

ANNUAL REPORT
Yukon Police Council
April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Yukon Police Council had another active year meeting with citizens, First Nations, and stakeholder groups throughout the territory. The Council met with a variety of different interest groups, hearing a wide range of perspectives on policing and community safety. Without the contribution of time and the willingness to share feedback by those who met with the Council, this work would not be able to continue.

Throughout the year, many different themes emerged relating to the policing needs of the territory. While policing needs differed from community to community, there were commonalities across the territory affecting many citizens.

One of the critical issues raised with the Council were concerns relating to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This issue remains a priority at both local and national levels. With the new federal government's commitment to launch an inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Council anticipates that this will continue to be an area of ongoing dialogue and one that Yukon citizens will be following closely.

Property crime and violence in the territory were key issues frequently voiced by citizens. Incidents of property crime were not only raised in the media, but were also raised in meetings with citizens, who expressed their concerns about residential property crime, as well as business and commercial crime. The Council was also informed of increasing public fear and apprehension regarding violence, some of which is seen as being connected with the illicit drug trade in the territory. Citizens were clear that they wanted the RCMP to show increased focus on initiatives to deter and counter drug trafficking in the territory.

Traffic safety, such as impaired driving, distracted driving and speeding, was frequently raised by citizens; while enhanced enforcement and education remain key elements of the recommendations on policing priorities submitted to the Minister of Justice.

The Council heard that building respectful and positive relationships between RCMP, community members, and organizations continues to be a priority. While there is always work to be done to sustain positive police/community relations, the Council was heartened to hear positive stories with respect to the relationships between RCMP, First Nations, and communities in general.

The Council strives to remain visible and accessible to Yukoners and their communities, providing opportunities for the sharing of information on policing needs and priorities territory-wide. All citizens, stakeholders, First Nations, service providers, and special interest groups are welcome at community meetings and are encouraged to reach out to the Council, at any time of the year, to provide input or feedback.

Yours truly,

Tom Ulyett, Chair

ABOUT THE YUKON POLICE COUNCIL

The Yukon Police Council was created as a direct result of calls for more citizen input into territorial policing during the Review of Yukon's Police Force, 2010. The Council was formed in 2012 to create a formal structure and mechanism through which community members, stakeholders and First Nations could provide their input on policing priorities. As a citizen-based council, the Yukon Police Council opens the opportunity for community members and service providers to participate, and have a role, in shaping the police services Yukon receives. The Council travels to communities, meets with local citizens and, in turn, is exposed to the fabric of community life.

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 to 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 their 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

*Current council members' bios are available at www.yukonpolicecouncil.ca

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yukon Police Council obtained memberships in the Canadian Association of Police Governance in order to stay informed of developments, issues and trends in policing in Canada.

2015/2016 MEETINGS AND MAJOR ACTIVITIES

ORIENTATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS, WHITEHORSE, MAY 2015

Two newly appointed members of the Council, Elodie Dulac and Rob Schneider, received briefings on the mandate of the Yukon Police Council and an overview of territorial policing. They were also introduced to the Minister of Justice, Brad Cathers, senior officers of the RCMP "M" Division, and their fellow Council members.

The new Council members had an opportunity to hear the history of the Council, and its origin, as one of the strategic recommendations from Sharing Common Ground: the final report of the Review of Yukon's Police Force. Existing members of the Council also provided insight into the process for developing the recommendations for Yukon's policing priorities as well as other projects the Council has been part of, including the RCMP Training and Development Framework.

MEETING IN TESLIN, OCTOBER 2015

The Council had the opportunity to travel to Teslin and meet with several stakeholders about their community and policing needs. The Council met with:

- Teslin Tlingit Council Chief, Carl Sidney;
- Village of Teslin Mayor, Clara Jules, and Council;
- Chief Peacemaker, Gordon Reed;
- Teslin RCMP Detachment; and,
- Chief Superintendent Peter Clark.

Meeting with Chief Peacemaker Gord Reed in the Heritage Center, Teslin, Yukon.



Those who met with the Council took the opportunity to speak about Teslin's unique issues. Some of these included: living on the Alaska Highway; boat and water safety; concerns about community safety; and, the well-being of all Teslin Tlingit citizens, including those living outside of Teslin. The Council also heard about the Peacemaker Court, and other new initiatives and the vision for the future of justice.

Chief Sidney and Mayor Jules spoke about the roles they have played in the orientation of new RCMP members, and of the collaborative relationship between Teslin Tlingit Council and the Village of Teslin. They shared examples of positive relationships between the local RCMP members in the community, including engaging with youth and the school.

REGULAR MEETING AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLICING PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS, WHITEHORSE, DECEMBER 2015

The Council met in December, 2015, to review the submissions from the public call for input for Yukon's policing priorities, and, began drafting the recommendations to the Minister of Justice.

