

ANNUAL REPORT
Yukon Police Council
April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015

YPC Annual Report April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015

**There are many people who come and go in our lives.
A few touch us in ways that change us forever,
Making us better for knowing them.**

Poem submitted by the family of David "Joey" LeBarge



This Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of David LeBarge, one of the original members of the Yukon Police Council, who served with us from 2012-2015. David is a member of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and brought a unique perspective and wealth of experience to the Council. David had a history of building relationships between police and the community in Kwanlin Dün where he served as the Chair of First Nation Policing Committee for a period of three years. David's approach to the Council meetings was also informed by a variety of life experience, including travelling many regions in North America as a truck driver and maintenance worker. David will be fondly remembered for his contributions to the Council, his warm spirit and his wonderful humour.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to present the Yukon Police Council's third Annual Report. This report outlines the Council's activities over the course of the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

A central aim of the creation of the Council was to ensure that community needs and values are reflected in the territory's policing priorities, programs and strategies. As Chair of the Council, I have seen first-hand the diversity of voices and opinions of our Council and how these have informed the Council's recommendations on policing priorities. As well, I know each of the Council members have taken seriously the task with which they are entrusted and makes a point of seeking out community views on policing and public safety through their day to day interaction with community members and the Council's ongoing work.

Members of the Council are appointed for up to three years. In the fall of 2014, the Department of Justice, in cooperation with Yukon First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations, issued a call for nominations for new members to the Council.

The call was made with the knowledge that two Council members were moving on and would not be seeking re-appointment. The reappointment process is an important one and provides a chance for new perspectives to inform the Council's work. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the contribution and commitment made by the retiring Council members.

Bill Klassen was with the Council since its inception. Bill had a long career of public service before joining the Council, which included serving as an RCMP officer along with other senior government posts, such as Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services and Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources/Environment. Bill's great insight, wisdom, friendliness and approachability have greatly benefitted the Council's work. In the Council's dialogue on policing priorities, Bill always stressed the need to engage youth on what matters to them. This message continues to resonate along with Bill's perspective on how the Council can better engage Yukoners on policing and public safety.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of our Council member David LeBarge. David brought to the Council's work a great sense of humour and long experience with Yukon community life. David provided soft spoken and insightful perspectives on how community-police relations have changed over the years and his advice and contribution will be missed.

I would like to thank Bill and David for their contribution to the Council's work in shaping the territorial policing priorities.

2014-15 was a busy year with the Council hosting a dialogue on policing in Whitehorse, meetings in Dawson and a variety of meetings with community groups and the RCMP throughout the year. We look forward to building on this work and continuing to engage citizens in dialogue about territorial policing.

Tom Ulyett, Chair

2014-2015 MEETINGS AND MAJOR ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY MEETING

The Council travelled to Dawson City in May where they had the opportunity to learn more about community and policing issues. The Council met with:

- Tr'ondek Hwech'in Chief and Council;
- Dawson RCMP Detachment;
- City of Dawson Mayor and Council;
- Dawson Service Providers; and
- Commanding Officer's Yukon First Nation Advisory Committee.

The meetings and discussions were very productive and a broad range of feedback was provided to the Council. The discussions touched on subjects such as how best to orient new RCMP members to the community and the need for longer periods of retention of members. As well, positive and ongoing communication between the local detachment, First Nation and municipality was noted.

Yukon Police Council's trip to Dawson.
Missing from the picture are: Pat Daws and David LeBarge.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 2014

The Council met in April as part of their regular working session. During the Council's meeting Peter Clark, the Commanding Officer of RCMP "M" Division, presented on the implementation of the policing priorities over the last year. The Council also listened to a presentation by a Unit Commander from the Whitehorse Detachment who spoke to the crime "hot spots" in downtown Whitehorse and enhanced policing efforts during the spring and summer months.

DIALOGUE ON POLICING OCTOBER 2014

On October 28 and 29, 2014, the Council held an invitational "Dialogue on Policing Priorities" in Whitehorse with territorial and First Nation government officials, the RCMP, NGOs and service providers. The purpose of the meeting was to seek input on Yukon's policing priorities, to provide updates on implementation of the current policing priorities and discuss in more depth how police and communities build community safety.

