

YUKON POLICE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Message from the Chair

Over the course of the year, the Yukon Police Council (YPC or the Council) recognizes the efforts made by the RCMP in delivering services to Yukoners and how its members have adapted to meeting and serving the needs of Yukon communities. Their dedication to ensuring the safety of Yukoners has not gone unnoticed. The RCMP's quarterly reports demonstrate their commitment to addressing the policing priorities set forth by the Minister of Justice, and the Council eagerly anticipates observing the progress in the upcoming year. The results of the 2020 Community Perceptions of the RCMP survey continue to guide the Council's decisions and support the recommendations made to the Minister of Justice.

Mark Radke
Chair, Yukon Police Council

2022-23 Yukon Police Council members

- **Elodie Dulac**
Haines Junction
- **Maureen Johnstone**
Whitehorse (resigned 2022)
- **Tracy MacPherson**
Whitehorse (resigned 2022)
- **Allan Lucier**
Whitehorse (appointed 2022)
- **Simon Nagano**
Dawson City
- **Rob Schneider**
Marsh Lake
- **Mark Radke, Chair**
Whitehorse
- **Jeff Ford, Past Chair**
Whitehorse

In 2022, the Council said farewell to Maureen Johnstone and Tracy MacPherson. We wish them well in their future endeavours. In 2022, the Council welcomed Allan Lucier to the Council.



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

This year, the Council actively convened meetings with a diverse range of stakeholders, fostering an environment where their insights and perspectives on critical matters such as the current opioid and homelessness crisis, victims of crime, community safety, and other various relevant topics were shared. The information gathered through these engagements plays a crucial role in substantiating the recommendations put forth by the Council to the Minister of Justice as she formulates the policing priorities for the forthcoming 2023–24 period. These recommendations hold significant importance, as they are firmly grounded in the esteemed feedback received from the residents of Yukon, underscoring the invaluable contributions made by the community.

The Minister of Justice's 2023–24 Policing Priorities to “M” Division can be found at: yukon.ca/en/2023-24-policing-priorities-letter-minister-justice-rcmp

Stakeholder engagements

The Council continues to refer to the results of the 2020 Community Perceptions of the RCMP survey as the feedback remains relevant to the issues seen throughout the Yukon in the past year. The results of the survey can be found at: yukon.ca/en/community-perceptions-rcmp-report-survey

April 2022

The City of Whitehorse – The city's four priorities are property crimes including vandalism and graffiti, organized crime, traffic safety and a safer community for all. During this meeting, it was emphasized that community safety and the need for collaborative work between the city's Bylaw Services, the Department of Justice and the RCMP is of great importance. The Council heard that the city and the RCMP have a collaborative relationship. The RCMP has provided enhanced support during events and is working with the city to improve taxi safety. The city has requested a dedicated traffic unit and additional enforcement throughout the city.

Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services (MWSUS) – The Council received a presentation outlining the services offered by MWSUS, which included an overview of the supervised consumption site and safe supply program, the referred care clinic and opioid treatment services. The Council heard that there is a positive and collaborative working relationship between the Department of Health and Social Services and the RCMP. The development of a Mobile Crisis Response Unit was underway to support more client-centered interventions. As of November 1, 2022, the Mobile Crisis Response Unit (Car 867) has been active in the territory and has received positive feedback.

Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) – The Council met with the Chamber and heard concerns related to shoplifting, break and enters, vandalism of private and public property, and public alcohol and drug use. Concerns were raised of a lack of response from the RCMP on issues such as speeding, shoplifting and vandalism. The Chamber has met with the RCMP to express its concerns and looks forward to working together to address issues that affect business owners and residents.

Whitehorse Emergency Shelter (WES) – In April, WES, alongside Emergency Medical Services (EMS) stationed at the shelter, presented an overview of low-barrier services available and described their working relationship with the RCMP. WES describes the RCMP's presence at the shelter as mainly calls for service. Having EMS stationed on site has been beneficial in decreasing the number of calls for RCMP assistance.

Chief Coroner – The Council met with the Chief Coroner, who provided an overview of her roles and responsibilities during an investigation, as well as how these roles change once the investigation becomes a criminal matter. The Council heard that interactions between the Chief Coroner and the RCMP are improving and that there is support for ongoing collaborative work. The Chief Coroner discussed the importance of good communication with the RCMP.

