

YUKON POLICE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2012

Section A: Yukon Police Council and Guests 9:00 am -10:30am- MacBride Museum

I. Roll Call:

Present:

YPC & Department of Justice: Pat Daws (YPC); Bill Klassen (YPC); David LeBarge (YPC); Doris McLean (YPC); Ron MacMillan (YPC, Chair); Robert Riches (Justice) Norma Davignon (Justice); Lareina Twardochleb (Justice), Jeff Ford (Justice), Claire Mehan (Justice).

Guests: Ron Pond (Canadian Mental Health Association- Yukon Chapter CMHAY); Rod Snow (CMHAY); Leslie Roberts (Second Opinion Society (SOS)); Brian Easton (SOS); Kristina Craig Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition (YPAC)); Bill Thomas (YAPC);

Regrets:

Michael Riseborough (YPC); Lisa Anderson (YPC)

II. Welcome and Introductions

Ron MacMillan, YPC Chair, welcomed everyone. YPC members, Department of Justice staff and guests from YPAC, SOS and CMHAY were introduced.

III. Agenda Items

1. Second Opinion Society

- Leslie Roberts and Brian Easton from Second Opinion Society provided a brief presentation on their organization and issues relating to individuals with mental health challenges and policing.
- They shared some general concerns relating to individuals with mental health challenges, including:
 - Concern with criminalizing mental health issues- noted it should be treated as a social issue;
 - Lack of housing and support for individuals with mental health challenges- and police are often called as issues arise because of lack of supports
 - SOS would like to see trained mental health people involved with the police- for example police and mental health worker teams. They shared an example from Toronto which has some promising results
 - Mental Health Act and police apprehension process- SOS feels the whole process needs to be examined
 - There were questions regarding the Whitehorse Correctional Center, such as:

- What treatment is available for people with mental health issues and drug addictions
- What restraints are being used on inmates with mental health or drug addiction issues, when are they being used, how often, and why?
- They had questions regarding RCMP/EMS: how is it decided who responds and what debriefing occurs after a call, what restraints are used, how often etc. Are protocols in place?
- Complaint process: as individuals with mental health challenges have a hard time understanding the process, what is being done to assist them in understanding what is happening? What process are RCMP and EMS following?
- SOS noted they welcome this opportunity to meet with the Council, and would like to have ongoing dialogue. Second Opinion Society is interested in having a roundtable with other government departments and agencies.

2. Anti-Poverty Coalition (APC)

- Kristina Craig and Bill Thomas from Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition (YAPC) provided a brief presentation on their organization and issues relating to our most marginalized citizens are treated by systems.
- Bill acknowledged that the ability to do police work is predicated on what supportive services are available, and that police need to ability to respond rapidly.
- YAPC is concerned over the lack of support services, and noted that jails and hospitals are an expensive way to address issues. They support the concept of a sobering center and urged that this recommendation from the report on Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk (Beaton/Allen 2010) be implemented
- YAPC encourages an on-going community dialogue regarding expectations and values.
- They noted community members have an obligation and responsibility to identify and discuss values and work with agencies to ensure that poverty is eradicated in the Yukon.
- A crucial element to the reduction of crime is housing, and we have a lack of affordable housing and support services. YAPC believe that if there was more affordable housing and more support services, crime would be reduced.
- Some people in poverty actually commit crimes in order to have a place to sleep (WCC/APU).
- A housing task force has been created and an action plan initiated to eradicate homelessness in Yukon over the next ten years.
- YAPC shared information on some innovative projects, such as the Canadian Mental Health Commissions “At Home” project, and Housing First Initiatives.

3. Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)- Yukon Chapter

- Rod Snow and Ron Pond from Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)- Yukon Chapter provided a brief presentation on their organization and issues relating to marginalized citizens and mental health issues.
- Although the CMHA Yukon is still defining its mandate and mission their goal is to increase awareness and reduce the stigma of mental health and drug addiction.
- They noted that individuals with FASD, mental illness and drug addiction make up a high percentage of inmates in the correctional centre.

