



The Police Governance Post Volume 34

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Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2019 edition of the *PG Post*

AAPG Annual Conference in Medicine Hat

The AAPG Annual Conference and AGM took place over two full days on April 5th and 6th in Medicine Hat, at the Medicine Hat Lodge & Conference Centre. Attendance represented most regions of our Province including many first time attendees and New Members!

Friday morning kicked off with the First Nations Smudging Ceremony, followed by our ever-popular New Commission and Committee member orientations, complimented by Public Relations 101. After a buffet lunch with M.H. Police Service K-9 Unit & Armored Vehicle presentation, our breakout sessions over-viewed Strategic Planning and RCMP Oversight. Returning by popular request to close our day was an update on the status of Cannabis Policy by Robert Palser.

The evening banquet kicked off with shuttle to the Medalta and Private Tour of the sites long ceramics history, followed by a Networking Reception. Yummy Roast Beef & Salmon buffet was enjoyed while the candidates for 2019/2020 Director had an opportunity to tell us why they are interested in a position on the AAPG Board. Cheesecake dessert was on the menu, while attendees visited with members of other communities (and polishing off the tasty dinner wine), before shuttles back to the hotel. We thank Medicine Hat Police Commission for sponsoring the Medalta's dynamic space in the historic Clay District.

Saturday began early with our AGM and followed by Opening Ceremonies. The Piper and Colours inspired in a warm welcome from the City of Medicine Hat, with VIPs including the Mayor, Chief, M.H. Police Association President, and MP Glen Motz. We proceeded with a session on Commission & Committee Internal Organization before Pasta Buffet lunch. The afternoon started with a joint presentation on First Nations Collaboration, rolled into a quick update on Police Act Engagement, after which we again split up into Committee and Commission groups for Round-table discussions, followed by a presentation on the Role of Public Complaint Director. Before proceeding to the annual meeting of the First Nations Police Commission Joint Session, our Conference closed with attendees happy to have expanded knowledge and new connections!

Our second annual Silent Auction was another success, with many thanks to our donors, such as the **Calgary Stampede and Calaway Park!** We also thank our **2019 sponsor; Special Olympics Alberta, Law Enforcement Torch Run.**

****Find Presentations from our Conference in the Resources area of our website**



ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF POLICE GOVERNANCE

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Message from AAPG Chair Terry Coleman

Greetings. We are now well into summer and all that goes with summer. On behalf of your AAPG, I wish you a great summer and that we will be rejuvenated to continue our important work. For instance, late last summer our provincial government made the welcome decision to commence a review of our aged *Police Act*. Since then, by means of many hours of consultations between representatives of the Solicitor General and stakeholders, including the AAPG, much progress has been achieved. Now, with a new government, we wait for the Review to continue.

Meanwhile, it is timely to reflect on the current situation in Alberta concerning independent community-based governance and oversight of our local police. In Alberta, we essentially have three levels of governance and oversight of our local police:

First, pursuant to the *Police Act*, we have the mandatory police commissions that provide comprehensive governance and oversight of our ten 'standalone' municipal and First Nations police services;

Second, we have policing committees also pursuant to the *Police Act*. These are optional for municipalities with 5,000 plus population that have contracted with the Federal Government for the RCMP to be their local police. In these circumstances, governance and oversight of the local police by means of a policing committee is, arguably, less than comprehensive. The question is: are the provisions of the *Police Act* adequate for policing committees to provide effective governance and oversight in our municipalities? and

Third, we have many municipalities with a population over 5,000 that opt out of establishing a policing committee, as well as those communities with less than 5,000 population and rural areas of Alberta that have no formal community-based governance and oversight of their local police.

The result is that, apart from our ten police commissions, a large part of Alberta does not have adequate formal structures for the effective independent community-based oversight and governance of their local police. Copious literature reminds us of the importance of having effective community/public governance and oversight of our police agencies in a constitutional democracy such as we have in Canada. This begs two questions: Is the current legislation in Alberta satisfactory? Are the *Police Act* provisions for policing committees sufficiently imbedded in the Municipal Police Services Agreement (MPSA) with the Federal government? Your Chair suggests that in both cases they are not.

After the *Police Act* Review consultations that took place last fall until this spring, the AAPG submitted a Discussion Paper to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General that focused on the Alberta situation concerning the necessity for effective governance and oversight of our local police. This Paper was submitted to encourage a full discussion concerning the need for the *Universality of Community-Based Police Governance and Oversight in Alberta*. The Paper can be accessed on the AAPG website at aapg.ca. I urge you to do so.

We not only look forward to continuing this discussion when the Review re-convenes, but also that progress will be made to advance the establishment of legislation that at least moves toward the necessary *Universality of Community-Based Police Governance and Oversight in Alberta*.

While this might take time to achieve, it will likely not happen at all unless we begin and maintain this important conversation. Hopefully, consultations will continue this fall. We will update you when we hear from the Solicitor General's office. AAPG looks forward to your participation in the review of our substantially outdated *Police Act*.

Terry

Terry G. Coleman, MOM, PhD.
Chair: Alberta Association of Police Governance.

