no mention of Jeff Knoll's position on the HPSB.
  - c. Jeff Knoll's Facebook page is not directly associated with the HPSB, however it does contain posts that mention his role as well as photographs of what appear to be Jeff Knoll at HPSB functions wearing a HPSB jacket.
- 2. Also on April 19, 2025, the Facebook page of the then Liberal candidate Anita Anand re-posted the original endorsement made by Jeff Knoll.**
  - a. Ms. Anand's re-post stated that Jeff Knoll is the Chair of the Halton Police Board.
- 3. Some members of the public as well as some members of the HRPB expressed concern over the political endorsement.**

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