



Alberta Association of Police Governance

The PG POST

THE POLICE GOVERNANCE POST

FALL 2009

VOLUME 5

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



AAPG Chair's Report

In the past two months, Past Chair Dennis Anderson and I met with both the Solicitor General and the Minister of Justice to discuss issues of priority for the AAPG. Of course, looming over both conversations was concern about how efforts to manage the provincial budget deficit might affect policing but neither minister was free to comment.

Minister Lindsay confirmed the release of the Law Enforcement Framework Report is imminent, although delayed up to now to evaluate the impact, if any, of the budget deficit. When it is released, it will provide greater guidance and direction as to standards for civilian oversight of

police in communities with a municipal policing agreement, although will not go so far as to make police committees mandatory.

We discussed the work that is being done to improve the complaints resolution process, including the standardization of reporting under IAPro and both the efforts to enhance the informal resolution of complaints and the early success of ASIRT. Alberta is now held up as a model for the independent investigation of serious complaints about officer misconduct.

The Minister was very interested to learn about our Chairs' Conference Call (CCC) initiative. Deputy Minister Brad Pickering, who joined our meeting, asked to participate in the next CCC (more details later in this newsletter.) The Minister encouraged AAPG to continue to do what it can to grow our membership and assist communities without independent civilian oversight of police to set up a commission or committees.

Minister Lindsay agreed to meet with us on regular 6 month intervals, or sooner as issues arise, and both Minister Lindsay and Deputy Minister Brad Pickering

were invited to speak at the AAPG 2010 Conference in Calgary.

With Minister Redford, we discussed the need for more crime labs or crime lab capacity in Alberta and the work currently underway to address this problem, and policing-related initiatives funded through the Safer Communities Innovation Fund. We also agreed the AAPG would be involved in working committees developed in follow-up to the June Gang Crime Summit.

The Justice Minister agreed to regular 6 month meetings with the AAPG and was invited to speak at the AAPG 2010 Conference.

AAPG enjoys a very positive working relationship with government and is proud to be the recognized voice of civilian oversight of policing in Alberta, advocating on behalf of its members.

David Younggren, AAPG Chair

P.S. Just before this newsletter went to print, the AAPG petitioned government to give police and other first responders priority treatment with respect to the H1N1 vaccine. Please see the letter to the Ministers attached at the end of this newsletter.

For an excellent overview of the current work of law enforcement in the province, please read the recently published 2008-2009 Annual Report of Solicitor General and Public Security located on the Alberta Government website.

Congratulations go out to...

- *Canmore* and *Hinton* for establishing a policing committee;
- The AAPG for being accepted as an associate member of the *Alberta Urban Municipality Association*;
- *Chestermere* for being awarded \$365,000 from SCIF over three years for a *Crime Reduction Partnership* between social workers and RCMP that will offer support and referral services that will steer at-risk youth away from gang involvement;
- *Brooks* for being awarded \$25,000 from SCIF for a *SuperKids* program where RCMP will award kids ages six to 13 who make a positive contribution to their community with vouchers from local businesses;
- The *Blood Tribe* for being awarded \$1.1 million from SCIF over three years for a program to *reduce drug, alcohol, tobacco use and violence* among Blood Tribe Youth ages 14 to 19;
- The *Calgary Burns Memorial Fund* for being awarded \$1,128,750 from SCIF over three years for *RA-DAR* - a program to address the needs of homeless youth ages 13 to 15 to help them overcome their challenges and reconnect with school, family and community;
- *Calgary* for being awarded \$492,000 from SCIF over three years for a police and *Hull Child and Family Services* partnership project called *New Roads* which offers in home and school support to control negative behaviour in children ages seven to 11 who show risk factors of disruptive and criminal behaviour;
- *Edmonton* and the *Edmonton Police Service* for being awarded \$373,000 from SCIF over three years for the *Edmonton Crime Council* which addresses property crime, drug dealing, gang activity, prostitution, family violence, graffiti and panhandling in high risk neighbourhoods;
- *Edmonton* and *Boyle Street Community Services* for being awarded \$723,750 from SCIF over three years for the *Community StreetsSafe Initiative* that aims to reduce drug dealing and substance abuse in the Boyle Street area of downtown Edmonton and includes the recruitment of a community and police liaison officer.

