

Codiac Regional Policing Authority

Policy #: G-105
Category: Values and Ethics
Subject: Complaints Against Codiac Regional Police Service (CRPS)
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Framework

Police Act

Under s. 1.1(1) of the *Police Act*, the Minister of Justice and Public Safety shall (a) promote the preservation of peace, the prevention of crime, the efficiency of police services and the development of effective policing, and (b) coordinate the work and efforts of police forces and the RCMP within the Province.

Section 1.1(2) of the *Act* provides that the Minister may provide to boards, councils, police forces, a regional policing authority and the RCMP:

- (i) information and advice respecting the management and operation of police forces and the RCMP in handling special problems, and
- (ii) such other information as the Minister considers to be of assistance.

Section 1.1 (3) provides that subject to the *Act* and regulations, the Minister may issue guidelines and directives to any police force within the Province for the attainment of the purposes in s. 1.1(1) above.

Finally, under s. 22(1) of the *Act* and subject to Part III of the *Act*, the New Brunswick Police Commission has the authority to receive and investigate complaints relating to any aspect of the policing in any area of the Province. Section 25.5(1) of the *Act* requires that if a complaint is filed with the New Brunswick Police Commission concerning the RCMP, the Commission is to give the complainant notice that the complaint is not within its jurisdiction and refer the complaint to the Commanding Officer of the RCMP or to the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP.

Governance Guidelines

In 2011, the Department of Public Safety issued the Police Governance and Oversight in New Brunswick Policy Guidelines (“Governance Guidelines”). These Guidelines apply to a regional policing authority, as well as to other models of police governance in use in New Brunswick. The Guidelines suggest the following policy for complaints against police:

“A person who wishes to complain regarding the individual actions of a Police Force member or the general quality of service of the Police Force may file a complaint with the Chief of Police, the civic authority, the Board, Board members, the New Brunswick Police Commission, or the Public Complaints Commissioner of the RCMP, who will take appropriate action, or who may redirect the complaint if necessary.

Where a complaint concerning the RCMP is filed with the New Brunswick Police Commission, the Commission shall give the complainant notice in writing that the complaint is not within its jurisdiction and refer the complaint to the Commanding Officer of the RCMP or to the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP.”

Policy

A person who wishes to complain regarding the individual actions of a member of the Codiac Regional Police Service (CRPS) or the general quality of the CRPS may file a complaint with the Officer in Charge (OIC), the Codiac Regional Policing Authority (CRP Authority) through the CRP Authority Chair or the Public Complaints Commissioner of the RCMP.

As part of the annual ‘values and ethics’ report from the OIC to the CRP Authority, a summary of the following information (on a non-attribution basis) will be included in the report:

- a) The number and nature of complaints received against CRPS members
- b) How many of those were investigated
- c) The range of findings and outcomes for the complaints received and investigated
- d) If multiple complaints were alleged against one member

Note to reader: Where a complaint concerning the RCMP is filed with the New Brunswick Police Commission, the Commission’s practice is to give the complainant notice in writing that the complaint is not within its jurisdiction and refer the complaint to the Commanding Officer of the RCMP or to the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP. The Commission will also provide a copy of the complaint to the CRP Authority and the Government of Canada.