

FOR RELEASE  
May 19, 2016

## **Minister of Justice sets Yukon policing priorities for 2016/17**

WHITEHORSE—Minister of Justice Brad Cathers has communicated Yukon's policing priorities for 2016/17 to RCMP "M" Division leadership.

"The 2016/17 policing priorities remain consistent with those from recent years and reflect the civic engagement undertaken by the Yukon Police Council and the RCMP," Minister of Justice Brad Cathers said. "The Department of Justice and the RCMP look forward to continuing our work with our partners to find the best ways to make our communities safer for all Yukoners."

The 2016/17 territorial policing priorities are to:

- enhance prevention, investigation and enforcement activities related to violence against women;
- proactively respond to emerging public safety issues and trends in criminal activity;
- continue to improve the community response to vulnerable populations;
- connect and support children and youth, including those at risk;
- foster strong relationships with First Nations and partner agencies; and
- improve traffic safety and compliance with safe driving measures.

"For the last several years, Yukoners have been demonstrating how much can be done to create safety in our communities by working collaboratively with their governments, service providers and police," acting RCMP Commanding Officer for Yukon Superintendent Brian Jones said. "This year's policing priorities respond to the issues that remain top concerns for Yukoners, and we look forward to continuing to build on the strong foundation we have established with our government and community partners."

Yukon's policing priorities are set each year by the Minister of Justice, based on recommendations from the Yukon Police Council.

### **Learn more**

2016/17 policing priorities.

-30-

See backgrounder.

Contact:

Dan Macdonald  
Cabinet Communications  
867-393-6470  
dan.macdonald@gov.yk.ca

Tyler Plaunt  
Communications, Justice  
867-667-3221  
tyler.plaunt@gov.yk.ca

### **Backgrounder**

#### **2016/17 Policing Priorities**

##### **Priority: enhance prevention, investigation and enforcement activities related to violence against women**

- Specialized Response Unit continues to support, provide advice and lead investigations into cases of intimate partner violence and sexualized assault.
- Coordination with other agencies in response to sexualized violence is strong.
- Unsolved cases of missing or murdered Indigenous women continue to be actively investigated.
- Continue to support efforts to strengthen coordination and relationships with the women's community through initiatives such as the Together for Safety and Together for Justice protocols and promote these nationally as a best practice.

##### **Priority: proactively respond to emerging public safety issues and trends in criminal activity**

- Drug investigations and enforcement are focused at all levels of the drug trade.
- Efforts to address drug trafficking and bootlegging are supported through partnerships with other agencies such as Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) and Yukon Liquor Corporation (YLC). Respond to emerging crime trends such as increased property crime through proactive and intelligence-led policing.

##### **Priority: continue to improve the community response to vulnerable populations**

- Police are active partners in efforts to coordinate responses for vulnerable populations, including individuals with mental health issues.
- Front line officers' ability to effectively interact with vulnerable persons is improved through appropriate training. Priority: connect and support children and youth, including those at risk
- Opportunities to build trust and connections with youth are identified and pursued.
- RCMP are partners in inter-agency efforts to prevent sexualized assault and exploitation of children and youth.

- RCMP continues to build their knowledge and capabilities to fully investigate cyber bullying and online exploitation of children and youth.

**Priority: foster strong relationships with First Nations and partner agencies**

- The Yukon RCMP are visible and accessible to the public.
- Establish and maintain strong relationships with community leaders across Yukon.
- Lines of communication with Yukon RCMP continue to be fostered at the local and divisional level and contact with community leaders and citizens is a priority for all detachments.
- Local orientation of new police officers is consistently carried out and involves close coordination with First Nations, community leaders, NGOs and other stakeholders.
- Efforts are made to recruit police officers who are a good fit for each individual community.

**Priority: improve traffic safety and compliance with safe driving measures**

- Intensive public information efforts are supported with partner agencies and aimed at educating the public and reducing the incidence of impaired driving.
- Road safety is supported through enforcement of traffic related vehicle infractions, especially infractions which create a high risk to other people on the road including motorists, children, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Increased focus on improving safety and reducing accidents at higher-risk areas such as school zones, busy intersections and narrow bridges.

*News Release #16-202*



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here:  
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.