

ANNUAL REPORT  
**Yukon Police Council**  
April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Milestone years are opportunities to reflect upon our growth and development, to determine our direction. This year marks five years since the establishment of the Yukon Police Council and provides us an opportunity to reflect back to 2012 when this all started.

*Sharing Common Ground: Review of Yukon's Police Force* was issued in 2011. It was groundbreaking in terms of its scope and comprehensiveness and one of its first recommendations called for a civilian-based Council. This Council was tasked with engaging the public, First Nations and stakeholders on their needs and perspectives in relation to their policing priorities. This information would be compiled to create recommended priorities provided to the Minister of Justice which would then serve as a foundation point for the policing priorities which the Minister provides to the Commanding Officer of "M" Division, the RCMP division in Yukon.

The Yukon Police Council formed in 2012, and it soon began to fulfill the mandate laid out for it in *Sharing Common Ground*. Since its inception, the Council has met in Dawson City, Watson Lake, Haines Junction, Teslin, Carcross and Whitehorse, to engage with multiple service providers including First Nations, RCMP, stakeholders, mayors and councils.

Members of the Yukon Police Council know that our role is unique; we provide an opportunity to every Yukoner to have a say in our policing priorities. We also know that trust and respect needs to be established all around the table to allow this to happen, so when we get a chance to sit down with our First Nations and stakeholder partners, we come humbled and honoured, open to new perspectives and ideas.

Our plan for the next year is a strong focus on community and public engagement. We welcome and encourage input year round, and we want feedback on policing needs. We are open to meeting with all those that have thoughts to share.

On a personal note, I want to thank Doris McLean, Patricia Daws, and Michael Riseborough for their commitment and dedication to this Council. We say farewell to three of our founding members with gratitude for their commitment and the time they gave to setting a solid and respected foundation for the Council.

Lesley McCullough, Chair

## ABOUT THE YUKON POLICE COUNCIL

The Yukon Police Council is a citizen-based council, created as a direct result of calls for more citizen input into territorial policing during *Sharing Common Ground*, the Review of Yukon's Police Force. A key recommendation in the report on the review was that the Minister of Justice develop a council made up of citizens, reflective of Yukon's population, that would inform the Minister of policing priorities for the territory.

The Yukon Police Council's mandate is to:

- facilitate and gather information from a broad range of Yukon citizens and service providers on policing;
- act as a conduit for their opinions and experiences so that they may be included in planning processes;
- provide advice to assist in the formation of territorial police service objectives, priorities and goals established by the Minister of Justice; and,
- promote ongoing dialogue and information flow on policing in Yukon.

The Council continues to have four broad goals to assist in carrying out its mandate.

1. Engage and communicate with RCMP, First Nations, stakeholders, and the public.
2. Monitor and participate in initiatives flowing from *Sharing Common Ground*.
3. Provide recommendations to the Minister of Justice on policing priorities.
4. Develop Yukon Police Council policies, processes and training.

### **MEMBERS OF THE YUKON POLICE COUNCIL IN 2015/2016\***

- Lisa Anderson
- Patricia Daws
- Elodie Dulac
- Doris McLean
- Michael Riseborough
- Rob Schneider
- Tom Ulyett, Chair (April –December 2016)
- Lesley McCullough, Chair (December 2016- present)

\*Full member bios are posted on the website, however with the appointment of three new council members in April 2017, only the current member bios are on the website.

## 2016/2017 MEETINGS AND MAJOR ACTIVITIES

### **CARCROSS, JUNE 2016**

The Council had the opportunity to travel to Carcross to talk about the unique policing needs of the community. The Council met with the Carcross Tagish First Nation Executive Council but were unable to meet with the Chief during the visit.

Unique issues including the short distance to Whitehorse, and that the town is the first community after an international border were examples of what made Carcross different than many of the other communities in Yukon.

Traffic safety, access to services, longevity of RCMP members serving in the community, substance abuse, addictions and children and youth engaging in substance use were some of the common themes noted in Carcross.

The Council also met with representatives for Community Nursing, Victim Services and Association of Yukon Communities to hear, from their perspective, what they see happening in the community.

