Should Ontario institutions collect race-based data?

BY AMANDA FERGUSON
POSTED OCT 21, 2016 7:56 PM EDT  LAST UPDATED OCT 21, 2016 AT 8:00 PM EDT

CityNews asked Kike Ojo and Irwin Elmans, two experts in youth and child care in Ontario, whether more institutions, including schools, child welfare services and police, should collect race-based data. Here are parts of their answers:

Ojo is the Program Manager of One Vision One Voice: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadians

Q: You’re an advocate for compiling race-based data in terms of child welfare services. Why is that?
A: I think we have to define the problem in order to address it. For decades the community has been saying that there’s a problem in terms of representation but there wasn’t proof and there wasn’t evidence and we’re in a time of evidence-based research and certainly child welfare is a part of that movement.

Q: There’s no question that collecting race-based data is a little bit of a touchy subject. On the police side of things, it’s been called racial profiling or racism. Why do you ultimately think it’s a good thing under the context of the child welfare system?
A: I’m glad you said under the context. Under the context of Ontario today where peoples anecdotal stories about their experiences with systems, whether it be police, or child welfare, it can give evidence that something systemic is going on. That systemic racism is at foot. And really, collecting race-based data is a tool for the community, whereas once it might have been used to say “well see, you all are showing up more often than not in the system,” now we already know we’re in the system in an over represented fashion but we want to know exactly to what extent. So I think that it has really become a tool for the community.

Elman is Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth

Q: Why do you believe in collecting race-based data whereas others may not be so favourable towards it?
A: For me, it’s really important because it will underpin support the voice of young people and data will support what they’re saying. It will legitimate them. It will tell them that no, you’re not going crazy, this is happening to you. When I was getting briefed about the Roy McMurtry Youth Centre, which is the largest youth custody facility in the province, just in Brampton, they were telling me about their educational programming there. And they made this comment in this big youth centre, the average age of a person is 16 and a half years old. The average 16 and a half year old in Ontario, I’m told, has 16 (high school) credits. The average black young person has two credits.

Q: Have you received any reluctance to collect this data?
A: I think there’s been some reluctance. One of the problems is that it just can’t be about collecting data. It’s just about collecting data it’s bound to fail. It’s not going to create any change. It’s about commitment. It’s about what are we going to do with the data. It’s about leadership and how to analyze and understand the data. It’s about a public conversation about systemic racism. It’s about a reminder to families and children in this province.
Male victim without vital signs after Scarborough shooting

By News Staff
Posted Sep 14, 2018 7:26 PM EDT Last updated Sep 14, 2018 at 8:36 PM EDT

Local

Police at the scene of a shooting on Bellamy Road in Scarborough. George Joseph/CITYNEWS

Toronto police say a male victim was without vital signs after a shooting in Scarborough on Friday night.

Paramedics tell CityNews the victim appears to be in his teens, but an exact age hasn’t been confirmed.

It happened at Bellamy Road and Porchester Drive at around 6:45 p.m.

Police say six shots were reportedly fired. When emergency crews arrived a male victim was located in front of a convenience store. He was without vital signs and officers were performing CPR.

Police are searching for up to three suspects who fled on foot.

More to come

Jian Ghomeshi expresses 'deep remorse' in first comments since 2016 sex assault trial

By The Canadian Press
Diagnosed former CBC Radio host Jian Ghomeshi penned a personal essay in The New York Review of Books that drew swift backlash on Friday, with many social media users questioning why he was given such a prestigious platform to detail his life post-trial.

Ghomeshi was acquitted in March 2016 of four counts of sexual assault and one count of choking involving three complainants. In May 2016, he apologized to a fourth complainant and signed a peace bond that saw another count of sexual assault withdrawn.

In the piece, titled “Reflections from a Hashtag” and published online Friday, Ghomeshi reveals that he had suicidal thoughts in the aftermath of the allegations and reflects on his trajectory from a high-profile Canadian personality to a self-described “outcast.”

