



Commission for Public Complaints Against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

2002-2003
Estimates

Part III – Report on Plans and Priorities

Canada

The Estimates Documents

Each year, the government prepares Estimates in support of its request to Parliament for authority to spend public monies. This request is formalized through the tabling of appropriation bills in Parliament. The Estimates, which are tabled in the House of Commons by the President of the Treasury Board, consist of three parts:

Part I – The Government Expenditure Plan provides an overview of federal spending and summarizes both the relationship of the key elements of the Main Estimates to the Expenditure Plan (as set out in the Budget).

Part II – The Main Estimates directly support the *Appropriation Act*. The Main Estimates identify the spending authorities (votes) and amounts to be included in subsequent appropriation bills. Parliament will be asked to approve these votes to enable the government to proceed with its spending plans. Parts I and II of the Estimates are tabled concurrently on or before 1 March.

Part III – Departmental Expenditure Plans which is divided into two components:

- (1) **Reports on Plans and Priorities (RPPs)** are individual expenditure plans for each department and agency (excluding Crown corporations). These reports provide increased levels of detail on a business line basis and contain information on objectives, initiatives and planned results, including links to related resource requirements over a three-year period. The RPPs also provide details on human resource requirements, major capital projects, grants and contributions, and net program costs. They are tabled in Parliament by the President of the Treasury Board on behalf of the ministers who preside over the departments and agencies identified in Schedules I, I.1 and II of the *Financial Administration Act*. These documents are tabled in the spring and referred to committees, which then report back to the House of Commons pursuant to Standing Order 81(4).
- (2) **Departmental Performance Reports (DPRs)** are individual department and agency accounts of accomplishments achieved against planned performance expectations as set out in respective RPPs. These Performance Reports, which cover the most recently completed fiscal year, are tabled in Parliament in the fall by the President of the Treasury Board on behalf of the ministers who preside over the departments and agencies identified in Schedules I, I.1 and II of the *Financial Administration Act*.

The Estimates, along with the Minister of Finance's Budget, reflect the government's annual budget planning and resource allocation priorities. In combination with the subsequent reporting of financial results in the Public Accounts and of accomplishments achieved in Departmental Performance Reports, this material helps Parliament hold the government to account for the allocation and management of public funds.

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by
the Minister of Public Works and Government Services, 2002

Available in Canada through your local bookseller or by mail from
Canadian Government Publishing (PWGSC)
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9

Telephone: 1-800-635-7943
Internet site: <http://publications.pwgsc.gc.ca>

Catalogue No. BT31-2/2003-III-84

ISBN 0-660-61837-0

Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP

2002–2003 Estimates

A Report on Plans and Priorities

Approved

Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, P.C., M.P.
Solicitor General of Canada

Table of Contents

Section I: Messages	1
Chair’s Message.....	1
Management Representation	2
Section II: Raison d’être	3
Vision, Mission and Mandate	3
Section III: Plans and Priorities	5
Strategic Outcome	5
Plans and Priorities.....	5
Plans and Priorities by Strategic Outcome	7
Section IV: Organization	9
Role and Responsibilities	9
Commission Planned Spending.....	10
Section V: Annexes	11
Net Cost of Program.....	11
For Further Information	11

Section I: Messages

Chair's Message

In the past year, we have completed a long, arduous journey that began three years ago. The greatest challenge, as well as the greatest triumph, has been the elimination of a backlog of unresolved cases that has, for so long, prevented us from fulfilling our mandate effectively.

I continue to work on commitments to improve public communications, information management systems and complaint investigation standards to significantly enhance our effectiveness in handling public complaints against the RCMP.

Since my arrival at the Commission, I have repeatedly stated my commitment to raising public awareness about important policing issues, and my dedication to providing a complaints process that is both accessible and transparent. This process must maintain the confidence of the public, members of the RCMP and Parliament, and reflect a clear understanding of the diversity and complexity of Canadian society. The public release of my two reports on public interest investigations, a first for the Commission, was intended to serve such purposes. The report concerning the detention of Mr. Kim Erik Nielsen of Kamloops, British Columbia, who died after being taken into RCMP custody, as well as the report on events in May 1997 in the Acadian communities of Saint-Simon and Saint-Sauveur in New Brunswick, have had a definite impact on the RCMP and have been well received by the local, national and international communities. This new commitment to transparency bears witness to our dedication to our vision.

