

# FIRST NATIONS POLICING POLICY

Presentation to the  
Canadian Association for  
Civilian Oversight of Law  
Enforcement (CACOLE)

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## **Welcome**

- ❖ Good Afternoon, it is very nice to be back with you again.
- ❖ This afternoon I have the pleasure of moderating a discussion on First Nations policing and police governance with Chief Glen Bannon of the Anishinabek Police Service in Ontario and Chief Will Long Time Squirrel of the Blood Tribe Police Commission in Alberta.
- ❖ I understand that Chief Bannon will describe some of the initiatives he has undertaken on police service accountability; and Chief Long Time Squirrel will describe some of the experiences of the Blood Tribe Police Commission.



## Welcome con't

- ❖ Before I hand the floor over to our presenters I would like to give you a brief overview of:
  - The First Nations Policing Policy;
  - The various models for delivery of First Nations police services;
  - First Nations police governance and it's differences across the country; and,
  - The progress that has been achieved in First Nations police governance through our First Nations Police Governing Authorities (PGA) Steering Committee and Workshops



## ***First Nation Policing Policy (FNPP)***

- ❖ The FNPP was developed in 1991 with the key goal of providing culturally- responsive, professional, on-site policing for First Nations communities.
- ❖ The FNPP has grown to over 120 tripartite agreements serving more than 300 First Nation communities across the country.
- ❖ It is achieving great success in building the foundation for secure and stable communities with enhanced social and economic development.



## ***FNPP- Two models of policing***

Under the FNPP there are two models of policing

- ❖ Self Administered Police Service:
  - First Nations community is the employer.
  - Band Council may delegate to Police Commission responsibilities for various oversight capacities(e.g. budget, policies and procedures), preside over final stage of disciplinary procedures, and consult with community regarding priorities for policing.
  
- ❖ RCMP Community Tripartite Agreement (CTA)
  - RCMP is the employer.
  - Aboriginal RCMP members.
  - Establishes a Community Consultative Group, which plays a different role from that of a Police Commission.
  - Key function is to provide forum for community- police service dialogue on policing priorities and concerns.



## ***First Nations Police Governance***

- ❖ Strong police governance is an essential component to accountable and successful police services.
  
- ❖ The overall objectives of police governance is:
  - to ensure effective community input to identifying level of service and policing priorities;
  - to ensure political independence and financial accountability and;
  - to ensure that a fair process exists for complaints about either police service or officer conduct.
  
- ❖ The final structure, roles and responsibilities of the PGA may vary across the country, given differences in provincial policing standards, communities' individual needs and varying capacity. We recognize these challenges and are working with commission members to identify their concerns and help resolve them.



## ***Challenges of FN Police Governance Across the Country***

- ❖ Different models of policing (CTA's and Self Administered) result in Police Commissions and Community Consultative Groups that can have very different roles.
- ❖ The application of Police Acts and Policing Standards to First Nations police services varies across provinces.
- ❖ We have several projects underway to assist First Nations, and both government funding partners, in identifying desirable and feasible PGA roles and responsibilities; and we are also working on various approaches to training and capacity-development to assist in supporting and strengthening PGA's.



## **First Nations Police Governing Authority (FNPGA) Steering Committee**

- ❖ The First Nations Police Governing Authority Steering Committee came together about 18 months ago and is a national body made up of police commission chairs representing the West, Ontario and Quebec.
- ❖ It acts as a focal point, an information clearinghouse, and a liaison for advancing and strengthening the role of First Nations police commissions across the country. The goal of the committee is to support and empower commission members through training and knowledge.
- ❖ This will be done by:
  - ◆ The organization and running of general workshops and smaller focused training sessions for commission members.
  - ◆ Networking with various commissions and becoming identifiable as a national representative body with knowledge from commissions across the country.
  - ◆ Developing and continually updating a “bank” of best practices that can be shared with commissions, so that they can learn from each of others experiences.
- ❖ On-going information sharing through avenues such as the Aboriginal Policing Directorate (APD) website, the Solicitor General’s Public Safety Portal, the APD Newsletter, the First Nations Police Governance website, etc.
- ❖ The Committee meets on a regular basis and since it’s inception has worked diligently to create opportunities to build capacity and strengthen First Nations PGA’s.

## **First Nations Police Governing Authority (FNPGA) Steering Committee con't**



### Some highlights for the Steering Committee include:

- **Training Workshops-** A series of workshops that began in January of 2002 with a large scale conference; a focused training workshop on strategic planning and governance that was just held in Calgary last month; the next training workshop to discuss issues around unionization and collective bargaining to be held in Toronto in June of 2004; and a large scale Conference scheduled for Quebec City in January of 2005. The topics addressed at each session are areas that commission members have identified as priorities.
- **Training Modules-** the Committee is working with an experienced facilitator to develop training modules based on the needs of commission members. The goal is to provide commissions with access to a training capacity that can be utilized on an ongoing basis.
- **PGA Secretariat-** recently developed as a support for the Steering Committee- it reflects the commitment of the First Nations PGA's to continue progress in training and capacity development.
- **FNPGA Website-** Also recently developed and managed through the Secretariat, the website is a place for police commission members to go for information on Steering Committee activities, information on workshops and conferences, and a place to share best practices with other police commissions.



## ***Short Wrap Up & Introduction of Speakers***

- ❖ First Nations policing provides an essential service and fills a critical need in ensuring public safety and stability in First Nation communities.
- ❖ Strong police governance is an important part of First Nations policing and we will continue to work with the Steering Committee and PGA's to strengthen police governance and build capacity across the country.
- ❖ Now I would like to introduce our speakers...