In addition to the concerns raised regarding the geographical considerations, the tourism sector also plays a part in safety and policing in Carcross. With the development of the mountain biking trails, and tourism from the cruise ships coming up from Skagway, the community has an increased amount of traffic and a number of visitors in the town limits.



Council Members: Michael Risebrough, Lisa Anderson, Doris McLean, Elodie Dulac, Pat Daws, Tom Ullyett

This increases the demands on service providers, and ultimately on the RCMP who are tasked with ensuring the safety of not only the members of the community, but also those visiting.

When the Council met with the Carcross RCMP, they too identified the distinctive challenges to policing in the community. Balance between presence on the street and administrative duties, acting in the absence of other resources and working with Canada Border Services and British Columbia RCMP are all aspects that make policing in Carcross different than some other small rural communities.

The Council encompassed the needs of Carcross in several of the recommended priorities, including responding to emerging themes through the challenges of the proximity to the international border, supporting youth, partnerships with RCMP, First Nations and stakeholders, and traffic safety.

## **WHITEHORSE, DECEMBER 2016**

The Council met in December in Whitehorse, inviting a number of stakeholders, and holding a General Meeting.

The Council met with staff from the Women's Directorate to discuss the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, including the National Inquiry.

The Council also had the opportunity to meet with the Manager of Integrated Supports for Yukon Youth (ISYY), part of the Department of Health and Social Services. ISYY is a one-stop service delivery location in Whitehorse, where youth can access multiple government and support services in one location, receiving assistance navigating a multitude of needs. ISYY runs outside of usual government services hours, open Tuesday-Saturday, 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Some of the most challenging issues the youth accessing the centre face are mental health issues, lack of housing, involvement with the justice system, and employment/financial stability.

Council members also had an opportunity to meet with the recently appointed Minister of Justice, Tracy-Anne McPhee. The Council received some feedback on the process of the recommended priorities, and determined from the Minister how she sees her relationship with the Council in the future.

In the theme of meeting with new leadership, the new Commanding Officer of "M" Division, Chief Superintendent Scott Sheppard, along with Superintendent Brian Jones, met with the Council to talk about the realities of policing in Yukon. Chief Superintendent Sheppard noted that the needs of Yukon are unique, and that each community in Yukon also has their own sets of needs from the RCMP. He spoke to the current priorities, noting he thought that they are the right priorities, remaining relevant to current times, and likely will remain the right priorities for the coming year. In lining

up Yukon's priorities with the National Strategies that guide RCMP work country wide, it is evident that the two support one another.

Substance use/abuse, youth criminal activity, property crime, sexual violence and exploitation, traffic concerns and work with First Nations remain a focus for the "M" Division across the territory. Chief Superintendent Sheppard noted that the ongoing growth in the relationships between the RCMP and First Nations must remain a forward focus. The knowledge of local citizens, First Nations and stakeholders help the RCMP ensure that they are policing in a way that supports the safety of all Yukoners.

The presentations and conversations during this meeting helped shape all of the priorities that were recommended by the Council, and reinforced to the Council that the priorities remain current and reflective of the policing needs of Yukon.

## **WHITEHORSE, FEBRUARY 2017**

February saw the Council come together for the completion of the recommended priorities for the Minister of Justice. As the process is intensive and the culmination of the work of the year, this meeting was focused only on the creation of the recommendations.

The Council worked with a facilitator to bring together and organize what the Council heard from their meetings and the call for public input. The meeting was very successful, resulting in the recommendation of six policing priorities. While the priorities were very similar to those of the previous year, they included some key elements that were brought up in the year. These priorities were gathered into a letter that was presented to the Minister of Justice in March 2017.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARDS**

Two members of the Yukon Police Council were once again included in the selection process for the recipients of the 2017 Minister of Justice Community Safety Awards. Lisa Anderson and Rob Schneider worked with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Community Justice and Public Safety, Al Lucier and Superintendent Brian Jones of the RCMP "M" Division to review nominations and acknowledge the work of Yukoners who are making Yukon a safer place to live. For the full list of award recipients for this event, please visit: <http://www.justice.gov.yk.ca/prog/cjps/CommunitySafetyAwards.html>.

