

YUKON POLICE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21

Message from the Chair

The Yukon Police Council (the Council) worked diligently through the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that Yukoners' perspectives on policing in the territory were heard. While community travel was not possible and in-person meetings were limited, the Council successfully modified their approach for gathering feedback by launching a Yukon-wide survey. This feedback is critical to the development of the annual policing priorities.

In the year ahead, the Council is looking forward to getting back to the community to engage with governments, stakeholders and citizens about their unique policing needs.

The Council's ongoing dedication to hearing the public's concerns and perspectives regarding Yukon's RCMP remains our priority. The Council takes great pride in supporting Yukoners to work towards safe communities and more inclusive policing.

John Phelps
Chair, Yukon Police Council

2020-21 Yukon Police Council members

- **Elodie Dulac**
Haines Junction
- **Maureen Johnstone**
Whitehorse
- **Tracy MacPherson**
Whitehorse
- **Simon Nagano**
Dawson City
- **Rob Schneider**
Marsh Lake
- **Dr. Janet Welch**
Whitehorse
- **John Phelps, Chair**
Whitehorse



Your Community Voice
Yukon Police Council

MANDATE

The Yukon Police Council provides a formal structure and ongoing mechanism for community members to have input into the policing services they receive. The focus is to promote ongoing dialogue in order to foster positive relationships between Yukon citizens, the Yukon RCMP (“M” Division) and the Department of Justice. The Minister of Justice identifies policing priorities for the Yukon RCMP on a yearly basis. These priorities are formed with consideration of the work provided by the Yukon Police Council and the Department of Justice.

YEAR IN REVIEW

This year presented significant challenges to all aspects of the lives of Yukoners. The *Public Perceptions of the RCMP* survey was launched on September 18, 2020, and closed on November 30, 2020. This method proved to be extremely effective in gathering insight into how Yukoners feel about the RCMP and the services that are provided. Almost 2,000 responses were received.

The survey report was released on May 26, 2021, and can be found at yukon.ca/en/community-perceptions-rcmp-report-survey.

Collaboration with Yukon’s RCMP

Over the course of the year, the Council met quarterly with the RCMP to review the implementation of the annual policing priorities. RCMP “M Division” Commanding Officer Scott Sheppard, Superintendent Chan Daktari Dara and Senior Business Analyst Cathie Sands presented quarterly reports to the Council that identified efforts made towards meeting the priorities throughout Yukon.

These meetings also provided an avenue for the Council to provide feedback received from governments, stakeholders and community partners to the RCMP regarding policing in Yukon. This dynamic relationship allows for continuous adjustment of policing services in our territory to ensure they address the needs of Yukoners.



Stakeholder engagements

August 2020

The Diversity Advisory Council spoke to the Yukon Police Council regarding their engagement with the RCMP on issues such as hate crimes, RCMP visibility, anti-racism and on-going discussions surrounding diversity.

The Council of Yukon First Nations identified concerns regarding relationship-building between the RCMP and the public, ensuring culturally specific training for members and community-focused solutions to crime, as well as addressing drug trafficking and bootlegging in communities.

The Government of Yukon Women's Directorate spoke to the Council regarding the ongoing work of the Yukon Advisory Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit Plus People and the development of Yukon's strategy, Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice. The Council will continue to support this work over the years to come.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation has identified great successes with their First Nations Policing Program members and the advancement of their signed Letter of Expectation with the Yukon RCMP. They are pleased with less reactive, more relationship-based policing in their community.

December 2020

Yukon Legal Services Society provided a presentation to the Yukon Police Council outlining the services provided by the Society, identifying gaps in services available to clients and discussing their clients' relationships with the RCMP.

The Public Prosecution Service of Canada presented to the Council on their role within the judicial system and identified areas of strength in their relationship with the RCMP as well as potential areas for improvement.

The Boys and Girls Club of Yukon provided an overview of the programs and services provided to youth, primarily in Whitehorse, and highlighted the importance of a consistent RCMP youth liaison worker to build positive relationships with youth in the community.



LOOKING AHEAD

The policing priorities for 2021-22 are supported by the valuable information that the Council received from the survey results, as well as engagements with community stakeholders. In the coming year, the Council intends to focus these engagements on youth and vulnerable populations.

The Territorial Policing Priorities as set by the Minister of Justice for 2021-22, and in response to the recommendations provided by the Council, include:

- increase public trust;
- build on previous successes through increased policing efforts targeted at the opioid and hard drug crisis, as well as responses to serious and organized crime;
- engage with and support children and youth;
- strengthen relationships with First Nations, including Elders and youth;
- collaborate with community and justice partners to maximize the use of Restorative Justice; and
- enhance prevention, investigation and enforcement activities related to violence against women, girls and the LGBTQ2S+ population.



Your Community Voice

Yukon Police Council

**Contact us
through our
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