Solicitor General Update on Rural Crime

As a direct result of the seven-point plan for crime reduction in rural Alberta, four RCMP Crime Reduction units (CRU's) have been established. The role of the CRU is to augment all RCMP detachments in Alberta in identifying prolific repeat offenders responsible for the rising property crimes. Early results from the CRUs shows a 10% decrease in property crime in provincial detachment areas overall compared to last year.

Additionally the new RCMP Call Back Unit has diverted approximately 3700 hours of work from front-line units, equating to a year of patrols for two full-time officers. As well, the data centre designed to reduce the administrative impact to police officers is reducing the time to input police information from 45 to four minutes.

The plan has seen positive results in crime reduction through the focus on intelligence led policing and in adding intelligence officers and civilian analysts to help identify prolific offenders, and target "hot spots" and organized crime groups operating throughout multiple jurisdictions. A monthly intelligence dashboard is also in the process of being implemented to inform focused activities of CRUs, and the units have links to Alberta Law Enforcement Teams.

While the rural crime plan has made a difference in some areas, many communities are still dealing with crime rates at, or near, five-year highs. The Gov. of Alberta recognizes policing is only part of the solution & there is still more we can do.

****MORE details and information on the SolGen Rural Crime Update will be located on our Website under "Hot Topics" by mid August**

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AAPG 2020 Annual Conference & AGM Heritage Inn Hotel & Convention Centre Brooks, Alberta

AAPG is developing our program and topics, which will include a formal Banquet with local Beer, Spirits & Mocktail tastings during our Networking hour, baskets to be won, local string music, and 4 local award-winning artists, painting through the evening, Police related canvases of different mediums to be auctioned off! We are working on presentation topics such as; ASIRT Purpose & Procedures, Positive Program Examples from Commissions & Committees, Crisis/Emergency Management, Addressing LGBTQ, Rural Crime, and as always, our New Member Orientation and Commission/Committee Roundtable discussions.

Conference registration is expected to open in late November. Hotel reservations are already open for the Convention Hotel AND the adjacent Suites!! Two options cover all your room desires. Request the AAPG price when booking at either hotel.

AAPG Board of Directors

During our AGM the AAPG's 2019-2020 Board was elected, however, one of our valued Board members, Nick Servos, has since needed to resign. In our September meeting the AAPG Board will be considering the Executive positions of the Board. Our current Board members are:

Chair	Terry Coleman	High River Policing Committee
Vice-Chair	VACANT	
Secretary	Al Bohachyk	St. Albert Policing Committee
Treasurer	John McDougall	Edmonton Police Commission
Director	Mark Schneider	Camrose Police Commission
Director	Perry Brooks	Fort Saskatchewan Policing Committee
Director	Sandy Redden	Medicine Hat Police Commission
Director	T.J. Zhang	Calgary Police Commission
Director	Rachel Hopf	Lethbridge Police Commission
AMAC	Paul Goranson	Red Deer Protective Services

Thank you to Greg Keen and Nick Servos for their insight and time commitment this past year. We appreciate your valued contributions.

SAVE THE DATE! 2020 Conference & AGM Fri. April 24th & Sat. 25th

AAPG Website Resources

Our newly redesigned website is complete and includes easy access to **RESOURCES** downloadable to assist your Commission or Committee. These include:

Best Practice Samples, such as:

- New member Policing Committee Handbook
- Sample Policing Committee Bylaws
- SolGen Commission Policy Manual Template
- SolGen Committee Policy Manual Template

Informational Items, such as:

- SolGen Policing Oversight Standards for Commissions
- SolGen Policing Oversight Standards for Committees
- AAPG Governance Scorecard & guide
- Police Governance – Making it Work

Educational Powerpoints, such as:

- Public Complaint Director Role
- Internal Organization
- Public Relations 101

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IMPORTANT UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) Conference - August 9th to 11th With First Nations Police Governance Council Conference - August 8th

The Westin, Calgary AB

The CAPG Conference is a leading event in the police governance sector. Now **celebrating its 30th year**, the annual CAPG Conference is held over a three day period during which delegates are encouraged to network, discuss, engage, and discover the rich community we continue to foster. This Conference is held consecutively with the First Nations Police Governance Council Conference.

Registration Now Open at <http://capgconference.ca/>

Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association (ACCPA) Conference May 4th to 11th, 2020

The Delta Hotel by Marriott, Edmonton South Conference Centre

With a conference theme of *Local & International Perspectives in Community Safety & Well-being*, conference sessions and pre-conference workshops will showcase rural and urban crime prevention initiatives.

Visit their website at <https://www.albertacrimeprevention.com/>

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Conference – September 25th to 27th

Edmonton Convention Centre

Registration Now Open at <https://auma.ca/events/2019-auma-convention-amsc-trade-show>

JOIN Alberta Association of Police Governance

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

Contact us about becoming a member, to post information on our website or in our newsletter, and to share best practices. With annual membership cost starting at just \$100, it is affordable to join and support civilian collaboration.

EMAIL admin@aapg.ca



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