

Policing Issues

New Provincial Police Act

- In February 2009, the Province invited the public to provide input to a review of *The Provincial Police Act*.
- This is important legislation for municipalities and we hope many of you took the time to participate in the review process.
- The Province is proposing three key items as part of the review.
- The first is a proposal that local police boards will be mandatory for all municipalities with their own police forces. The Province asked for feedback on what role these boards would have in hiring officers and executives, service policy and budgets, and qualifications to be appointed to the board.
- The second is to establish a Provincial Police Commission made up of members of the public to provide advice to the government on policing regulations, standards and emerging issues.
- The third item is to create an independent investigation unit. This unit would investigate incidents involving police use of force, incidents resulting in serious injury to members of the public as a result of contact with police, and other incidents or allegations against police where there is a public interest in independent investigations.

- This unit would also investigate any incidents occurring in the 12 municipal, local or First Nation police services in Manitoba.
- In addition to the public process, the Province committed to meet directly with various stakeholders including the AMM.
- The AMM will meet with Deputy Attorney General Ron Perozzo – who is conducting the stakeholder consultations – at the end of March to discuss the proposed changes to the legislation.
- If you would like the AMM to raise any particular concerns with this legislation, please let us know.
- Minister Chomiak has indicated that the review process will move quickly and a revised act will be introduced during the spring sitting of the legislature.

RCMP Contract

- At the same time the AMM is looking ahead to the negotiations for the new RCMP contract for 2012.
- The contract will be negotiated between the Federal and Provincial Governments, and is currently in the very early stages of development.
- The Province has committed to involving the AMM as the process moves forward.

- The RCMP has indicated the contract development will include a review of staff levels, police boards, police oversight and accountability.
- FCM is also working to raise municipal concerns with the structure of contract policing across Canada.
- In 2008, FCM issued a report examining the policing roles, responsibilities and resources in Canada.
- The report found that policing is one of the fastest growing areas of expenditure in municipalities across the country.
- There are widespread concerns with the lack of control over rising policing costs, reduced service levels, and the RCMP's limited ability to respond to local policing priorities.
- The AMM will work with FCM to highlight these issues as the new provincial police services agreements are developed.