- They noted that community safety issues are very complex, and our challenge as a community is to change systems to adjust to the reality that its not black and white
- They noted that police often act as gatekeepers and feel that as a community we need to support police to be the best they can be- including encouraging increased training and opportunities to interact with clients in different settings
- They feel that the police need to be better trained and better informed; however also acknowledged that police are often put in a position to react and deal with situations that the public may not understand
- CMHA reps noted that we need a collaborative effort and that we should focus efforts on a Housing First model
- CMHA reps noted that there is no mental health strategy in the Yukon
- They provided information on some promising practices across Canada and also copies of the Mental Health Strategy for Canada.

4. Closing

- Ron MacMillan thanked the guests for attending and engaging in dialogue with the Council. Ron closed this portion of the meeting at 10:30 am.

Section B: Yukon Police Council Meeting with Minister Nixon- Government of Yukon Administration Building

I. Roll call

YPC & Department of Justice: Pat Daws (YPC); Bill Klassen (YPC); David LeBarge (YPC); Doris McLean (YPC); Ron MacMillan (YPC, Chair); Robert Riches (Justice) Norma Davignon (Justice); Lareina Twardochleb (Justice), Jeff Ford (Justice), Claire Mechan (Justice), Michael Riseborough (YPC) (by phone); Lisa Anderson (YPC)(by phone).

Guests: The Honourable Mike Nixon, Minister of Justice

II. YPC recommendations on Policing Priorities

- Council members presented their recommendations on policing priorities to the Minister of Justice.
- Minister Nixon acknowledged the amount of work the Council has done and expressed his appreciation to the Council.

Section C: Commanding Officer's Yukon First Nation Advisory Committee- Gold Rush Inn

I. Roll call

Present:

Commanding Officer's Yukon First Nation Advisory Committee: Sam Johntson (COYFNAC), Phyllis Peter (COYFNAC), Corrine Carvill (COYFNAC), Cst. Walter Wallingham (RCMP), Cpl. Rick Aird (RCMP), C/Spt. Peter Clark (RCMP), David Gilbert (RCMP), Maria Oswald (RCMP) Jeanie Dendys (COYFNAC), Audrey Baker (COYFNAC), Dorothy Smith (COYFNAC), Christine Grant (RCMP)

YPC & Department of Justice: Pat Daws (YPC); Bill Klassen (YPC); David LeBarge (YPC); Doris McLean (YPC); Ron MacMillan (YPC, Chair); Robert Riches (Justice) Norma Davignon (Justice); Lareina Twardochleb (Justice), Jeff Ford (Justice), Claire Mehan (Justice).

Regrets:

Michael Riseborough (YPC); Lisa Anderson (YPC)

II. Welcome and Introductions

The Yukon Police Council was invited by the Commanding Officer's Yukon First Nation Advisory Committee (COYFNAC) to attend their meeting, so that the two groups could meet each other and discuss their mandates.

C/Spt. Clark welcomed everyone and individuals introduced themselves.

III. Agenda items:

1. Yukon Police Council Overview:
 - Pat Daws and Bill Klassen introduced the Police Council and presented information on the role of the Council and work to date. Terms of Reference for the Yukon Police Council were circulated
 - The group recommended regular feedback between YPC and COYFNAC
 - YPC members noted the importance of understanding community issues and indicated that regular communication between the two groups could help with this increased understanding
2. Commissioner's National Aboriginal Advisory Committee –
 - Jeanie Dendys provided an overview of her role as Yukon's representative on the Commissioner's National Aboriginal Advisory Committee.
 - She provided an update on the most recent meeting she attended
3. COYFNAC Review (Rec 1.3 Sharing Common Ground)

- David Gilbert noted that the RCMP had engaged Lyn Hartley, and organizational specialist to review the mandate and composition of the COYFNAC.
- David provided an overview of the findings to date and noted the final report would be reviewed by the RCMP.

Section D: YPC Working Session: Boardroom, 301 Jarvis Street

I. Roll call

Present:

YPC & Department of Justice: Pat Daws (YPC); Bill Klassen (YPC); David LeBarge (YPC); Doris McLean (YPC); Ron MacMillan (YPC, Chair); Robert Riches (Justice) Norma Davignon (Justice); Lareina Twardochleb (Justice), Jeff Ford (Justice), Claire Mechan (Justice).

