

Codiac Regional Policing Authority

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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.

Finally, 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.

Policing Standards

Contractually, the RCMP under the Provincial Police Services Agreement and the Regional Police Services Agreement are committed to meeting or exceeding the standards of professional policing applicable to all other police forces in the Region (see Policy G-601 for more details).

The New Brunswick Policing Standards issued by the Minister of Public Safety in 2017 provide as follows in:

ORG 1 – Community Policing – “Community policing – which is based on the principles of partnership, ownership, problem solving and quality service – allows police services to respond to the unique policing needs of the community. Advancing community policing requires ongoing dialogue with the community, taking a collaborative and proactive approach and identifying community needs.”

ORG 1.2 Police forces shall formally consult with the community every four years (at a minimum) to identify community needs, concerns and expectations regarding policing. The process shall address:

- a) The performance of the police force
- b) How police are perceived to conduct themselves while performing their duties
- c) The involvement of police with their community and residents
- d) Public perceptions regarding safety and security in the community
- e) Recommendations for improvement
- f) The level of satisfaction among the public.

ORG 1.3 Police forces shall take appropriate steps to address identified community needs, concerns and expectations.

ORG 1.4 Police forces shall liaise with school officials in support of promoting community-based policing and ensuring that safe school plans are in place.

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 Governance Guidelines offer the following guidance on public consultations:

“Input from stakeholders and the public should be scheduled at the time of setting of objectives, priorities and goals for the Police Force.

It is important to provide opportunities for the community to give input on areas of interest or concern to them, via such mechanisms as public forums and designated meetings with the Board, and environmental scans (community outreach/town hall meetings).

The Board shall, at least annually, schedule a session or workshop so that the Council(s), the Board, and the Police Force have an opportunity to discuss and understand each other’s current priorities and issues.”

Regional Police Services Agreement (RPSA)

Article 6.2 provides that the internal management of the Codiac Regional Police Service, including the administration and the determination and application of professional policing standards and procedures, will remain under the control of Canada.

Policy

The Codiac Regional Policing Authority (CRP Authority) recognizes the importance of well-conceived external communications and consultation in promoting public understanding of CRP Authority or CRPS policies, programs and services and providing the CRP Authority and the CRPS with a critical insight into public attitudes and expectations. This policy provides direction to the Officer in Charge (OIC) and a framework for a process of engagement with the public in order to solicit their views as an integrated part of the decision-making process at the CRP Authority.

(a) Goals

The goals of this policy are to:

- a) Provide an opportunity to every citizen who wishes to be heard on issues within the CRP Authority's jurisdiction
- b) Recognize citizens as a source of information and education for decision-making
- c) Provide the public with sufficient and comprehensible information about the CRP Authority's and CRPS' mandates, services and programs
- d) Provide a timely and comprehensive response to public requests for information
- e) Address the impacts of RRPA or CRPS decisions on the community
- f) Ensure the CRP Authority and CRPS are kept informed about public opinion and community aspirations
- g) Develop and maintain a trusting, positive, cooperative relationship between the CRP Authority, the CRPS and the citizens of the region
- h) Improve the quality of CRP Authority and CRPS decisions and actions

(b) Principles

The OIC shall ensure that the following general practices and principles are adopted throughout the CRPS:

- a) A climate is created in which public consultation is used as a management practice
- b) Consultation and communications planning is integrated within strategic and annual business planning
- c) Cooperation and liaison exist between communication staff both within the CRPS and with other partners and agencies
- d) An environment is fostered that encourages and values feedback to and from individuals and the public by communicating the results of consultations to interested participants
- e) The values that support public consultation are fostered and in place within

the CRPS, including:

- Consultation is a way of organizational life
- Consultation occurs early in the process
- Two-way communication is encouraged
- Multi-faceted input is sought
- Community leaders are a valuable resource to the CRPS
- CPRS has a deep understanding of the community, their concerns, their goals, their strengths and their needs
- Change can be disruptive, and care needs to be taken when communicating about change

(c) Process Considerations

The following considerations will be kept in mind by the CRPS:

1. The CPRS should identify early in the process which issues require public consultation. This is done by routinely assess its activities, the impact of those activities on the citizens and the need for public consultation. Not all activities in the day-to-day operation or administrative functioning of the CRPS require public consultation.
2. The CPRS is often a partner or participant with other governments and agencies for joint projects. In these instances, the CRPS does not always have the authority to determine the process for public consultation. The CPRS will encourage and promote implementation of a public consultation process as a key component of any project/activity along with needs and approaches utilized by others, but a decision not to embrace a public consultation approach by the lead organization will not preclude the CRPS from participating in projects/activities.
3. Consultation should be considered for every project that has a direct impact on the public and consideration given to the most effective and appropriate method of consultation. There is no single method for successful communication and consultation. Consultation may be as simple as informing people of a proposed change, or it may take the form of an informal discussion, or a formal event such as an open house or public meeting.
4. Reports to the CRP Authority must contain information on what consultation took place and how the staff recommendations reflect or do not reflect the input received.
5. Staff required to conduct and manage effective consultation should have adequate resources, training and professional development.
6. Periodic evaluations of the results of the consultation process are conducted to ensure they reflect client needs.
7. Evaluation of past consultations and establishment of best practices are done to achieve continuous service improvements.

(d) Reporting Requirements

The Officer in Charge shall submit an annual report to the CRP Authority on public consultations undertaken by the CPRS, including the range of participants involved and the range of methodologies used to seek input into the priorities and activities of the CPRS.