Blood Ties Four Directions (Blood Ties) – A Blood Ties representative provided a program area overview and a summary of services available to clients. The representative described a growing, yet challenging, working relationship with the RCMP. An agreement is in place that prevents the RCMP from attending onsite at the Blood Ties location unless contacted directly. There have been recent challenges with that agreement and discussions are scheduled.

Commanding Officer's Yukon First Nation Advisory Committee (COYFNAC) – A Council representative met with COYFNAC and provided information about the Council's process of gathering feedback and preparing recommendations for the Minister of Justice. Discussions surrounded challenges of working together, as the Council interacts with senior justice members, whereas COYFNAC is viewed as a local level advisory group.

Inspire.Reconciliation.Potential (IRP) – The Council met with IRP, the consulting company completing the Sharing Common Ground review. An overview of how the review is progressing was shared with the Council. The Council later participated in a focus group with IRP for the review. Council members unable to attend the focus group completed individual interviews.

Community visits

August 2022

Burwash Landing – During the Council's visit to the Annual Harvest and Culture Camp, concerns were raised regarding delayed RCMP response times due to distance from the community. Feedback also highlighted issues relating to illicit drug activity, violent crimes, and traffic violations. The Council recognized the strain on relationships between partners and the RCMP caused by pandemic-related challenges and the community's request for additional policing resources.

Beaver Creek – During the Council's visit to Beaver Creek, a range of perspectives were shared by partners regarding their relationships with the RCMP. While some partnerships were described as strained, others were characterized as positive, collaborative, and mutually advantageous. Feedback from select partners indicated that concerns persisted regarding the perceived absence or insufficient engagement of the RCMP in addressing key community challenges, including traffic violations, animal control, and illicit drug activities. The community expressed a desire for ongoing RCMP orientation and emphasized the necessity for adequate, community-based training for the RCMP to address their specific needs and expectations.

November 2022

Haines Junction – The Council was informed by community concerns regarding illicit drug activity in the Takhini Subdivision. The community requested enhanced presence visibility, and accessibility of the RCMP in the area. Additionally, the Council learned about the challenge of insufficient police communication regarding serious crimes that impact the community.

RCMP

The Council received quarterly reports, Whitehorse RCMP Annual Policing Priorities Survey results, and presentations from the RCMP. The presentations highlighted the RCMP's efforts in addressing policing priorities, including updates on the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU). Additionally, the RCMP in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services, introduced the Mobile Crisis Response Unit Car 867. The Council expressed gratification upon learning about the favourable reception that this initiative has garnered thus far.

"M" Division's Mobile Crisis Response Team (Car 867) – The RCMP's partnership with the Government of Yukon's Department of Health and Social Services has led to the launch of Car 867. This initiative offers vital services including mental health and suicide assessments, direct physician connection if necessary, and reduced wait times for hospital visits. The implementation of Car 867 provides the RCMP with additional resources for working with individuals. The council has received positive feedback which has sparked discussions on developing accessible care plans through Health and Social Services, allowing clients to give consent for information access and fostering coordinated interactions.



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 eagerly anticipates the ongoing input from residents of the Yukon concerning the provisions of policing services within the territory. Sustained and meaningful discussions with the RCMP are integral to assessing their alignment with the Minister's policing priorities. They foster a collaborative approach to tackle pressing issues and address legitimate concerns. The Council's unwavering dedication lies in facilitating open conversations among Yukon citizens, the Yukon RCMP and the Department of Justice, with the objective of enhancing the perceived trust of community members and the RCMP. Through close engagement with the communities and responsive action to their requests, the Yukon will progress in a favourable trajectory.

The Council continues to monitor activities relating to implementing recommendations from *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy*.

Territorial Policing Priorities 2022–23

The Territorial Policing Priorities as set by the Minister of Justice for 2023–24, and in response to the recommendations provided by the Council, include:

- strengthening relationships and increasing the public's trust;
- enhanced policing targeted at toxic illicit drugs and serious crime; and
- policing with First Nations.

The Yukon Police Council remains interested in receiving feedback about policing services on an ongoing basis. Feedback must be received by the end of December 2023 to be considered in the development of the policing priorities recommended to the Minister of Justice.



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