# YUKON POLICING PRIORITIES 2016/2017

## **ENHANCE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.**

- Specialized Response Unit continues to support, provide advice and lead investigations into cases of intimate partner violence and sexualized assault.
- Coordination with other agencies in response to sexualized violence is strong.
- Unsolved cases of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women continue to be actively investigated.
- Continue to support efforts to strengthen coordination and relationships with the women's community through initiatives such as the "Together for Safety" and "Together for Justice" protocols and promote these nationally as a best practice.

## **PROACTIVELY RESPOND TO EMERGING PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES AND TRENDS IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.**

- Drug investigations and enforcement are focused at all levels of the drug trade.
- Efforts to address drug trafficking and bootlegging are supported through partnerships with other agencies such as Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) and Yukon Liquor Corporation (YLC). Respond to emerging crime trends such as increased property crime through proactive and intelligence led policing.

## **CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.**

- Police are active partners in efforts to coordinate responses for vulnerable populations, including individuals with mental health issues.
- Front line officers' ability to effectively interact with vulnerable persons is improved through appropriate training.

## **CONNECT AND SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUTH INCLUDING THOSE AT RISK.**

- Opportunities to build trust and connections with youth are identified and pursued.
- RCMP are partners in inter-agency efforts to prevent sexualized assault and exploitation of children and youth.
- RCMP continue to build their knowledge and capabilities to fully investigate cyber bullying and online exploitation of children and youth.

## **FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH FIRST NATIONS AND PARTNER AGENCIES.**

- The Yukon RCMP are visible and accessible to the public.
- Establish and maintain strong relationships with community leaders across Yukon.
- Lines of communication with Yukon RCMP continue to be fostered at the local and divisional level and contact with community leaders and citizens is a priority for all detachments.
- Local orientation of new police officers is consistently carried out and involves close coordination with First Nations, community leaders, NGOs and other stakeholders.
- Efforts are made to recruit police officers who are a good fit for each individual community.

## **IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE WITH SAFE DRIVING MEASURES.**

- Intensive public information efforts are supported with partner agencies and aimed at educating the public and reducing the incidents of impaired driving.
- Road Safety is supported through enforcement of traffic related vehicle infractions, especially infractions which create a high risk to other people on the road including motorists, children, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Increased focus on improving safety and reducing accidents at higher-risk areas such as school zones, busy intersections and narrow bridges.

From left to right:  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General,  
Tracy-Anne McPhee, YPC members, Pat Daws,  
Doris McLean, Michael Riseborough, Elodie Dulac,  
Community Safety Coordinator, Samantha McCormack,  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Community Justice and  
Public Safety, Allan Lucier



## **WEBSITE AND EMAIL**

The Yukon Police Council continues to have a dedicated website and email, where agendas, meeting minutes, electronic annual reports and member bios can be located. The website is: [www.yukonpolicecouncil.ca](http://www.yukonpolicecouncil.ca).

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

The Council recognizes the importance of meeting with those living in rural Yukon, and has committed to a multi-community visit in the 2017/18 year. The plan is to attend three communities, meeting with the First Nations, RCMP, stakeholders and members of the public in those communities.

From a Whitehorse perspective, the Council is looking to plan a larger stakeholder engagement session, similar to the Dialogue on Policing in 2014. This meeting is set to take place at the end of November, followed directly by the development of recommendations to the Minister for policing priorities in 2018/19.

The Council will soon be releasing a five-year report outlining all of the work of the Council since 2012, including a timeline of meetings, and some interesting, lesser-known facts about the Council.

## **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU**

The Council will also be intensifying their communication efforts in 2017/18 in attempts to provide education about the Council, and seek greater feedback from the public. Input from all people in Yukon is required to ensure that the recommendations put forward are truly reflective of the needs in Yukon.

The Council is open to receiving feedback on policing priorities at any time of the year, and can be reached through email, phone or traditional mail.