AAPG Conference 2010 - Calgary

The Alberta Association of Police Governance Spring Conference will be held in Calgary at the Delta Airport Hotel on April 30th and May 1st, 2010. The theme for next year's conference is "Best Practices in Police Governance."

Plan to attend and hear presentations about different approaches to police governance, the proposed Law Enforcement Framework, projects made possible with Safe Community Innovation Funds (SCIF), the mental health of police officers, how offenders qualify for parole, and more.

Call for Resolutions

An important part of each conference is the Annual Meeting which includes the consideration of resolutions. To ensure adequate time for review, and in order to comply with the AAPG Bylaws, members must forward resolutions to the AAPG office via patricia@aapg.ca no later than March 31st, 2010.

CAPB Conference: If you missed the excellent 2009 Canadian Association of Police Boards conference in Cape Breton, please go to the CAPB website www.capb.ca for a conference summary.

First Ever AAPG Chairs' Conference Call a Success

On September 3rd, the chairs or representatives from 9 member organizations participated in the first ever Chairs' Conference Call or CCC.

The CCC was conceived of as a way for chairs to confer with each other in a timely manner on burgeoning issues, share information, and to give direction to the AAPG to support its advocacy function.

The agenda for the first CCC included discussion on systemic challenges in the complaint process as set out in the *Police Act*, commission/committee

authority and independence from government, budgeting in tough times, and the challenges faced by some committees in choosing, and accessing the training for, a public complaint director.

The consensus was that the CCC was a very worthwhile endeavour and should be repeated. The next CCC will take place roughly one month following the release of the Law Enforcement Framework report, giving member organizations time to review and discuss its ramifications before the chairs meet again.

Thank you to those who participated and made this a valuable initiative.

Alberta Gang Crime Summit

Increased danger to the community, growth in the recruitment of young Albertans to gangs, and the international connections and the sophistication of related criminal activities were all major themes of the Gang Crime Summit held in Calgary this past June.

Organized and sponsored by the Safe Communities Secretariat, under the direction of Justice Minister Alison Redford, this was an intense three day meeting of policing leaders, school, community executives, government and political leaders. The purpose was to develop the basis for a comprehensive approach to gang related criminal activity.

The Summit involved guest speakers from Canada and the United States who had experienced the kind of gang-related escalation of criminal activity we are beginning to see in Alberta. Participants were broken into work groups and asked to discuss four areas and then to make suggestions on next steps. The

topic areas were: intervention, enforcement, awareness and implementation.

Ideas ranged from new approaches to education in the schools, to forming a youth corps that would give youth other experiences away from their communities, to various intervention and enforcement approaches. Participants overwhelmingly supported a comprehensive approach to this issue.

The government gave a very high priority to the Summit with at least six cabinet ministers, another six or seven non-cabinet M.L.A.s., and the Premier either attending or speaking.

The Summit was an impressive first step and Minister Redford with her Safe Communities Secretariat colleges are to take the advice and determine next steps.

Submitted by Past-Chair Dennis Anderson

AAPG MEMBERSHIP – WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

The Alberta Association of Police Governance supports excellence in civilian governance of police services. Its members are provided with educational opportunities, the sharing of best practices, forums for liaison with related agencies, and proactive representation in order that police oversight in Alberta speaks with one voice when advocating for change to law or policy.

Report on CACOLE 2009

The annual conference of the Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (CACOLE) was held in Ottawa June 8-10, 2009. The organizing committee once again presented a full and robust agenda that makes this conference one of the "must attend" events for members of civilian oversight agencies.

The nation's capital provided a picturesque setting for the opening ceremony hosted by the RCMP at their Musical Ride Stables and later in the conference a dinner cruise on the Ottawa River. These events provided an opportunity for attendees to meet and share thoughts generated by a wide array of informative speakers that challenged the audience to consider the future of civilian oversight in Canada.

