

YUKON POLICE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

2025-26 Yukon Police Council members

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Your Community Voice
Yukon Police Council



MANDATE

The Yukon Police Council establishes a formal structure and continuous mechanism through which community members can actively contribute to the policing services they receive. The primary objective is to facilitate dialogue and cultivate positive relationships among Yukon citizens, the Yukon RCMP (“M” Division), and the Department of Justice. The Minister of Justice annually determines policing priorities for the Yukon RCMP, drawing upon the insights provided by the Yukon Police Council and the Department of Justice.

YEAR IN REVIEW

During 2025–26, the Council engaged with a diverse group of stakeholders, creating a platform for sharing insights on key issues:

- Community safety, including downtown and traffic safety.
- Substances use.
- Homelessness.
- Other important topics.

The input gathered through these discussions is essential in shaping the Council’s recommendations to the Minister of Justice, helping to inform policing priorities for the 2026–28 period. These recommendations are deeply rooted in the voices of Yukoners and highlight the vital role of community contributions to guide public safety decisions.

The Minister of Justice’s 2026–28 Policing Priorities to “M” Division can be found at yukon.ca/en/policing-priorities.

Stakeholder engagements

City of Whitehorse

Mayor and Council raised concerns about limited RCMP presence and response times, rising crime, especially theft and break-ins affecting businesses, as well as ongoing traffic safety issues. These challenges impact community safety, business viability and public confidence, leading to calls for increased patrols, stronger enforcement and better collaboration with community partners.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN)

Chief and Council identified several key community safety priorities, including the need for increased resources and visible safety supports in the downtown core, improved traffic safety within KDFN communities, stronger efforts to address the ongoing toxic drug crisis and the accessibility of illegal substances. KDFN leadership also raised concerns about the use of taxis to facilitate drug trafficking and the growing impact of outside drug dealers exploiting vulnerable citizens. Overall, there was a strong emphasis on protecting at-risk individuals and reducing the harms linked to substance use, trafficking and community safety.

Ta’an Kwäch’än Council (TKC)

Chief and Council identified homelessness, opioid use, violence in the waterfront area, housing insecurity and limited police visibility as key public safety concerns affecting TKC citizens. They emphasized the need for more proactive policing, stronger relationships between the RCMP and First Nations communities, increased Indigenous representation within policing, and greater support for vulnerable individuals. Overall, the discussion reinforced the importance of collaborative approaches to improve public safety, strengthen trust and address underlying social issues that contribute to crime and community vulnerability.



Yukon Legal Services Society and Legal Aid

These organizations highlighted a new program that supports clients through the justice process by improving access to services and better communication with lawyers. They stressed the importance of strong community relationships, the need for more pre-charge diversion resources, and noted inconsistent or sometimes negative interactions with RCMP.

Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) and Integrated Restorative Justice (IRJ)

Moccasin Mobile Outreach reported a positive relationship with the RCMP and emphasized the need for increased communication and collaboration as the program expands.

Integrated Restorative Justice emphasized the importance of relationship-building, communication and culturally-grounded restorative justice approaches. Collaboration, trust and respect are essential in their partnerships with the RCMP.

Emergency and health services

(Emergency Medical Services, Yukon Hospital Corporation and Mental Wellness and Substance Use)

These groups reported generally positive collaboration with RCMP, especially in mental health situations, but that clearer roles, joint training and better communication were important. They also expressed concerns about confidentiality related to body-worn cameras and supported diverting individuals to care rather than custody.

Community and social services

(CYFN Moccasin Mobile Outreach Services, Connective, housing and transition homes)

Organizations in this sector described mixed experiences with RCMP. While they noted some improvements, there were also concerns about response times, communication gaps, and safety in high-risk situations. They emphasized the need for consistent engagement and support, particularly in cases involving vulnerable populations and intimate partner violence.

Business and community organizations

(Yukon Chamber of Commerce, Liquor Corporation, Association of Yukon Communities, City of Whitehorse Bylaw and Crime Stoppers)

These groups reported generally strong relationships with RCMP but expressed concern about the increase of crime and its impact on the community. They highlighted the need for prevention, early intervention and stronger youth engagement to address root causes.

Youth services

(Youth justice, Youth Achievement Centre, and Youth Probation and Education)

Youth-centred organizations noted improved communication with RCMP. Many youth feel intimidated, and there is a need for more positive engagement, better information sharing and approaches that build trust and understanding.

Advocacy groups

(Yukon Women's Coalition, Kaushee's Place, Yukon Human Rights Commission and peer support)

Advocacy organizations raised concerns about racism, discrimination and inconsistent RCMP responses, particularly toward vulnerable populations. They emphasized the need for better de-escalation practices, clearer protocols and more empathetic, trauma-informed policing to rebuild trust.

RCMP

The Council welcomed the new Yukon Commanding Officer and expressed its commitment to maintaining a positive and collaborative relationship with the RCMP. Throughout the year, the Council received quarterly reports, reviewed the Yukon RCMP Annual Policing Priorities Survey results, and heard presentations highlighting the RCMP's efforts to address policing priorities and strengthen engagement with Yukon First Nations communities.

The Council also received updates on "M" Division's Mobile Crisis Response Team (Car 867), a partnership between the RCMP and the Department of Health and Social Services. Through this initiative, two nurses work alongside RCMP officers to:

- provide quick mental health support;
- conduct mental health and suicide risk assessments;
- facilitate access to physicians when required; and
- help reduce hospital wait times.

The program continues to provide valuable support to frontline officers and individuals experiencing mental health crises, and the Council has consistently received positive feedback of its impact on community members.



COLLABORATION WITH YUKON'S RCMP

The Council maintains regular meetings with the “M” Division of the RCMP to receive updates on the progress made by its members in achieving the annual policing priorities. These updates encompass new and innovative approaches, successes, as well as areas for improvement. These meetings also serve as a platform for the Council to offer feedback to the RCMP regarding the sentiments and experiences shared by stakeholders and members of the community in their interactions with law enforcement.



Looking ahead

The Council welcomes the continued input from organizations across the Yukon regarding the provision of policing services within the territory. Feedback from community partners underscores the importance of sustained and meaningful engagement with the RCMP to ensure alignment with the Minister's policing priorities and the evolving needs of the communities they serve. These discussions support a collaborative approach to addressing critical concerns, including:

- relationship-building;
- communication;
- service consistency; and
- trust.

The Council remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering open dialogue among community organizations, the RCMP and the Department of Justice to strengthen partnerships and enhance confidence in policing. Through ongoing engagement and responsiveness to the perspectives of these organizations, the Yukon will continue to move forward in a positive and constructive direction.



Your Community Voice

Yukon Police Council

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