



The Police Governance Post

Volume 40

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Nomination OPEN:
ALERT Citizen Advisory
Committee (CAC) Rep.

Contact Admin@aapg.ca for information

AAPG 2022 CONFERENCE & AGM **NEW DATE: April 29th & 30th in St. Albert**

Message from the Chair

Good day,

I trust all is well with you and your families. I have a few items to share in this edition.

First, thank you to those who participated in the April AAPG AGM and Conference. Given the circumstances, all went well. We now look forward to meeting in-person next April 29th & 30th in St. Albert.

Second, the AAPG received an invitation from the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General (the Minister) to meet with him on 15 July 2021. A summary of the meeting is on the following page. It is of note that I do not recall receiving an invitation from the Ministry in the past.

Third, you might recall that your Chair has been the AAPG's representative on the Ministers' *Alberta Interim Police Advisory Board (AIPAB)*. The purpose of the Interim Board is to make recommendations to establish the future *Alberta Police Advisory Board (APAB)*. This was recently completed and submitted to the Minister. In short, the recommendations of the Board are to work with RCMP jurisdictions, especially in rural areas, the Ministry and the RCMP K Division. All to improve the engagement, collaboration and communications between all parties. To date, we do not have a response. We will keep you updated.

Fourth, your provincial government has several active police/justice matters on their agenda. For example, the recent study by Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) concerning the feasibility of an 'Alberta Provincial Police.' The Minister now has the study. It is not clear when the public might be able to view this.

Fifth, the *Police Act Review* is moving forward. It is not clear when the public might see a draft. The best we know is late this year or in the early Spring. Again, we will keep you informed.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us. If we do not have an answer, we will try to redirect you to someone who can.

Best wishes. Take care.

Terry G. Coleman, MOM, Ph.D.

Chair: Alberta Association of Police Governance.



ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF POLICE GOVERNANCE

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Minister of Justice & Solicitor General July Meeting

The Minister's office invited the AAPG Board to meet with him on 15 July/21 at the McDougall Center in Calgary. The purpose was to have a conversation concerning matters of interest to both parties. In attendance were the Minister, his staff, and the following Board members representing AAPG: Our Chair - Terry Coleman, Ian Sanderson, Miles Thorson, TJ Zhang and Executive Director Victoria Chester.

Your Chair, when making opening words, thanked the Minister for the invitation and acknowledged the excellent working relationship AAPG has established with the Solicitor General's office, using the AAPG participation on the Alberta Interim Police Advisory Board as an example. The Minister was also thanked for our annual grant of \$50,000 and its promptness this year.

In brief, the following are the topics presented and below each are summary responses by the Minister:

1. Status of the Police Act Review;
Response: A comprehensive review with communities providing feedback was completed. The Minister wishes to develop an Act that is modern and will take us into the future, meeting the divide between urban and rural needs. As for when it goes to the legislature, it might likely be Spring 2022; but he would like it to be this Fall. The Bill will reflect what structure is best for Alberta law enforcement and meet diverse community needs.
2. Status and timeline of the Provincial Police;
Response: No decisions yet. His tone was that it is still on the agenda.
3. Status of the Hate Crimes recently announced;
Response: The Minister appreciated this being raised and explained how he sees it developing despite some challenges.
4. Status of ASIRT concerning the level of resources and long delays to complete investigations;
Response: Work on ASIRT is underway, and more funding has been allocated to ASIRT to complete investigations quicker.
5. Confidentiality of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process;
Response: Minister agreed that this is essential.
6. Public complaint system for contract policing. The concern was that it is a complex process for public complaints and reporting of the same for policing committees. Given the RCMP operate under federal legislation whereas non-contract police operate under provincial legislation, compliance with the Sec 24 *Police Act* is difficult. The *Police Act* should be revised to improve the complaint process in a contract policing environment;
Response: The Minister listened.
7. A centralized police public complaint agency. We supported a centralized public complaint agency, such as in Saskatchewan, be established. Your Chair mentioned he has positively experienced the Saskatchewan model;
Response: The Minister acknowledged.
8. Police Commission members concern regarding the appointment of a municipal councilor representative on police commissions;
Response: The Minister supports non-partisan oversight and understood the potential conflict.
9. The funding model for policing. Including stable, consistent funding and the ticket revenue distribution;
Response: The Minister explained the model, which included a vision to be cost effective for municipalities.
10. The issue of learning programs for our members and, for example, municipalities interested in learning more about independent governance and oversight. The current programs are dated at best and do not address some of the contemporary matters. Contemporary and current online adult learning methods are necessary.
Response: The Minister listened and asked us to prepare a paper on this issue. We agreed.