He also expresses “deep remorse” for the way he treated some people, admitting he was “demanding on dates” and “emotionally thoughtless.”

“I’ve become a hashtag. One of my female friends quips that I should get some kind of public recognition as a #MeToo pioneer,” he writes. “There are lots of guys more hated than me now. But I was the guy everyone hated first.”

Farrah Khan, manager of Ryerson University’s Consent Comes First office, wondered why the semi-monthly magazine gave an opportunity to such a controversial figure when many people affected by sexual violence are not given such an opportunity.

“Why was he given this platform? Why now?” Khan said, also questioning if the magazine fact-checked the piece.

“It’s interesting, who gets to have that platform. Publications oftentimes are invested in giving space to people like Ghomeshi to boost their sales, to create this hyped conversation about it.”

Ghomeshi came off as “arrogant” for suggesting he’s part of a decades-long fight for the rights of survivors of sexual violence, she added.

“When reading the article, one of the things that was really salient to me was his speaking about how he was one of the #MeToo pioneers, or making a quip about it,” Khan said.

“He didn’t start the movement on sexual violence – we did.”

In anticipating the reaction to the roughly 3,400-word essay, which marks the first time Ghomeshi has addressed the trial publicly, he acknowledges that it focuses on his own experience, “which may be seen as not helpful in rendering women’s experiences more visible.”

The cover story, billed as “Jian Ghomeshi on Jian Ghomeshi,” is set to appear in the magazine’s October issue on “The Fall of Men.”

A representative for the New York Review of Books said the publication had no comment on the matter.

The Ghomeshi trial and ruling triggered an emotional public debate about how abuse complainants are treated by the justice system, which some consider to be a precursor to the #MeToo movement that emerged last fall.

Ghomeshi writes in the essay that he cannot confess to accusations he maintains are “inaccurate,” but admits he should have been more “respectful and responsive” with the women in his life.

“What I do confess is that I was emotionally thoughtless in the way I treated those I dated and tried to date,” he writes. “I leveraged my influence and status to try to entice women and lead them on when they were interested.”

Ghomeshi said he struggled with suicidal thoughts in the weeks after the allegations surfaced in 2014, which coincided with him mourning his father’s death. “It was as though the end of my life as I knew it was somehow conjured with the actual end of his.”

As his professional and personal support systems collapsed, Ghomeshi said he faced “financial calamity” between his firing from CBC and legal fees.

He also turned over what he characterized as “inaccurate” depictions of him on social media, and said he fielded a barrage of racist remarks over his Iranian heritage.

In mulling over whether men facing sexual misconduct allegations should apologize, Ghomeshi said his own experience makes him “distrust” public declarations of remorse in the immediate fallout of a scandal.
4 dead as Hurricane Florence drenches the Carolinas

BY JONATHAN DREW, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
POSTED SEP 14, 2018 4:19 PM EDT  LAST UPDATED SEP 14, 2018 AT 6:51 PM EDT

Blowing ashore with howling 90 mph winds, Hurricane Florence splintered buildings, trapped hundreds of people and swamped entire communities along the Carolina coast Friday in what could be just the opening act in a watery, two-part, slow-motion disaster. At least four people were killed.

Forecasters warned that drenching rains of anywhere from 1 to 3 1/2 feet as the storm crawls westward across North and South Carolina could trigger epic flooding well inland over the next few days.

As 400-mile-wide Florence pounded away at the coast with torrential downpours and surging seas, rescue crews used boats to reach scores of people besieged by rising waters along a river. More than 60 others had to be rescued as a cinderblock motel collapsed.

Florence flattened trees, crumbled roads and knocked out power to more than 700,000 homes and businesses, and the assault wasn’t anywhere near an end.

"It’s an uninvited brute who doesn’t want to leave," said North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper.

The hurricane was "wreaking havoc" and could wipe out entire communities as it makes its "violent grind across our state for days," the governor said. He said parts of North Carolina had seen storm surges -- the bulge of seawater pushed ashore by the hurricane -- as high as 16 feet.