The conference opened with a panel discussion profiling three new Canadian oversight agencies that included a presentation by Cliff Purvis, Director of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, as well as presentations on new agencies that have been established in both Ontario and Prince Edward Island. The panelists spoke of the catalysts that necessitated the establishment of these new agencies and outlined their legislated powers and state of development.

A topic that continues to require much focus and attention is the use of force continuum which strives to establish a set of guidelines for law enforcement officials. Both the Calgary and Edmonton police services were represented on this panel. Inspector Chris Butler from the CPS spoke of the evolution of the different use of force frameworks as a result of the need for officers to assess risk given the totality of circumstance. Deputy Chief Norm Lipinski of the EPS outlined the Reasonable Officer Response model that has formed the basis of the principles adopted by the Solicitor General for the updated Alberta Policing Standards.

The keynote speakers were informative and thought provoking, providing an education in the evolution of civilian oversight while stressing the fact that there is still much room for improvement in our governance and oversight models and efforts. Justice Sidney B. Linden was the first Police Complaints Commissioner for Metropolitan Toronto and Chairman of the Police Complaints Board. More recently, he served as the Commissioner for the Ipperwash Inquiry into the events surrounding the shooting of Dudley George by an Ontario Provincial Police officer during a land rights protest by First Nations representatives at Ipperwash Provincial Park in Ontario. A key recommendation contained in Mr. Linden's report was the need to ensure the assistance of First Nation mediators when police respond to aboriginal occupations and protests.

Former Justice Roger Salhany is one of Canada's most respected legal scholars and is considered an expert on most aspects of criminal justice including cross examination, evidence and the police. He was appointed Commissioner for the Taman Inquiry whose mandate was to inquire and report on the investigation, prosecution and justice services provided to the families in relation to the death of Crystal Taman when her car was rear-ended by an off-duty Winnipeg police officer. As a result of one of Mr. Salhany's recommendations, the government of Manitoba has committed to creating an independent unit to review criminal allegations involving police.

The foregoing touches on only a few of the conference highlights, but one can see that the content was rich in substance and covered a wide range of topics of interest to civilian oversight practitioners. To review the full program and access all of the presentations go to www.cacole.ca.

Submitted by Director Arlene Yakeley
Director AAPG

Visit us on the Web at www.aapg.ca

Our website offers current information on conferences, resolutions, chairman's reports, and minutes of meetings.

Contact us about becoming an AAPG member, to post information on our website or in our newsletter, and to share best practices.



The Honourable Ronald Liepert
 Alberta Minister of Health
 #323 Legislature Building
 10800 - 97 Avenue
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

The Honourable Fred Lindsay
 Alberta Solicitor General and
 Minister of Public Security
 #402 Legislature Building
 10800 - 97 Avenue
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

October 29, 2009

Dear Minister Liepert and Minister Lindsay:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the chair of the Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG). The AAPG represents civilian police governance bodies across the province.

It has come to our attention that Alberta Health Services has yet to arrange for priority access to the H1N1 vaccine for police. As a result, all Alberta police officers will be required to take time away from their work to stand in potentially hours-long public line-ups in order to be immunized. It is our concern that this significant inconvenience will deter officers from acquiring the vaccine.

It is also our concern that Alberta Health Services may not have taken into account the fact that first responders have been specifically identified by the Government of Canada as a group that will benefit from immunization. Given the large number of people with whom the police come into contact on a daily basis, police officers are at a greater risk than many of both contracting and spreading this virus.

As most people have no natural immune protection from the H1N1 influenza, and as it is expected to come in two to three waves several months apart, it is of utmost importance to take steps to immunize the police before 20 to 30 percent of police officers at a time are off work with this illness and the safety of our communities is put at unnecessary risk.

The police provide an essential service to the communities they protect. As H1N1 has been classified a pandemic world-wide, we implore you to work with municipalities to activate emergency plans according to Alberta's Plan for Pandemic Influenza in order to maintain public safety services including police - specifically, to make the H1N1 vaccine available to police, and all first responders, on a priority basis without further delay.

Most sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

David Younggren

Chair