

ANNUAL REPORT

Yukon Police Council

April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014

Message from the Chair

I am pleased to present the Council's second Annual Report. This report outlines the Council's activities over the course of the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

As the new Chair of the Yukon Police Council, I am privileged to work alongside the six community members appointed to this Council. The diverse life, work and cultural backgrounds of each individual member provides for a strong, balanced perspective. Each member brings considerable skill and personal interest in carrying out the mandate of the Council. As a group we have a significant interest in carrying on a conversation with other Yukoners to better understand the needs and priorities in relation to policing, and to ensure that recommendations we make are informed and relevant.

Members of the Police Council are appointed for up to three years. In order to ensure staggered appointments in the future, three of the members were appointed for just two years when the Council was first created. In February 2014, these three members were reappointed for a second term, this time for three years. This continuous service will provide continuity and help to strengthen the work of the Council as we move forward.

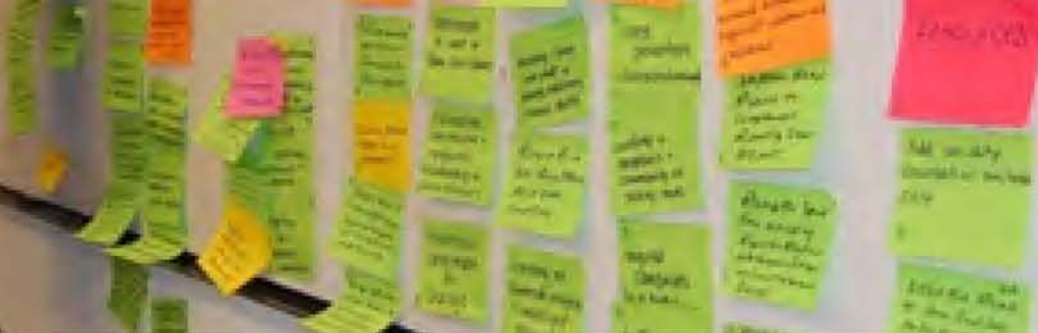
In this second year, the Yukon Police Council has become well established. We have developed our own internal processes and workplan, have strengthened our network of contacts, and have continued to promote ongoing discussion regarding the community safety and policing issues that matter most to Yukoners. We've had opportunities to sit with First Nations and Municipal leaders, service providers, community members and police officers and to hear more in-depth about community experiences.

As a Council we are looking forward to the coming year. We have made plans to host a large multi-agency meeting to check-in on the relevance of current policing priorities and seek to understand the significance of any emerging issues. We will also make plans to travel to the communities again, and ensure we are gaining a rounded perspective.

Finally, the Yukon Police Council would like to thank every individual and organization that took the time to meet with us, host us, or provide us with submissions this past year. Your views are important, and we encourage you to continue to voice your opinions, share your experiences, raise your concerns and communicate successes over the coming year.

Thomas Ullyett, Chair





2013-2014 Meetings and Major Activities

Regular Meetings¹

The Yukon Police Council travelled to Watson Lake September 8-10, 2013, where they had the opportunity learn more about community and policing issues in Watson Lake. The Council met with:

- Liard First Nations Chief and Council;
- Interagency service providers;
- Dene Keh Community Justice Committee;
- Liard First Nation Community Police Board;
- Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce and; and
- Watson Lake RCMP.

The Council also held meetings in Whitehorse on June 24-25, 2013 and December 5-6, 2013. These meetings focused on both regular business of the Council along with dialogue with First Nations, service providers and community organizations. Some examples of discussion items include:

- Territorial and local policing priorities;
- Sharing Common Ground implementation;
- Victim's Bill of Rights and Victim Services;
- Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act (SCAN);
- Prolific Offender Management Program (POM); and
- RCMP Commissioner's Visible Minority Advisory Committee.

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

- The First Nations Justice Network;
- The Council of Yukon First Nations Justice Department;
- Yukon Women's Coalition;
- The Commanding Officer's Yukon First Nation Advisory Committee;
- Les EssentiElles;
- Victim Services;
- Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods office; and
- RCMP Commissioner's Visible Minority Advisory Committee Yukon representative.

At each meeting the Council dedicates a portion of the agenda to meeting with the Commanding Officer of the Yukon RCMP. During this time, the Council and the Commanding Officer have the opportunity for frank and open dialogue and for information exchange. The Council shares key themes and issues they have been hearing, and the Commanding Officer often brings staff to provide presentations and updates for the Council to support the Council to better understand the realities of policing in Yukon. Presentations have included topics such as: the Operational Communication Center (OCC); the RCMP's Yukon Missing Persons initiative; the Professional Standards Office; and, a recent focus on downtown "hot spots".

