



First Nations Policing in Quebec

A brief history and recent advancements

The Early Years

Before First Nations Involvement

- P ⌚ The R.C.M.P. enforcement of the Indian Act in the communities.
- P ⌚ First Nations Policing was a Department of Indian Affairs responsibility.

The Sûreté du Québec

A Relationship Evolving

- P 🕒 The Sûreté du Québec eventually began policing First Nations since their mandate was Province wide.
- P 🕒 In the early 1970's First Nations Police services, Amerindian Police Service provided training and police delivery for approx. 30 communities.
- P 🕒 The Sûreté du Québec had to develop a new relationship with the First Nations.

The Sûreté du Québec

Working with First Nations

- 🕒 1978, entrusted with the task of organizing and developing of Cree Police Forces.
- 🕒 1984, the Naskapi Nation participates in the same program as per agreement.
- 🕒 1986, Betsiamites enters agreement with S.Q. for creation of their police service.
- 🕒 Since then other communities enter in an agreement of administrative and operational support with S.Q.

First Nations Policing Policy

Development of First Nations Policing

- 🕒 APRIL 1992, Solicitor General of Canada assumes responsibility of First Nations Policing.
- 🕒 Three party negotiated policing agreements are developed to administer policing in First Nations communities.
- 🕒 There are now 38 First Nations Police Organizations delivering services to 51 out of the 52 communities in Quebec.
- 🕒 Development was fast and unexpected.

Association of First Nations Chiefs of Police of Quebec

A Necessity for Advancement

🕒 Created April 1997 with the mandate to improve First Nations Policing by demanding higher standards of training for police personnel and for those who manage .

🕒 Some of our achievements were the development of training for our Public Security Committees and the development of management training for our Police Chiefs which is university certified.

Association of First Nations Chiefs of Police of Quebec

Present Challenges

- 🕒 Measurement of community satisfaction of the delivery of First Nations Policing Services in Quebec.
- 🕒 Standardization of First Nations Policing in Quebec as reflected by the Quebec Police Act and our own expectations.
- 🕒 Mutual assistance, administratively and operationally. Monitoring and Support.

The Quebec Police Act

Definition of Standards

- 🕒 As a result of the Poitras and Courbeau Commissions on Policing in Quebec, major changes to the act effecting standards of policing and accountability.
- 🕒 First Nations Police Services are also effected by changes to the act but their adherence will be a slow process.
- 🕒 First Nations Police officers are subject to the Police Ethics Commissioner as any other police

Accountability

How our approach to policing effects accountability

🕒 First Nations community based policing models are the only methods of policing acceptable in our communities.

🕒 The size, isolation and limited resources of our services require our officers to be resourceful thus more interaction with the community.

🕒 First Nations communities have a low rate of serious crime but have an extremely high rate of social disorder and social problems.

Accountability

How our approach to policing effects accountability

🕒 Since policing has truly existed in our communities for approx. 25 years, there is the lack of knowledge of policing principals by the community members. Accountability is such a principle.

🕒 Our police officers are now being enlightened on the subject of **ETHICS** and how it relates to accountability.

🕒 Our officers are agents of social change.

Accountability

First Nations Involvement

🕒 Since our roles differ from the traditional crime control method of policing , the methods of accountability should also differ.

🕒 There should be a First Nation element during the implementation of any accountability process at all levels.

🕒 In Quebec, we have individuals of First Nations descent who adjudicate during situations that are brought to the Ethics Commissioner.

Accountability

First Nations Involvement

- 🕒 There is a need to have First Nations investigators in the Quebec Ethics Commissioners Directorate.
- 🕒 A First Nation Investigator can probe beyond the facts and bring forward the nuances that are not normally indicated in investigations involving First Nations police officers.
- 🕒 The community, in most cases can provide valuable input before the rendering of a decision regarding the action of a police officer.

Accountability

First Nations Involvement

🕒 The community can also be consulted after a decision is rendered where the officer is to have been in breach of the Code of Ethics. The community can and should recommend the type of retribution.

🕒 There is no need to recreate the wheel when we discuss accountability in the province of Quebec. We as First Nations Police Services and officers seek equity in the process. This can only occur if there is First Nations implication at all levels in the

Accountability

First Nations Involvement

🕒 Any accountability process for First Nations Police officers must take into account the differences that culture, language and geography imposes upon these officers.

🕒 Everyone must remember that our First Nations police officers are recruited from an environment that has an extremely high rate of social disorder and social problems and all too often their actions are a direct reflection of this fact.

Concluding Remarks

A short but productive history

🕒 First Nations Policing has come a long way in a very short time. Everyone must realize that what we have done in twenty years took non native police forces 150 years or more to do.

🕒 We are trying to police a society that only had on site policing for 20 to 25 years. Imagine the challenge our officers had.

🕒 Never forget that our officers are from an environment of extremely high social disorder and social problems.