A mother and baby were killed when a tree fell on a house, according to a tweet from Wilmington police. The deaths also included that of a person killed while plugging in a generator, the governor’s office said.

Shaken after seeing waves crashing in the Neuse River just outside his house in the town of New Bern, hurricane veteran Tom Balance wished he had evacuated.

"I feel like the dumbest human being who ever walked the face of the earth," said Balance, owner of a seafood restaurant that was flooded.

By early afternoon, Florence’s winds had weakened to 75 mph, just barely a hurricane and well below the storm’s terrifying Category 4 peak of 140 mph earlier in the week. But the hurricane had slowed to a crawl, drenching coastal communities for hours on end.

The town of Oriental, North Carolina, had gotten more than 18 inches of rain just a few hours into the deluge, while Surf City had 14 inches and it was still coming down.

Florence made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane at 7:15 a.m. at Wrightsville Beach, a few miles east of Wilmington.
For people living inland in the Carolinas, the moment of maximum peril from flash flooding could arrive days later, because it takes time for rainwater to drain into rivers and for those streams to crest. Preparing for the worst, about 9,700 National Guard troops and civilians were deployed with high-water vehicles, helicopters and boats that could be used to pluck people from the floodwaters. Authorities warned, too, of the threat of mudslides and the risk of an environmental disaster from floodwaters washing over industrial waste sites and hog farms.

Florence was seen as a major test for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which was heavily criticized as slow and unprepared last year for Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, where the storm was blamed for nearly 3,000 deaths in the desperate aftermath.

As Florence raged, a tropical disturbance in the Gulf of Mexico brought heavy rain to already saturated areas along the Texas coast, resulting in street flooding and prompting some schools to cancel or cut short classes.

The National Hurricane Center said Florence will eventually make a right hook to the northeast over the southern Appalachians, moving into the mid-Atlantic states and New England as a tropical depression by the middle of next week.

Meteorologist Ryan Maue of weathermodels.com said Florence could dump a staggering 18 trillion gallons of rain over a week on North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Maryland. That’s enough to fill the Chesapeake Bay or cover the entire state of Texas with nearly 4 inches (10 centimetres) of water, he calculated.

North Carolina alone is forecast to get 9.6 trillion gallons, enough to cover the Tar Heel state to a depth of about 10 inches (25 centimetres).

On Friday, coastal streets in the Carolinas flowed with frothy ocean water, and pieces of torn-apart buildings flew through the air. The few cars out on a main street in Wilmington had to swerve to avoid fallen trees, metal debris and power lines. Traffic lights out of order because of power failures swayed in the gusty wind. Roof shingles were peeled off a hotel.

The Wilmington airport had a wind gust clocked at 105 mph (169 kph), the highest since Hurricane Helene in 1958.

In Jacksonville, North Carolina, next to Camp Lejeune, firefighters and police fought wind and rain as they went door-to-door to pull people out of the Triangle Motor Inn after the structure began to crumble and the roof started to collapse.

In New Bern, population 29,000, flooding on the Neuse River trapped people, and Mayor Dana Outlaw told The Charlotte Observer that about 200 had been rescued by 5 a.m. Residents reached out for help through the night by phone and social media.

“We ARE COMING TO GET YOU,” the city of New Bern tweeted around 2 a.m. “You may need to move up to the second story, or to your attic, but WE ARE COMING TO GET YOU.”

Sheets of rain splattered against windows of a hotel before daybreak in Wilmington, where Sandie Orsa of Wilmington sat in a lobby lit by emergency lights after the electricity went out.

“Very eerie, the wind howling, the rain blowing sideways, debris flying,” said Orsa, who lives nearby and feared splintering trees would pummel her house.

More than 12,000 people were in shelters in North Carolina and 400 in Virginia, where the forecast was less dire. Officials said some 17 million people in the Carolinas and Virginia were warned to evacuate, but it was unclear how many did.

Airlines cancelled more than 2,100 flights through Sunday.