¹All meeting minutes can be found under the "Council Meetings" tab at www.yukonpolicecouncil.gov.yk.ca

Council Activities

In addition to the regular meetings of the Council:

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- The members of the Yukon Police Council continue to attend community and public events in order to network, share information on the Council and learn more about policing related issues. This year, a Council member attended the Association of Yukon Communities Annual General Meeting to present information on the Council; two members participated in the "RCMP Training and Development Framework forum hosted by the Northern Institute of Social Justice; and, an update on the Council was provided to the Community Justice Coordinators from around the Yukon.

YOUTH

- The Yukon Police Council is very interested in hearing from a broad range of Yukon citizens and services. One demographic of particular interest to the Council is youth. In the summer, the Council engaged BYTE (Bringing Youth Towards Equality) to facilitate a youth engagement session at the Youth Directorate's annual Youth Leadership training session. At this session, Council members were able to gain valuable insight into policing and community safety related issues for youth from a variety of communities.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARDS

- On an annual basis, the Yukon Police Council designates two members on a rotational basis to sit as part of the Minister of Justice Community Safety Awards² adjudication committee. This committee reviews all nominations and provides recommendations to the Minister for award recipients. 8 individuals, 1 organization and 1 project received awards in 2013.

MEMBERSHIPS

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

WEBPAGE & EMAILS

- The Council continues to maintain the dedicated email address and webpage so that 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.

GOALS

- The Council continues to have four broad goals to assist in carrying out their mandate.
 - Goal # 1 Engage and communicate with RCMP, First Nations, stakeholders and the public.
 - Goal # 2 Monitor and participate in Sharing Common Ground Implementation.
 - Goal # 3 Provide recommendations to the Minister of Justice on policing priorities.
 - Goal # 4 Develop Yukon Police Council processes, policies and training.

²More information on the Community Safety Awards can be found at www.justice.gov.yk.ca/prog/cjps/CommunitySafetyAwards.html



Council Activities

A key element of the Council's mandate is to provide recommendations to the Minister of Justice on policing priorities for the Territorial Police Service. Gathering information from Yukoners is an important component in order that the Council can provide informed, pertinent recommendations.

In 2012, the Council embarked on a process of gathering information including issuing a call for public submissions, through the newspapers, radio stations and online and meeting with First Nations, service providers and community organizations. In 2013, the Council again met with a variety of service providers to check if the current priorities remained relevant and in fact priorities. The priorities were confirmed by service providers and also over the course of the year during regular meetings of the Council. Providing some consistency over the course of two years allows time for the Yukon RCMP to implement the priorities communicated by the Minister.

Following this process, the Yukon Police Council submitted recommendations regarding policing priorities to the Minister of Justice for consideration. This represents the second year that 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 current 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.
- Identify and address, with the public and service providers, community safety issues.
- Build and foster constructive and respectful relationships with First Nations.
- Improve the police response to vulnerable populations, with a particular focus on individuals with mental health issues and addictions.

Looking forward

The Yukon Police Council remains committed to engaging with First Nations, service providers, the public and the Yukon RCMP. In this next year, the Council will host a stakeholder meeting to gauge the relevance of current policing priorities and identify new and emerging trends and issues. The Council will hold regular meetings in Whitehorse and in rural Yukon, and will continue to promote the strengthening of working relationships and communication, and of continuing to work together on policing and safety issues. All Yukoners are encouraged to utilize the Yukon Police Council, and to ensure your voice is heard on policing issues.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Web: www.yukonpolicecouncil.ca

Email: yukonpolicecouncil@gov.yk.ca

Phone: 867.393.6475 or 1.800.661.0408 Ext 6475

Mail: Box 2703 (J-10), Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

About the Yukon Police Council

The Yukon Police Council was created as a direct result of calls for more citizen input into policing during the Review of Yukon's Police Force 2010. Government established the Yukon Police Council in 2012 to provide a formal structure and mechanism through which community members can provide their input. A citizen based council, it provides the chance for community members and service providers to participate and have a role in shaping the police service Yukon receives. Creating the Yukon Police Council is a key component in building trust in the community and promoting ongoing dialogue on policing.

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.

Members of the Yukon Police Council**

- Lisa Anderson
- Patricia Daws
- Bill Klassen
- David LeBarge
- Doris McLean
- Michael Riseborough
- Thomas Ullyett, Chair (Nov-present)
- Ron MacMillan (Chair April-Oct)

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