



Minister's Office
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

June 7, 2023

Chief Superintendent Scott Sheppard
Commanding Officer, RCMP "M" Division
4100 4th Avenue
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1H5

Dear Chief Superintendent Sheppard,

Re: Yukon's Policing Priorities for 2023-24

I am writing to communicate the Yukon's 2023-24 policing priorities. As in previous years, communication and collaboration between the Department of Justice, the Yukon Police Council (Council) and community partners provide the foundation for the Yukon's policing priorities.

The RCMP's efforts, dedication, and contributions in working towards actualizing the policing priorities over the last year have been unwavering. Throughout the year, RCMP "M" Division members have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to policing priorities through their continued support of, among other innovative initiatives, the Government of Yukon's Integrated Restorative Justice Unit and Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART). In addition, subsequent improvements to existing service delivery such as the establishment of the Crime Reduction Unit, Mobile Crisis Unit "Car 867", and the dedicated work of the Historical Case Unit, have supported the work in our fight against organized crime, drug trafficking and the substance use health emergency.

The Yukon Police Council spent this past year engaging with diverse community groups across the Yukon, including stakeholders and the public, through in-person discussions and presentations. In order to engage and seek feedback from Yukoners, the Council travelled to Haines Junction and Beaver Creek, and attended the Kluane First Nation Annual Harvest Camp. Elements and recurring themes from those engagements, as well as feedback received by the Department of Justice, are incorporated into the 2023-24 policing priorities.

The policing priorities build on priorities from previous years, with a focused approach to allow the RCMP to effect substantial and long-term change in supporting First Nations, visible minorities, vulnerable populations, and Yukoners as a whole.

This year will see additional challenges as we continue to work collaboratively with our partners to combat the Substance Use Health Emergency in the territory, support Community Safety Planning initiatives, and work to reduce violence and strengthen relationships with Yukon First Nations and municipalities. Furthermore, continuing the important work that arises from *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy* will further support our commitment to reconciliation.

The 2023-24 Policing Priorities are as follows:

Priority 1 – Strengthening relationships and increasing public trust.

Continued efforts to build trust and strengthen relationships that support Yukoners and communities.

The primary objectives of this priority include the following:

- Continuing to develop and invest in initiatives that support a trauma-informed and appropriate police response to sexualized assault, and gender and race-based crime.
- Initiating and participating in interagency meetings where applicable to support collaborative and community specific relationships.
- Strengthening relationships between RCMP and communities to cultivate a deeper understanding of the land, culture, existing relationships, and the priorities of each community.
- Responding to all crimes in all communities and conducting proactive outreach patrols in a manner that is designed to meet the unique needs of Yukon communities.
- Maintaining a positive presence within communities through ongoing participation in community gatherings and events.
- Working to increase meaningful communication regarding policing efforts to the public through available channels, including social media, which allows for transparency to build greater trust.
- Continuing to build trust and relationships with children and youth through positive, interactive engagements to prevent and/or deter gang involvement.
- Continuing to take accountability for mistakes, and where possible repairing relationships with individuals and communities to demonstrate a police service that is responsive to the public's needs.
- Ensuring continued access to timely mental health and other supports for RCMP members as a component of self-care.

Priority 2 – Enhancing policing targeted at toxic illicit drugs and serious crime.

The Substance Use Health Emergency continues to negatively impact Yukoners and their loved ones. The toxic illicit drug supply and serious crimes that plague our communities require ongoing efforts by Yukon RCMP to ensure the safety of Yukoners. Maintaining collaborative efforts with partners, such as the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Unit (SCAN) and the Mobile Crisis Unit “Car 867”, will support increased safety for Yukoners and is necessary to combat the illicit drug supply and reduce serious crimes.

The primary objectives of this priority include the following:

- Collaborating with partners and seeking solutions or assistance with resources to help as required.
- Improving and enhancing police response through continued deployment and support of dedicated resources used to address drug and gang-related crimes facing communities.
- Continuing to support and work with communities and partners such as Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services, hospitals, the Mobile Response Unit “Car 867” and the Yukon Substance Use Health Emergency declaration as proactive responses to the opioid crisis.
- Continuing efforts to investigate the Yukon’s most serious crimes, both current and historical.

Priority 3 – Policing with First Nations.

Continued attention, effort and collaborative work remain necessary to further strengthen relationships with Yukon First Nations.

The primary objectives of this priority include the following:

- Participating in the development and implementation of community-specific orientation through collaborative efforts with First Nations leadership.
- Improving efforts to collaborate with First Nations on new, existing, or future community safety initiatives to foster trust, and build and maintain relationships.
- Continue to encourage Yukon First Nations citizens to apply to the RCMP through RCMP recruitment strategies including the Indigenous Pre-Cadet Training Program, alongside any future initiatives to attract and retain First Nations members.
- Continued support for the enhancement of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program throughout the Yukon.
- Ensuring effective engagement with Yukon First Nations and other community leaders to identify and address their specific and unique needs relating to the consumption and sale of drugs and alcohol.

Yukon's RCMP "M" Division has demonstrated exceptional progress in addressing the policing priorities from this past year, which continues to speak volumes to their capability and effectiveness in delivering services to Yukoners. I continue to be confident that the upcoming year will be no different, and that Yukon's RCMP will continue their efforts to support and protect Yukoners, while having action guided by these priorities.

As always, I look forward to receiving progressive updates on the implementation of policing priorities throughout the year and thank you for your continued commitment to law enforcement and the safety and wellbeing of all Yukoners.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tracy-Anne McPhee', is positioned above the typed name.

Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Justice and Attorney General