



# Toronto Police Service

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Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

File Number: .....

February 21, 2025

Friends of the Spit,  
c/o John Carley and Garth Riley, Co-Chairs

*Delivered via Email: [newsletter.friendsofthespit@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.friendsofthespit@gmail.com)*

## **re: Response to Your Concerns About Police Training at the Leslie Street Spit (Tommy Thompson Park)**

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Dear John and Garth,

Thank you for bringing these concerns to our attention. We value the input of concerned communities and organizations such as yours.

The training conducted on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, was necessary to support the capabilities of the Emergency Task Force (ETF). Such capabilities allow those members to ensure the highest levels of public safety. This evolution of training is not part of daily training by the Unit, but it is a necessary aspect of preparing specialized members from within the ETF for highly dynamic situations involving extreme risk. It is not possible to conduct this training at any other venue within a reasonable proximity to the city.

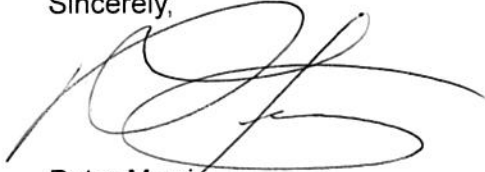
We hear the concerns you have raised about wildlife, the environment, and those that use the park. We want you to know that our specialized units carefully consider many factors in choosing their training locations. As you can appreciate, finding locations for specialized training in a large city is quite difficult.

In preparing to conduct this training, the ETF Training Section ensured they were following federal regulations. The City of Toronto was notified in advance of this training. Internally, the proper notifications were made to ensure the highest levels of awareness and safety. At the location, on the day of training, the ETF Training Section conducted a safety sweep of the training area, which comprised the last few metres of the "spit". The trainers positioned large training boards along the foot paths that led to the training area on the "spit", approximately 200 metres from the actual training site. The training Sergeant took the added step of posting sentries along those paths to ensure any hikers would be safe. The disruptions to the use of the park were carefully limited in both duration and size of the impacted area.

Unfortunately, the ETF was unaware of the requirement to notify the custodians of the park, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. This oversight on the part of the ETF is regrettable and for that, the Toronto Police Service apologizes. In the future, all necessary notifications will be made.

We sincerely appreciate your concerns and thank you for your letter to the Toronto Police Service Board. We remain committed to working with all communities and organizations across the city as we keep Toronto the safest city to work, live and play.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Morris', written in a cursive style.

Peter Morris  
Detective Sergeant #99470;  
Executive Officer to Deputy Chief Robert Johnson,  
Public Safety Command – Specialized Operations Command