

# YUKON POLICE COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20

### Message from the Chair

The Yukon Police Council had another active year of meeting with the public, First Nations governments and stakeholder groups. The Council focused on meeting with Yukoners to hear what matters to them when they think of public safety and policing.

We were able to expand our network which resulted in a chance to gather information differently and still meet our mandate of seeking input from Yukoners. I also recognize that community input from outside of Whitehorse is critical, and I look forward to hearing from more communities this fall.

Our combined efforts lead to a stronger, safer and happier Yukon.

**John Phelps**  
*Chair, Yukon Police Council*

### 2019-20 Yukon Police Council members

- **Elodie Dulac**  
*Haines Junction*
- **Maureen Johnstone**  
*Whitehorse*
- **Tracy MacPherson**  
*Whitehorse*
- **Simon Nagano**  
*Dawson City*
- **Rob Schneider**  
*Marsh Lake*
- **Melaina Sheldon**  
*Teslin*
- **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 are based on the work provided by the Yukon Police Council and the Department of Justice.

## Community meetings

The Yukon Police Council experienced challenges in travelling to the communities this year due to local events. Out of respect for those impacted by these sensitive circumstances, the Council decided that they would reschedule the meetings to take place in Whitehorse. These engagements focused on stakeholders, partner agencies and non-profit organizations.

**When:** September 2019

**Where:** Whitehorse

**Who:** We spoke with Compliance and Regulatory Services Branch – Yukon Liquor Corporation, Transport Services – Highways and Public Works, Yukon Women’s Coalition, correctional officers from the Arrest Processing Unit, and the RCMP.

**What we heard:** The Council met with the Director of Compliance and Regulatory Services of the Yukon Liquor Corporation. We heard about the role of the branch, recent changes to the *Liquor Act*, cannabis licensing and the role that compliance officers play in enforcing their legislative regimes.

We received a brief update from the Transport Services Branch of the Department of Highways and Public Works. We heard about their extensive consultation around road safety and impaired driving, as well as about the work that is underway to update the *Motor Vehicles Act*.

The Council had an opportunity to tour the Arrest Processing Unit. This tour gave the Council an opportunity to understand the standard of care that protects persons taken into RCMP custody, including the acutely intoxicated. The Arrest Processing Unit provides onsite medical assessment and care for RCMP prisoners with supervision provided by correctional officers with specialized training.



We met with representatives from the Yukon Women's Coalition to discuss the improvements made to taxi safety through their work with City of Whitehorse Bylaw Services and the RCMP. This included the implementation of new rules and regulations for taxi drivers in Whitehorse.

**When:** October 2019

**Where:** Whitehorse

**Who:** We spoke with Council members and attended Whitehorse Connects, hosted by the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition. This provided an opportunity for those who are homeless or living in poverty to come together and hear about a range of volunteer health and human services they might not otherwise access. The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition organizes this event on behalf of Yukon citizens.

**What we heard:** We heard from people in the community about what they would like to see to improve public safety and to offer better access to services. We also learned that we should broaden our network and think innovative to meet certain sectors.

**When:** November 2019

**Where:** Whitehorse

**Who:** We spoke with representatives from the Yukon Status of Women Council and the RCMP.

**What we heard:** The representative from the Yukon Status of Women Council spoke about the collaborative work occurring around the Advocacy File Review. This review is modelled on a program developed in Philadelphia in 2000, where a local Police Commissioner encouraged a local women's advocacy group to review their files to improve trust within the community. During that review, the advocacy group looked at over 2,000 "unfounded" sexualized assault files. "Unfounded" means that the investigating officer did not believe a crime occurred. This led to an investigative report by the Philadelphia Inquirer (newspaper) that determined the Philadelphia City Police had not been properly investigating such crimes.

The Yukon RCMP have been working with local women's advocacy groups including the Yukon Status of Women Council, the Yukon Women's Coalition and subject matter experts from agencies engaged in direct services to survivors of violence. Their goal is to review RCMP files, to point out where they see deficiencies and to identify where there may be areas to improve.

## Territorial policing priorities for 2019-20

- ✓ create the foundation for effective policing in Yukon;
- ✓ enhance prevention, investigation and enforcement activities related to violence against women;
- ✓ proactively respond to serious and organized crime;
- ✓ engage with and support children and youth; and
- ✓ foster meaningful relationships with First Nations and throughout the communities.



# FAREWELL AND WELCOME

## This year we said goodbye

to Melaina Sheldon. She had been with the Council since April 2017. Melaina's dedication to the Council over the last three years was a strong addition to our continued goal of advocating on behalf of Yukon communities. We are grateful for her contributions to policing in Yukon.

Simon Nagano and Tracy MacPherson have accepted second terms with the Council. We thank them and all Council members past and present for their continued dedication to public service.

## In 2020, we welcomed

Dr. Janet Welch to the Council. Janet comes with a strong strategic and educational background. We look forward to working with, and learning from, Janet during her appointment.

Dr. Janet Welch holds a Bachelor of Education Degree (Canada), a Masters in Computing Science (UK), and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a specialization in Educational Technology (US). Janet has worked for over 30 years in post-secondary education, providing strategic counsel to university and college institutions both in Canada and abroad. She specializes in technology-based environments, staff development and leadership.

With each opportunity, Janet inspires a shift toward change and innovation. Janet is committed to higher education's digital community and brings the student experience to the forefront of decision-making and guidance at leadership tables. In July 2018, Janet started in her new role with Yukon University (then Yukon College) as the Vice President of Academic and Student Services.

Thank  
you



**Your Community Voice**

Yukon Police Council

**Contact us  
through our  
secretariat**

 867-456-6758

 PO Box 2703 J-10  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

 [yukonpolicecouncil@yukon.ca](mailto:yukonpolicecouncil@yukon.ca)