The hearing into events surrounding the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference in 1997, the longest and most controversial public hearing in the Commission's history, was concluded during this past fiscal year. The presiding member completed the interim report on August 31, 2001 and I will be issuing the final report shortly.

The events of September 11th and the changes that have affected Canadian society as a result, will most certainly have an impact on our work.



Shirley Heafey
Chair

Management Representation

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION

Report on Plans and Priorities 2002–2003

I submit, for tabling in Parliament, the 2002–2003 Report on Plans and Priorities (RPP) for the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP.

To the best of my knowledge the information:

- Accurately portrays the Commission's plans and priorities.
- Is consistent with the reporting principles contained in the *Guide to the preparation of the 2002–2003 Report on Plans and Priorities*.
- Is comprehensive and accurate.
- Is based on sound underlying Commission information and management systems.

I am satisfied as to the quality assurance processes and procedures used for the RPP's production.

The Planning, Reporting and Accountability Structure (PRAS) on which this document is based has been approved by Treasury Board Ministers and is the basis for accountability for the results achieved with the resources and authorities provided.

Name: _____



Date: February 18, 2002

Section II: Raison d'être

Vision, Mission and Mandate

The Commission is an independent agency. It is not part of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The Commission's jurisdiction pertains to members of the RCMP only; it does not include members of other police forces. The Commission has the authority to make non-binding recommendations, but cannot impose discipline or make monetary awards to complainants.

The Commission's Vision and Mission Statements clearly set out why it exists, what it does and how it achieves its objectives.

Vision

Excellence in policing through accountability.

Mission

To provide civilian oversight of RCMP members' conduct in performing their policing duties so as to hold the RCMP accountable to the public.

Mandate

The mandate of the Commission is set out in Part VII of the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act* and can be summarized as follows:

- To receive complaints from the public about the conduct of RCMP members;
- To conduct reviews when complainants are not satisfied with the RCMP's disposition of their complaints;
- To hold hearings and investigations; and
- To report findings and recommendations.

The jurisdiction of the Commission pertains to RCMP members only and does not include members of other police forces. The Commission does not have the authority to make binding recommendations, impose discipline or make monetary awards to complainants.

Section III: Plans and Priorities

Strategic Outcome

Receipt and review of public complaints.

Results for Canadians

To provide the public with an opportunity to make complaints regarding the conduct of members of the RCMP in the performance of their duties, and to have the RCMP's disposition of those complaints reviewed by an external body in a timely, independent and impartial manner.

Description

The Commission is an impartial and independent government institution. It receives complaints from the public and transfers them to the RCMP for investigation. It can also review the RCMP's disposition of a complaint if the complainant is not satisfied with that disposition. The Commission may conduct investigations, hold public hearings, summon witnesses, administer oaths, accept such evidence as the Commission sees fit, and make findings and recommendations to the Commissioner of the RCMP and the Solicitor General of Canada.

The Commission Chair may also initiate complaints. The Chair must also submit to the Solicitor General an Annual Report that summarizes the Commission's activities during the year and itemizes recommendations for tabling before each House of Parliament.

Plans and Priorities

The elimination of the Commission's backlog of cases that began in the 1990s means that complainants and the RCMP can now expect timeliness in the review of files affecting them. The Commission is now in a position to complete new requests for review in a timely manner. Moreover, the Commission continues to reassess and refine its procedures. Such changes as the introduction of Alternate Dispute Resolution has and will continue to play a role. The process is more responsive. Written and oral feedback indicates that the public has a renewed sense of confidence in the Commission's capacity to oversee RCMP members' conduct and to hold them and the RCMP accountable for actions taken during the course of policing duties.