Several presentations set the context, including the authority for the Minister of Justice to set policing priorities for Yukon, and how the current (2014-15) priorities were developed. Other presentations provided insight into territorial policing issues and included:

- A presentation by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT);
- A presentation by the Senior Director of Operations for the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP;
- An overview of the Council of Yukon First Nations Cultural Protocol Toolkit;
- Presentation on the development of the Yukon First Nation History and Culture Course; and
- Orientation of RCMP members to communities.

In addition to the above mentioned presentations, table discussions were hosted by each of the seven Council members.

Overall, there was a strong consensus that the first four priorities listed below remain relevant and areas that the territorial police service should continue to focus on. The 2014-15 policing priorities include:

- Focus on preventing and decreasing the victimization of children and youth;
- Continue to improve the response to sexualized assault and family violence;
- Build and foster constructive and respectful relationships with First Nations leadership, communities and citizens; and
- Improve the police response to vulnerable populations with a particular focus on individuals with mental health issues and addictions.

The fifth priority (identify and address, with the public and service providers, community safety issues) was rolled into a discussion on emerging issues.

The Dialogue on Policing helped the Council to refine their recommendations to the Minister of Justice for the 2015/2016 priorities. See Minister's Policing Priorities 2014/2015 below.

1. COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the regular meetings, the Council engages in the following:

Community Events

The members of the Council continue to attend community and public events in order to network, share information on the Council and learn more about policing related issues.

Youth

Lisa Anderson and Pat Daws represented the Council at the Youth Directorate's Youth Leadership Training in June 2014. Bringing Youth Towards Equality (BYTE) facilitators ran a youth engagement workshop with approximately 20 youth from across Yukon. This engagement workshop was designed and developed through consultation with the Police Council. BYTE used a series of activities to gauge perspectives and encourage discussion on policing issues in the territory. Some of the major themes that surfaced were about developing relationships with RCMP, the concept of justice, and issues of safety. The Council members were very impressed with the facilitation and found the feedback from the youth provided new perspectives on police-youth interactions.

Community Safety Awards

On an annual basis, the Council designates two members on a rotational basis to sit as part of the Minister of Justice Community Safety Awards selection committee. This committee reviews all nominations and provides recommendations to the Minister for award recipients. Lisa and Michael participated in the selection process which led to the selection of eight recipients. The recipients received their awards at a dinner hosted by the then Minister of Justice, Mike Nixon.

2. YUKON 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.

Following the Dialogue on Policing session hosted by the Council in October and a call for submissions on the policing priorities from the wider public, in December 2014 the Council provided recommendations on the policing priorities to the Minister of Justice for consideration. The Minister, after considering the recommendations from the Council and analysis and advice from the Department of Justice, sent the Commanding Officer the priorities letter for 2015/2016 on March 3, 2015.

The Yukon policing priorities for 2015/2016 are:

- Enhance prevention, investigation and enforcement activities related to violence against women;
- Connect with and support children and youth, including those at risk;
- Reduce drug trafficking through prevention, enforcement and education;
- Foster strong relationships with communities and First Nations;
- Contribute to and improve responses to vulnerable populations; and
- Improve traffic safety and compliance with safe driving measures.

3. MEMBERSHIPS

The 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.

4. WEBPAGE AND EMAIL

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

5. LOOKING FORWARD

The Council will hold regular meetings in Whitehorse and plan to visit one or two Yukon communities in 2015/2016. The Council will continue to promote dialogue on policing and public safety and seek to strengthen working relationships and communication.

ABOUT THE YUKON POLICE COUNCIL

The Yukon Police Council was created as a direct result of calls received for more citizen input into policing during Sharing Common Ground: Review of Yukon's Police Force. Government established the Council in 2012 to provide a formal structure and mechanism through which community members could provide their input. As 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.

The 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 and to then 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.

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

Members of the Council in 2014-15**

- Lisa Anderson
- Patricia Daws
- Bill Klassen
- David LeBarge
- Doris McLean
- Michael Riseborough
- Tom Ulyett, Chair



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