

Yukon Police Council Annual Report

April 1, 2012–March 31, 2013

Message from the Chair

As Chair of the Yukon Police Council, and on behalf of the members of the Council, I would like to thank the many representatives from First Nations and service providing organizations who have taken time over the past year to meet with the Council. We have been fortunate to engage in dialogue on policing with you, and have gained a greater understanding of opportunities and challenges relating to policing from a community perspective.

The Territorial Police Service Agreement provides the authority for the Minister of Justice to establish policing priorities for Yukon. This year, with the establishment of the Council, changes have been made in the development of these priorities to include recommendations from the Yukon Police Council. I would also like to thank each individual and organization that provided a submission on policing priorities; this information was invaluable to the Council in developing our recommendations to the Minister. It ensured that Yukon Policing Priorities, which were communicated to the Commanding Officer of "M" Division in March, are representative of Yukoners' needs and voice.

In addition, I wish to extend my appreciation to the members of Yukon Police Council. As with any new body, we have had to create the Council from the ground up, and I am very pleased with the work of the Council in its inaugural year. The members are very engaged and committed and come with strong and diverse personal and professional backgrounds that have benefitted the work of the Council.

Finally, I would encourage all Yukoners to continue to engage with the Yukon Police Council. Many changes have been made in policing over the past two years (visit www.sharingcommonground.gov.yk.ca for more information) and the Yukon Police Council is interested in ongoing dialogue and improvement in policing services.

Ron MacMillan, Chair





2012-13 Meetings and Major Activities

Regular Meetings

The Council held regular meetings in Whitehorse on May 24-25, 2012, June 15, 2012 and December 5, 2012.

During these meetings, the Yukon Police Council had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the:

- First Nations Justice Network;
- Council of Yukon First Nations Justice Department;
- Coalition of Women's Organizations;
- Canadian Mental Health Association-Yukon Chapter;
- Second Opinion Society;
- Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition;
- Commanding Officer's Yukon First Nation Advisory Committee.

Throughout the year, the Council had the opportunity to engage with senior leadership at the RCMP, both in orientation to the RCMP and in regular information sharing. The RCMP have also provided a number of presentations for the Council, helping the members to better understand what it is like to be a police officer and to provide policing services in Yukon.

The Yukon Police Council travelled to Haines Junction for a regular meeting on March 26-27, 2013, where they had the opportunity to meet with:

- Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Chief and Council;
- Village of Haines Junction Mayor and Councillor;
- Interagency service providers;
- The Haines Junction Community Justice Committee;
- Haines Junction RCMP.

Council Activities

ORIENTATION AND YPC SET UP

Setting up the Yukon Police Council and establishing processes for meetings, communication and planning were an important focus of this inaugural year of the Council. Members were oriented to their new role at a 3 day training session in March 2012. Information on the framework for policing in Yukon, "M" Division's structure and personnel, and national and territorial priority setting was provided. In addition, the Council had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the impacts of policing from a community perspective.

A webpage and email address for the Council were created so that Yukon Police Council is accessible. The webpage www.yukonpolicecouncil.gov.yk.ca hosts all meeting agendas and minutes for all regular and special meetings of the Council, along with a summary of the Council's orientation.



THE COUNCIL DEVELOPED A WORKPLAN WITH FOUR BROAD GOALS:

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

Over the course of the first year, the members of the Yukon Police Council took the opportunity to attend community and public events in order to network, share information on the Council and learn more about policing related issues. Yukon Police Council members attended a potlatch to honor the raising of the Daqlawedi Clan House (Carcross Tagish First Nation), the Symposium on Policing in Northern and Remote Canada, and the first Minister of Justice Community Safety Awards event. Two members of the Council sat on the review panel and made recommendations to the Minister on award recipients. A member of the YPC also travelled to Watson Lake to attend and speak at the Policeman's Ball and Watson Lake Chamber Gala.

Yukon Policing Priorities

GATHERING INFORMATION FROM YUKONERS

In August, the Yukon Police Council began to gather information on policing priorities by issuing a call for public submissions, through the newspapers, radio stations and online. 11 submissions from individuals and organizations were received. In September, the Council invited First Nations, service providers and community organizations to a meeting to share their thoughts on policing priorities for the coming year(s). Approximately 50 individuals representing 30 government and community organizations attended this session.

In October, the Council then reviewed all the information received from First Nations, service providers and community organizations and the public, along with statistical information and other data such as the RCMP Annual Performance Plans (these are annual plans/set of priorities developed by each local Detachment, in consultation with First Nation and Municipal leaders in that community).

In December, the Yukon Police Council submitted recommendations on policing priorities to the Minister of Justice for consideration. This represents the first time community input has been incorporated into the policing priorities process.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE POLICING PRIORITIES

The Minister's Policing Priorities are one way in which the delivery of territorial police services by the 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. These priorities focus on trends in the policing environment and strategic areas of public safety where the territorial police service can best focus its efforts. With the creation of the Yukon Police Council, these priorities now also include input from Yukon First Nations, Municipalities, service providers and community members.

THE YUKON POLICING PRIORITIES ARE:

- Focus on preventing and decreasing the victimization of children and youth;
- Continue to improve the response to sexualized assault and family violence, including abuse in intimate partner relationships and child abuse;
- Work with the public and service providers to identify and address community safety issues;
- Build and foster constructive and respectful relationships with First Nations leadership, communities and citizens;
- Improve the police response to vulnerable populations, with a particular focus on individuals with mental health issues and addictions.

Looking forward

Over the coming year, the Yukon Police Council will continue to develop and solidify our role. The Council remains committed to engaging with First Nations, service providers, the public and the Yukon RCMP in order to better understand issues relating to policing and to incorporate community voice into Yukon's policing services.

In this next year, the Council will continue to build and refine processes for communicating and connecting with First Nations and service providers along with the general public. Ongoing dialogue will be important to a review of the priorities for the next year. Finally, the Yukon Police Council will continue to monitor and participate in Sharing Common Ground Implementation and the integration of that work into ongoing operations of the agencies involved.

The past year has highlighted the great importance of maintaining relationships and communication, and of continuing to work together on policing and safety issues. The coming year presents an opportunity for Yukoners to utilize this new Council, and to ensure your voice is heard on policing issues.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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About the Yukon Police Council

During the Review of Yukon's Police Force in 2010, citizens said they wanted more input into policing, and the Yukon Police Council was created by government to provide a formal structure and mechanism through which community members might provide their input.

The final report of the Review, entitled "Sharing Common Ground", recommended the creation of a citizen based council on policing to provide the chance for citizens to participate and have a role in shaping the police service they receive. Creating the Yukon Police Council was seen as a key component to building trust in the community and promoting ongoing dialogue.

THE YUKON POLICE COUNCIL WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2012 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;
- Promote ongoing dialogue and information flow on policing in Yukon.

MEMBERS OF THE YUKON POLICE COUNCIL

Council members' bios are available at www.yukonpolicecouncil.gov.yk.ca

Lisa Anderson
Patricia Daws
Bill Klassen
David LeBarge

Doris McLean
Michael Riseborough
Robert Riches, Interim Chair (April–Oct)
Ron MacMillan, Chair (Oct–March)