Regrets:

Michael Riseborough (YPC); Lisa Anderson (YPC)

II. Old business

1. Review of Oct 27th minutes

- The Council reviewed draft minutes from Oct 27 and 28 meeting.
- Outstanding action items were reviewed and updates were provided on each item. Decisions on each action item were as follows:

Yukon Police Council Action Items	Dec 5 action
• Secretariat will arrange follow up presentations from the RCMP on the RCMP professional standards office, and the RCMP disciplinary process: Deferred from May 24-25	Defer
• A December meeting will be planned where the YPC and COYFNAC can meet together. Pending from May 24-25	Complete
• Secretariat will draft a policy statement defining roles at meetings and the invitation of others for review: Deferred from May 24-25	Defer
• Department of Justice and RCMP to develop a visual which helps to show how ASIRT, the Commission for Public Complaints, internal RCMP Disciplinary processes and other related processes and investigations all intersect.	Defer
• Secretariat to provide research and provide more information on Canadian Association of Police Boards- Pending from Sept conference call	Defer
• Topics for future meetings: First Nation policing policy, engaging and gathering info from youth, CMHA, Liard Aboriginal Women's Society work, cross cultural awareness for Council and RCMP-	Ongoing

Pending from Sept conference call	
• Secretariat will arrange a presentation on the Prolific Offender Management Program (POM) for YPC	Defer
• Secretariat to draft letter to Minister re policing priorities for review	Complete
• Conference call to review the draft letter will be set up for Nov. 14th	Complete
• September 6th Meeting Summary will be amended to address the acronyms, sent it directly to participants and then add it to the YPC webpage	Complete
• Secretariat will send a thank you to the individuals who provided submissions.	Complete
• June 15th Meeting minutes will be amended and then added to the webpage	Complete
• Business cards will be amended and then printed	Complete
• YPC reps to attend the Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce/RCMP event	Postponed

Action: Council members will provide any final comments on minutes by Dec 19th. Once amended, minutes will be added to website

2. Business Cards

- Secretariat provided business cards to Members as discussed

III. New business

1. Information from member of the public to a police council member:

- Discussion of a concern raised by the member of the public to a police council member- how to move forward, how to address the issue?
- Decision was made for police council member to summarize the issue and forward it to the Chair, who would further discuss with the Commanding Officer on behalf of the Council

2. Planning for the next meeting

- Council's next meeting will be held in Haines Junction. A draft letter to Haines Junction Mayor and Council and Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Chief and Council was reviewed and comments provided.

Action: Secretariat will revise letter to Haines Junction Mayor and Council and Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Chief and Council identifying their interest in having a meeting in Haines Junction in late January 2013.

3. Other business:

- Council would like a tour of Whitehorse Correctional Center in the future
- Council recommends continuing to meet once per year with COYFNAC

Action: Secretariat to arrange WCC tour and work with RCMP on joint meeting with COYFNAC for 2013-14

IV. Next Meeting

- Tentative: Jan 31 and Feb 1, 2013 in Haines Junction. ** note this has since been amended to March 26, 27 2013.

Appendix A: Summary of Action Items resulting from the Dec 5th meeting, and Outstanding Action Items to be carried forward

Yukon Police Council Action Items	Status resulting from Dec 5 th meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat will arrange follow up presentations from the RCMP on the RCMP professional standards office, and the RCMP disciplinary process: Deferred from May 24-25 	Defer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat will draft a policy statement defining roles at meetings and the invitation of others for review: Deferred from May 24-25 	Defer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Justice and RCMP to develop a visual which helps to show how ASIRT, the Commission for Public Complaints, internal RCMP Disciplinary processes and other related processes and investigations all intersect. 	Defer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat to provide research and provide more information on Canadian Association of Police Boards- Pending from Sept conference call 	Defer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics for future meetings: First Nation policing policy, engaging and gathering info from youth, CMHA, Liard Aboriginal Women's Society work, cross cultural awareness for Council and RCMP, tour of WCC 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat will arrange a presentation on the Prolific Offender Management Program (POM)for YPC 	Defer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YPC reps to attend the Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce/RCMP event 	Postponed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council members will provide any final comments on Oct 27-28 minutes. Once amended, minutes will be added to website 	Dec 19 th for comments Post mid- Jan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat will revise letter to Haines Junction Mayor and Council and Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Chief and Council identifying their interest in having a meeting in Haines Junction in late January 2013. 	Dec 30 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat to work with RCMP on joint meeting with COYFNAC for 2013-14 	Ongoing