



May 31, 2024

Superintendent Dyson Smith  
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Dear Superintendent Smith:

### **Policing Priorities 2024-2027**

I am pleased to share the 2024-2027 policing priorities pursuant to Article 6 of the Territorial Police Services Agreement.

Policing priorities have previously been developed annually through a review of Community policing reports, input received from Indigenous governments, community leaders, partners, and service providers. While policing priorities continue to be informed by engagement with partners and stakeholders, they will now be established for a three-year period to better support community policing needs. This approach will provide the RCMP with the added opportunity to develop well considered plans over an extended period of time, enable consistent reporting, and the chance to demonstrate and evaluate results.

With the inclusion of policing priority performance measures for the first time last year, the 2024-2027 priorities build on this with the continued identification of activities and measures connected to each priority. The policing priorities will continue to be reported on annually to demonstrate progress and communicate this to the public.

Policing priorities remain aligned and are mindful of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### **Priority #1: Target enforcement responses to reduce illegal drugs and alcohol.**

The transport and sale of illegal drugs and alcohol in NWT communities remains a significant concern. Police-reported violent crime, including homicides and gun violence, have increased in recent years.

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Criminal organizations continue to take advantage of vulnerable residents and communities are expressing rising concerns about safety, identifying increases in drug use and drug dealing, violence, and other crimes. Of particular concern is the impact on Indigenous youth, and particularly young men, who are often targeted.

While work across sectors is needed to target the effects of illicit drugs and alcohol, continued focus on enforcement is necessary. Ongoing and expanded efforts by the RCMP to decrease the transport and sale of illegal drugs and alcohol will help to reduce both the prevalence of violent crime and further victimization of NWT residents.

**Priority #2: Continue to build strong relationships with Indigenous communities and residents.**

Approximately 50% of the NWT population is Indigenous. Residential schools are part of our recent history and are a cause of intergenerational trauma in NWT communities. This priority encourages a continued openness and understanding that traumatic experiences can be carried forward from one generation to the next and acknowledges that trauma is often associated with, or the cause of, addiction, mental health, and homelessness. This can often lead to unintended interactions with the RCMP.

Consistent dialogue through the setting of and participation in policing priorities between RCMP, Community Justice Committees and Indigenous leaders will help to develop collaborative relationships, community-based solutions and increased trust in police.

**Priority #3: Provide policing services that reflect recognition and efforts to reduce harm to Indigenous women, girls, families, and children.**

Rates of family violence in the NWT are very high. We know that family, partner, and sexualized violence is underreported relative to other criminal activity. Indigenous women are also more likely to have substance use disorders, experience trauma, and to be victims of a crime than non-Indigenous women, increasing their interactions with police.

Continued work with partners and stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, and Indigenous community-based victim services are essential. The provision of policing services that are guided by "G" Division's Sexual Assault Investigations Review Committee, best practices in trauma informed policing and investigations, cultural competency and consultation with external stakeholders, partners and experts, can support direction for RCMP policy, training and public engagement.

RCMP play a critical role in connecting Indigenous women, girls, families, and children to culturally appropriate local programs and services, including safe places to stay, family violence shelters, victim services programs, emergency protection orders, and the free legal advice and representation program. Investigators, supervisors, and detachment commanders are encouraged to strengthen relationships with victim services partners and hold regular meetings to share information, identify concerns, and work collaboratively to support victims. Programs like victim services may also be called on by the RCMP in some communities to provide additional trauma support when there are complex social issues involved.

**Priority #4: Increase community knowledge and understanding of RCMP roles and responsibilities.**

The RCMP has made great improvements to increase their media engagement over the last year. However, NWT residents are still limited in the public information available to them about policing and criminal activities in their communities. Increasing awareness and public information about what RCMP officers do, policing services, and new or emerging trends in criminal activity, will allow communities to become more aware of the important role RCMP play in supporting community safety and their efforts to reduce crime. Increasing public information supports proactive problem solving, empowers communities to make more informed decisions and creates appreciation for the efforts of the RCMP to combat crime in their communities.

A summary of the activities and associated performance measures under each priority is included (Appendix A) and will help to monitor and measure the RCMP's work towards achieving these priorities.

I would like to extend my utmost appreciation to you and the hard working members and staff within "G" Division for your dedication, commitment, and efforts to support public safety in the NWT.