During the meeting, the Council also welcomed Minister of Justice Brad Cathers, who provided the Council with his perspective on policing needs in Yukon.

The Council met with three members of the Women's Coalition, Ann Maje Raider of Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, Barbara McInerney of Yukon Women's Transition Home Society, and Collyn Lovelace, the Women's Coalition Coordinator. All three spoke of the improving relationship between the RCMP and women's groups, and the positive impact that the work of the RCMP's Specialized Response Unit has had.

Finally, the Council had the opportunity to meet with Chief Superintendent Peter Clark, where the Council presented some of the items that were heard up to this point in the year. Chief Superintendent Clark provided an update on what the RCMP are doing, and what they have done to date, to work on the policing priorities of 2015/2016.



Council members (missing: Tom Ullyett, Doris McLean and Lisa Anderson) meeting with Teslin RCMP

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, WHITEHORSE, MARCH 2016

In March, the Council came together in Whitehorse for a wrap-up meeting for 2015/2016, and to talk about plans for the coming year. The Council had the opportunity to meet with several people, including:

- Jeanie Dendys, Kwanlin Dün Justice Director;
- Jacqueline Davies, Department of Justice;
- Chief Superintendent Peter Clark;
- Criminal Operations Officer Brian Jones; and
- Inspector Dan Austin.

Ms. Dendys presented on Kwanlin Dün First Nation's Community Safety and Wellness Strategy and on the wide variety of initiatives underway to help build a safer community. Ms. Dendys shared the vision that Kwanlin Dün First Nation has for the future of their government and community, and the path they hope to take to get there. Ms. Dendys also spoke about the positive impact of having two RCMP members based in the community.

Yukon Police Council (missing: Doris McLean and Lisa Anderson)



Jacqueline Davies presented updates to the Council on a number of Department of Justice initiatives, including support for the development of a new Crime Stoppers program, developments with respect to the RCMP labour relations regime, and, the First Nations Policing Program.

The Council was also informed of upcoming changes to senior representatives of RCMP "M" Division. Chief Superintendent Peter Clark met with the Council to talk about plans of hiring the new Commanding Officer and the involvement of Yukon on the selection panel. The Council extended their appreciation to Chief Superintendent Clark for his service to Yukon and support for the work of the Council. The Council also had the opportunity to meet with the new Criminal Operations Officer in Charge, Superintendent Brian Jones, and the new Inspector in Charge of community detachments, Dan Austin.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES: COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARDS

On an annual basis, the Yukon Police Council designates two members to sit on the selection committee for the Minister of Justice Community Safety Awards¹. The committee reviews all nominations and provides recommendations to the Minister on suitable award recipients. Two Council members, Elodie Dulac and Rob Schneider, participated in the Committee which led to the selection of fourteen recipients, in eleven categories. The recipients received their awards at a dinner hosted by the Minister of Justice, Brad Cathers, in November 2015.

YUKON POLICING PRIORITIES

The Minister's Policing Priorities are one way in which the delivery of territorial police services by Yukon RCMP can be focused on the unique context and environment of Yukon. The Minister of Justice communicates these territorial policing priorities to the RCMP "M" Division Commanding Officer on an annual basis.

In fall 2015, the Council issued a call for public input for the coming year's policing priorities. Submissions were made via mail, email and phone calls, covering diverse policing issues such as traffic safety, vulnerable youth, and, concerns over violent crime. Following the call for public input, the Council drafted and then submitted their recommendations on Yukon's policing priorities to the Minister for 2016/2017.

The Minister of Justice, taking into consideration a number of factors including the Council's recommendations, provided the following priorities to the RCMP "M" Division Commanding Officer:

- Enhance prevention, investigation and enforcement activities related to violence against women;

¹More information on the Community Safety Awards can be found at www.justice.gov.yk.ca/prog/cjps/CommunitySafetyAwards.html

- Proactively respond to emerging public safety issues and trends in criminal activity;
- Contribute to improve the community response to vulnerable populations;
- Connect and support children and youth including those at risk;
- Foster strong relationships with First Nations and partner agencies; and,
- Improve traffic safety and compliance with safe driving measures.

WEBPAGE AND EMAIL

The Council continues to maintain the dedicated email address and webpage so the Yukon Police Council is accessible across Yukon. The webpage www.yukonpolicecouncil.ca hosts all meeting agendas and minutes for all regular and special meetings of the Council, member bios, and more.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Council will hold regular meetings in Whitehorse and plans to visit one Yukon community in 2016/2017. The Council will organize and invite stakeholders to a Stakeholder Engagement meeting in Winter 2016, to gather feedback and perspectives on community safety.

The Council is committed to promoting dialogue on policing and public safety for all Yukoners, and continues to work on strengthening relationships and communication. If you would like to have a member of the Council meet with you or your agency, please contact the Secretariat at the contact information listed below.

Contact information

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