Summary:

The meeting was well worth our attendance. The Minister was engaged. In parting, we told the Minister that we look forward to participating in other committees/boards, including the permanent Alberta Police Advisory Board, and that we look forward to meeting again soon.

Conference Program Highlights

Along with New Member Orientation and Round-table Discussions:

Bullying Ends Here – the Lived Experience

This presentation shares Constable Tad Milmine's heart-breaking childhood of being confined to a basement for twelve years while holding onto the dream of wanting to be a Police Officer.

Presented by Cst. Tad Milmine, M.O.M.

Meeting the Moment: Reimagining What's Possible

Police agencies and governing bodies worldwide face complexities never imagined by their peers of the past. We'll seize the moment by exploring how police governing bodies can apply innovative evidence-based decision-making strategies and change management initiatives to better support police services and the diverse communities they serve.

Presented by Dr. Doug Abrahamson

SCAN: Alberta Safer Communities and Neighborhoods

Dealing with problem properties in your community.

Body Worn Camera Pros & Cons

How they will help and the challenges faced.

Automated Vehicles & the Challenges to Policing

Presented by Alberta Transportation

Public Engagement of Citizens & Youth

How to engage the Community in the Policing Governance & Oversight process.

COMMITTEE ONLY: Public Complaint Director Role

How can we successfully have a Public Complaint Director?

Presented by the office of Alberta Justice & Solicitor General

ROADSIDE BREATHALYZER TESTING

What is tested, how it works and reliability.

Presented by Kerry Blake, Provincial Breath Testing Coordinator

ALBERTA POLICE ACT & POLICE ADVISORY BOARD STATUS UPDATE

Presented by the office of Alberta Justice & Solicitor General

Alberta Police Based Victim Services Association (APBVSA) Presentation



AGM REPORT

14 of 17 Full Members and 8 of 18 Associate members attended our April 23rd 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Highlights include:

The membership passed two (2) Resolutions:

#1: Amend the Definition of Mental Disorder.

#2: Evidence Based Investments in Community Safety.

The response by the Ministry was positive following the submission to the Solicitor General.

Since June 2020 AAPG added 4 new Associate Member Municipalities!

WELCOME to the new 2021-2022 Board, Officers, and AMAC:

Terry Coleman, High River (Chair)
 Rachel Hopf, Lethbridge (Vice-Chair)
 Ian Sanderson, St Albert (Treasurer)
 Lee Katchur, Camrose (Secretary)
 Perry Brooks, Ft. SK
 T.J. Zhang, Calgary
 John McDougall, Edmonton
 Miles Thorson, Medicine Hat
 Larry Coney, Drumheller
 Richard Bengry, Cardston (AMAC)
 Brian McGillivray, Pincher Crk (AMAC)
 Werner Dressler, Ft. Macleod (AMAC)

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IMPORTANT UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) Conference First Nations Police Governance Council (FNPGC) Conference

September 27th to September 30th

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE – REGISTER NOW!

<http://capgconference.ca/>

2021 AUMA Convention

November 17th to 19th

Edmonton Convention Centre (in-person)

Or option to attend Virtually

<https://www.auma.ca/events/2021-auma-convention>

Alberta Association of Police Governance

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

Contact us about becoming a member. With membership cost starting at just \$100, it is affordable to join and collaborate.

admin@aapg.ca



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