The events of September 11 have had an impact on all sectors of Canadian society. Increased policing responsibilities through legislative changes have and will continue to have an effect on RCMP activities and their interaction with the public. Independent oversight plays an important and vital role in maintaining public confidence during periods of change. The Commission, as a result, will be facing challenges in its role in contributing

to public confidence in policing. These challenges will be in monitoring and, subsequently, addressing the effects of these changes.

As a result of the Commission's strategic planning exercise, the following initiatives have been identified as priorities over the next five years:

- to continue to respond to the public in a timely and effective manner;
- to increase public awareness of the existence and mandate of the Commission through a public communications plan and by targeting ethnic minorities or groups who often do not understand the public complaints process;
- to implement an information management plan, including the development of a database on public complaints and the dissemination of information on national law enforcement trends for policy analysis purposes;
- to implement improved policies and procedures that will breathe life into our vision, particularly for review activities;
- to develop and implement, in consultation with the RCMP and others, common standards for police investigations of complaints; and
- to continue to monitor the treatment of people in RCMP detention and the tragic deaths that can occur.

The Commission will report on the results of these initiatives in future reports to Parliament.

Plans and Priorities by Strategic Outcome

Priority	Planned Results	Resources (\$ thousands)
Continue to respond to the public in a timely and effective manner	An average 120-day turnaround. Create internal standards for conducting reviews. Increased percentage of recommendations supported by the RCMP Commissioner.	\$895 to be spent for reviews in 2002–2003.
Increase public awareness of the existence and mandate of the Commission.	Implementation of a public communications plan. Targeting of ethnic minorities or groups who often do not understand the public complaints process. Public reporting of recommendations to the RCMP Commissioner	To be determined.
Implement an information management plan, including development of a database on public complaints.	Information on national law enforcement trends to support policy analysis.	To be determined.
Implement improved policies and procedures, particularly for review activities.	Service standards met or exceeded.	
Develop and implement common standards for police investigation of complaints, in consultation with RCMP and others.	Changes to RCMP practices, policies and procedures.	
Continue to monitor treatment of people in RCMP detention and cases involving cell deaths.	Communication of Commission findings.	

Section IV: Organization

Role and Responsibilities

The fundamental role of the Commission is to provide civilian oversight of RCMP members' conduct in the performance of their policing duties. The Commission holds the RCMP accountable to the public by providing, at the request of complainants, an independent review of the RCMP's disposition of complaints and by making recommendations to the Commissioner of the RCMP.

Members of the public may make complaints about the conduct of RCMP members to the RCMP, the Commission or the provincial authority responsible for policing. Complaints are normally sent to the RCMP first. The Commissioner of the RCMP is required to report the results of investigations to complainants. If complainants are not satisfied with the RCMP's disposition of the complaint, they may ask the Commission to review the disposition of the complaint. The Chair of the Commission may also initiate a complaint if she considers there are reasonable grounds.

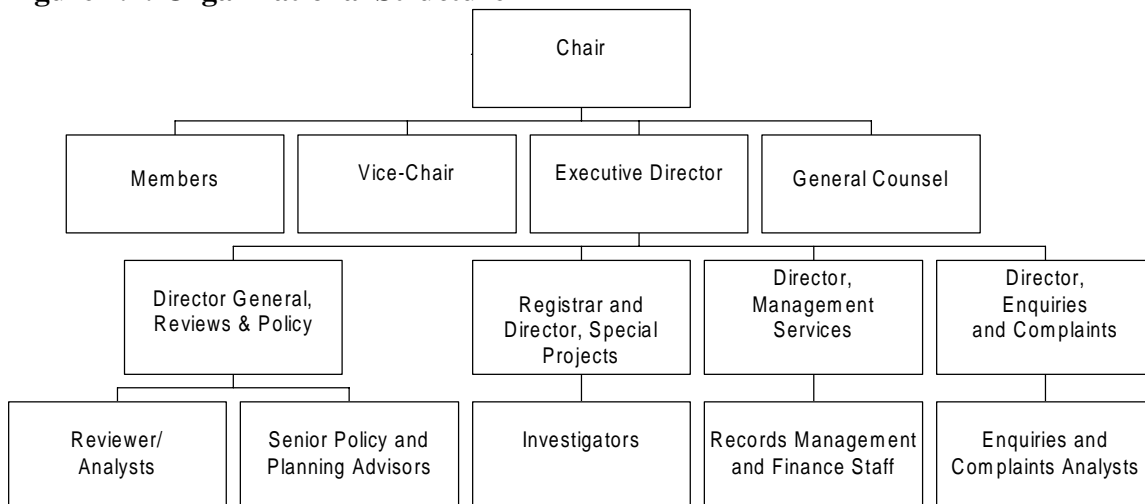
When reviewing the RCMP's disposition of a complaint, the Commission does not act as an advocate either for the complainant or for RCMP members. Rather, its role is to conduct an independent inquiry and reach objective conclusions based on the information available.

