

In 1998, well known African Nova Scotian boxer, Kirk Johnson, was pulled over in a traffic stop and his car taken from him. In 2003, a Nova Scotia Tribunal found that Johnson had been discriminated against based on race. The Tribunal recommended a study be taken to look at traffic stops and racism.

No study happened.

In March of this year, the Nova Scotia Human Rights commission released the report researched and written for them by Dr. Scot Wortley, *Halifax, Nova Scotia: Street Checks Report*.

In it, Wortley calls out the blatant and systemic racism that exists in the Halifax Police Department. It specifically focusses on the practice of street checks which disproportionately effect the African Nova Scotian community. Members of the black community are 6 times more likely to be stopped by police than members of the white community. Black men are 9 times more likely to be stopped than white men.

Street checks are the practice of detaining people without cause. They are a proven racially discriminatory practice and run contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and are therefore illegal. Street checks are also used to collect and maintain data on innocent people.

Police already have all the tools they need to conduct necessary police work. Street checks have been and are currently an abuse of power.

Currently, the Province of Nova Scotia is trying to 'regulate' street checks. You can not regulate something that is inherently wrong.

To the Halifax Regional Police, the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Province of Nova Scotia, we, the undersigned citizens from all across Nova Scotia, stand together on this issue.

We don't need more studies. It is time for action.

Ban street checks now!