R.J. Simpson  
Minister, Justice

Attachment

c. Charlene Doolittle  
Deputy Minister, Justice

Mandi Bolstad  
Assistant Deputy Minister - Solicitor General, Justice

## Appendix A

### 2024-2027 Northwest Territories Policing Priority Activities and Performance Measures

<b>Priority #1: Target enforcement responses to reduce illegal drugs and alcohol.</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance measures</b>
a) Law enforcement efforts to target and disrupt organized crime, illicit drugs, and alcohol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of drug and organized crime investigations undertaken.</li> <li>• Number and type of weapon seized and if linked to organized crime by community.</li> <li>• Number type and amount of drug seizures by community.</li> <li>• Number of people charged with drug trafficking by community.</li> <li>• Number of residents charged with bootlegging.</li> <li>• Number of calls related to bootlegging and drug trafficking by community.</li> </ul>
b) Work collaboratively to support social programs with partners to recognize and work with at-risk people, including youth, who may be vulnerable to the influence of the drug trade and other serious crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on activities undertaken with:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community Justice Committees</li> <li>○ Victim Services programs</li> <li>○ Community Safety Officers</li> <li>○ Shelters and other housing related social programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	
NWT residents have up to date information and confidence that the RCMP are responding to drug and alcohol occurrences.	
<b>Priority #2: Continue to build strong relationships with Indigenous communities and residents.</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance measures</b>
a) RCMP attend and participate in regular meetings to discuss, set and report on policing services, priorities, and orientation of new police officers with key stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of policing priority setting meetings with stakeholders, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community Justice Committees</li> <li>○ Municipal and Indigenous governments and organizations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number of communities with letters of collaboration and policing priorities in place</li> </ul>
b) Community critical incidence response information sessions focused on safety protocols in communities without detachments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of information sharing meetings in communities without detachments.</li> <li>• Number of pro-active patrols and meetings with leadership in communities without detachments.</li> </ul>

<b>Anticipated outcomes</b>	
Community leaders and members are sharing community-based cultural knowledge and participate in crime prevention and community safety activities with RCMP. RCMP visibility is increased.	
<b>Priority #3: Provide policing services that reflect recognition and efforts to reduce harm to Indigenous women, girls, families, and children.</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance measures</b>
a) RCMP will strengthen relationships with victim services partners, victim support advocates and hold regular meetings to share information, identify concerns and work collaboratively to support victims.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Victim Services Workers accompanying RCMP to calls to support victims.</li> <li>• Number of RCMP referrals to safety programming, including Victims Services, Shelters, Emergency Protection Order, and Independent Legal Advice and Representation Programs.</li> <li>• RCMP bi-annual reporting on policing data for NWT family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence.</li> <li>• Victim public awareness products to encourage reporting to police, explain what victims may expect when reporting a sexual assault.</li> </ul>
b) RCMP members receive cultural awareness and safety training and apply cultural awareness and cultural safety to their service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and type of “G” division members trained in cultural safety, awareness cultural competency training for RCMP employees and trauma informed practices.</li> </ul>
c) RCMP conduct Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Investigative Review Committees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RCMP develop a sexual assault training curriculum that addresses existing legislation and consent law; trauma-informed investigative tools; gender-based violence; reinforces victim rights and support services; bolsters oversight and review and is inclusive of vulnerable populations reflective of the diverse cultures and communities the RCMP serves.</li> <li>• RCMP Detachments have established protocols for providing safe, secure and private environments for victims to report sexual assault.</li> <li>• Number of reviews completed by the Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Investigative Review Committees.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of RCMP members trained in courses to increase knowledge and awareness about family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence such as: Common Sexual Assault Investigational Gaps; Consent and Sexual Assault Myths; Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Scoring; Trauma Informed Approach Course.</li> </ul>
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**Anticipated outcomes**

RCMP are providing policing services that are responsive, culturally safe, and sensitive to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families, and children. Stakeholders and residents express confidence in the RCMP in dealing with the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families, and children experiencing family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence in the NWT.

**Priority #4: Increase community knowledge and understanding of RCMP roles and responsibilities.**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance measures</b>
a) Increase knowledge about RCMP programs and services through online tools, in person activities, social media, radio and other forms of communication mechanisms, and ensure RCMP members are visible and approachable to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of online, in person, social media, radio, and other communication on RCMP programs and services about policing in the NWT.</li> <li>• Number of community events and activities where RCMP participate and/or share information.</li> </ul>
b) RCMP work with the Department of Justice to ensure there is up to date and publicly available policing services information to ensure the public are aware of emerging trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of public reporting of RCMP policing information.</li> </ul>
c) Ensure RCMP members are visible and approachable to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of community patrols, community meetings, events and/or activities.</li> </ul>

**Anticipated outcomes**

NWT residents have awareness of the RCMP's role and their programs and services. RCMP presence is visible to community members.