In conducting its review, the Commission considers all relevant information provided by the complainants and the RCMP. If not satisfied that such information is complete, it asks the RCMP for additional information or, where appropriate, conducts its own independent investigation. The Chair also has the authority to hold a public hearing to inquire into a complaint.

If the Chair or Vice-Chair is not satisfied with the RCMP's disposition of a complaint, the Commission produces an interim report of its findings and recommendations; after the RCMP Commissioner replies to the interim report, a final report is forwarded to the Solicitor General, to the Commissioner of the RCMP and to the parties. Alternatively, if the Chair or Vice-Chair concludes that the RCMP responded adequately to the complainant's concerns, a final report is delivered stating that the RCMP's disposition of the complaint was satisfactory.

The Commission reports to Parliament. The Solicitor General of Canada tables the Commission's reports; however, the Solicitor General has no involvement in the operations of the Commission.

Figure 4.1: Organizational Structure



Commission Planned Spending

(thousands of dollars)	Forecast Spending 2001–2002	Planned Spending 2002–2003	Planned Spending 2003–2004	Planned Spending 2004–2005
Budgetary Main Estimates (gross)	3,830	4,447	4,447	4,447
Total Main Estimates	3,830	4,447	4,447	4,447
Adjustments	750	0	0	0
Net Planned Spending	4,580	4,447	4,447	4,447
Plus: Cost of services received without charge	462	469	469	469
Net Cost of Program	5,042	4,916	4,916	4,916
Full-Time Equivalents	34	34	34	34

Section V: Annexes

Net Cost of Program

Table 5.1: Net Cost of Program for 2002–2003

(\$ thousands)	Total
Gross Planned Spending	4,447
<i>Plus: Services Received without Charge</i>	
Accommodation provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)	290
Contributions covering employer's share of insurance premiums and costs paid by TBS	179
Employee compensation payments provided by Human Resources Development Canada	0
Subtotal: Services Received without Charge	469
Net Cost of Program	4,916

For Further Information

Contacts and Web Site

Head Office

P.O. Box 3423

(613) 952-1471

Station "D"

1-800-267-6637

Ottawa, Ontario

K1P 6L4

Western Region

7337–137th Street

(604) 501-4080

Suite 102

1-800-665-6878

Surrey, British Columbia

V3W 1A4

Web Site

www.cpc-cpp.gc.ca

Legislation

The Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP shares responsibility with the RCMP for carrying out the provisions of:

Part VII, *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act* R.S., c. R-10, Part VII

In addition, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP reports to Parliament on:

Parts VI and VII, *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act* R.S., c. R-10, Part VI,
Part VII

Publications

Annual Reports
1988–1989 to 2000–2001

RCMP Act (Commission consolidation), March 1990

Police Pursuits and Public Safety (A Report by the RCMP Public Complaints
Commission) Autumn 1999

External Communication and Consultation Strategy and Implementation Plan, Report
from the Strategic Planning Session of the RCMP Public Complaints Commission,
April 5–7, 2000

*Chair's Final Report Concerning the Public Interest Investigation into the Incidents
Surrounding the Detention and Death of Mr. Kim Erik Nielsen of Kamloops, British
Columbia*

*Chair's Final Report Concerning the Public Interest Investigation into the Incidents
Involving Demonstrators in the Communities of Saint-Sauveur and Saint-Simon, New
Brunswick*