

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Jun17\_2025**

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### **REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

#### **RCMP Community Advisory Committee Annual Report and activity update**

##### **Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on the activities of the RCMP Community Advisory Committee for 2024 and the first two quarters of 2025.

##### **Our Strategic Goals**

Governance Requirement

Goal 4 Priority - Relationships with all levels of government and key stakeholders that are strategic, purposeful and productive

##### **Report**

The RCMP Community Advisory Committee or CAC, is a hybrid administrative committee that includes two elected Councillors, Council-appointed urban and rural representatives, and 12 community members appointed by the RCMP representing local schools, faith-based organizations, community groups and various cultural perspectives and interests. The CAC's guiding philosophy is "the police are the community, and the community are the police."

Committee members are responsible for:

- Fostering open communication with community organizations;
- Provide insight and offer suggestions on opportunities for presentations by community organizations and individuals;
- Express viewpoints and opinions on behalf of their respective communities;
- Disseminate and communicate information obtained;
- Provide feedback to the RCMP and Enforcement Services on matters regarding current policing and safety issues; and
- Evaluate the implementation and impact of the RCMP strategic plans and programs.

The RCMP Community Advisory Committee convened on:

- January 25, 2024
- March 21, 2024
- May 30, 2024
- September 26, 2024
- November 28, 2024
- January 30, 2025
- March 20, 2025
- May 29, 2025

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On March 18, 2024, Virginia McConnell, the CAC's Indigenous Peoples representative, resigned her position for personal reasons. Ms. McConnell was an influential committee member, and her perspective on community policing matters will be missed. On March 21, 2024, Erica Thomas joined the committee representing community business interests. At the March 2024 meeting, Superintendent Kendall reported the RCMP is expected to meet or surpass all 2023/24 performance plan targets. The 2024/25 community survey results were also shared, noting major and minor property crimes continue to rate as the community's highest priority, followed by family violence, illegal drug offences, and traffic safety and impaired driving. At the May 30, 2024, meeting, Strathcona County Fire Chief Martin Paulson, and Deputy Chief Gordon George attended to discuss emergency management and community preparations for the upcoming fire season.

On September 26, 2024, Tracey Arbuthnott was re-elected unopposed, as the CAC chairperson. At the September 2024 meeting, Inspector Peterson, the Detachment's new Operations Officer, was introduced to the committee. Details of the RCMP's Multi-year Financial Plan were shared with the group as well as details concerning the province's requirement for Municipal Policing Committees to be established by March 1, 2025.

The November 28, 2024, meeting was Superintendent Kendall's last, having been promoted and was now the provincial RCMP's Central District Officer. A review of the province's Police Act amendments were shared with the committee. Members were notified the CAC is expected to conclude its work sometime in May 2025 in anticipation of a new Municipal Policing Committee or MPC officially convening in the fall of 2025. An update was provided to the committee on the RCMP's body worn camera project and Enforcement Services provided a review of the year's Operation TENSOR East results. Also in November 2024, Miriam Farooq, the CAC's Muslim community representative, formally vacated her role.

Joshua Magnusson replaced Linda Giesinger as the Committee's urban representative effective January 1, 2025. At the January 30, 2025, meeting, Erica Thomas advised the RCMP that industrial organizations continue to experience incidents of suspicious persons and thefts. A preliminary strategy was developed with the RCMP Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) to target this unfortunate trend. The Committee was also updated on the province's decision to substantially limit the use of automated traffic enforcement and the County's decision to end its Intersection Safety Device (ISD) program effective January 31, 2025. Committee representatives discussed the number of school bus 'fly-bys,' particularly on Highways 16 and 14 and Range Road 221.

At the March 20, 2025, meeting, Superintendent Barry LaRocque was introduced as the new Strathcona County Detachment Commander. The Committee was notified Josh Magnusson had resigned, and the group was briefly updated on the Municipal Policing Committee or MPC bylaw being developed. Members were advised a draft copy of the bylaw would be shared at the May 29, 2025, meeting. Updates concerning industrial thefts and the RCMP's response were shared, as was the campaign targeting school bus fly-bys. Chairperson Tracey Arbuthnott advised he plans to stepdown from the Committee after the next meeting after 15 years on the committee and as chairperson for the last seven years.

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The May 29, 2025, meeting was the last gathering of the RCMP Community Advisory Committee. During the meeting, details of the new Municipal Policing Committee draft bylaw were shared and discussed, and the current members were notified that while their role on the CAC was ending, opportunity to apply for appointment on the new MPC would be shared with them in the weeks to come. Committee members were notified target measures from the 2024/25 APP were met or exceeded, and Detachment's recommended annual policing priorities for 2025/26 were reviewed. Committee members were thanked for their service and contribution to community policing in Strathcona County and the RCMP Community Advisory Committee was adjourned for the last time.

**Council and Committee History**

2023-03	RCMP 2022-23 Year in Review Report
2023-10	RCMP Community Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report for 2022
2024-05	RCMP 2023-24 Year in Review Report
2024-05	RCMP Community Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report for 2023
2025-05	RCMP 2024-25 Year in Review Report
2025-05	RCMP Community Advisory Committee 2024 Annual Report for 2024

**Other Impacts****Policy:** n/a**Financial/Budget:** n/a**Legislative/Legal:** n/a**Interdepartmental:** n/a**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a