



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Yukon Policing priorities established for 2013/14**

WHITEHORSE— The minister of Justice has delivered Yukon policing priorities for 2013/14 to the Commanding Officer of the RCMP "M" Division.

"These priorities reflect the unique context of Yukon and the needs of Yukoners," Justice Minister Mike Nixon said. "Many of the priorities build on the solid work already underway by the RCMP and the recommendations of the Sharing Common Ground report."

Through the Territorial Police Services Agreement, the Yukon Justice minister establishes the policing priorities for the territory.

The new Yukon Police Council, which was established as a result of the Review of Yukon's Police Force, provided recommendations to the Justice minister to consider when setting annual policing priorities for the RCMP "M" Division commanding officer.

"RCMP members throughout the territory remain dedicated to keeping Yukon safe through providing high quality, effective and professional police services," Chief Superintendent Peter Clark, Commanding Officer of the RCMP in Yukon said. "The five priorities identified by the minister are of significance to both Yukoners and the RCMP, and our women and men will continue to foster relationships and deliver services that respond to the areas of significance raised by Yukoners."

The Justice minister identified five priorities for policing: reducing the victimization of children and youth; improving the response to sexualized assault and family violence; addressing community safety issues; building relationships with First Nations; and improving the response to vulnerable populations.

"We heard from a broad range of citizens, First Nations organizations and governments, and community organizations about important areas of focus for policing," Yukon Police Council member Michael Riseborough said. "As a result, the recommendations the Yukon Police Council provided to the minister represent the unique needs and values of the Yukon community."

"The Yukon Police Council's efforts reflect our common goal to ensure that when establishing policing priorities, there is dialogue with the community and citizens have an opportunity to participate in shaping the delivery of police services," Nixon added.

For more information visit: [www.justice.gov.yk.ca](http://www.justice.gov.yk.ca) and [www.yukonpolicecouncil.gov.yk.ca](http://www.yukonpolicecouncil.gov.yk.ca).

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See backgrounder attached.

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## **Background information**

The Minister's Policing Priorities are one way in which the delivery of territorial police services by the RCMP "M" Division can be focused on the unique context and environment of Yukon.

The minister of Justice communicates these territorial policing priorities to the RCMP "M" Division Commanding Officer on an annual basis. These priorities focus on trends in the policing environment and strategic areas of public safety where the territorial police service can best focus its efforts.

With the creation of the Yukon Police Council in 2012, the process for establishing the Minister's Policing Priorities now includes recommendations from the council to the minister.

This past fall, the council asked First Nations, stakeholders and the public for input on critical public safety issues in communities, areas of policing needing a special focus and expectations for the delivery of police services in Yukon.

Based on this input, the council provided recommendations to the Justice minister to consider when identifying priorities and direction for the RCMP "M" Division on how to address the unique policing needs in Yukon.

The RCMP commanding officer will provide an annual report on priorities fulfilled and any challenges.

#### Policing priorities for 2013/14

- Focus on preventing and decreasing the victimization of children and youth.
  - Coordinating efforts with community and government partners to support youth at high risk of victimization and/or offending behaviour;
  - Working with schools, Youth Probation, Alcohol and Drug Services and other service providers to enable sharing of information and timely and appropriate interventions; and
  - Strengthening partnerships to better protect children and youth by enhancing cyber-safety as well as supporting efforts to address and respond to all forms of bullying.
- Continue to improve the response to sexualized assault and family violence, including abuse in intimate partner relationships and child abuse.
  - Ensuring appropriate training for frontline police responders based on national best practices;
  - Strengthening relationships with women's groups, youth, communities and First Nations;
  - Working with other service providers including Victim Services, Offender Services and Family and Children Services to improve the coordination of services;
  - Implementing the mandate of the RCMP's Specialized Response unit and participating in the evaluation process to measure results of this new team.
- Work with the public and service providers to identify and address community safety issues.
  - Working with each community to develop a process that promotes relationship building and assists in identifying policing priorities;
  - Continuing efforts to address unsolved homicides in Yukon; Engaging in proactive policing efforts, and consider high visibility foot and bike patrols on a seasonal basis, focussed on reducing and deterring crime; Building a stronger partnership with Government of Yukon law enforcement agencies such as Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) unit to enhance information and intelligence sharing, and more effectively coordinate efforts to address criminal and illegal activity;
  - Supporting stronger offender accountability in communities and through the Prolific Offender Management Program; and
  - Enforcing traffic laws including targeting aggressive driving, driving under the influence, intersection violations, speeding, use of handheld devices while driving and other violations.
- Build and foster constructive and respectful relationships with First Nations leadership, communities and citizens.
  - Enhancing the development and implementation of Yukon First Nation cultural awareness training for RCMP members;
  - Working with each First Nation government to develop and sustain community specific orientation;
  - Ensuring new RCMP members are introduced to the community;
  - Working with First Nations to develop community policing priorities and to report back to the community on progress on those priorities; and
  - Encouraging recruitment of First Nation applicants to the RCMP, to the Auxiliary Policing Program and supporting the RCMP Aboriginal Youth Training Program.
- Improve the police response to vulnerable populations, with a particular focus on individuals with mental health issues and addictions.

- Ensuring appropriate training for frontline police responders based on national best practices;
- Supporting and participating in interagency responses to mental health and addictions; and
- Working with other service providers to share information, coordinate services and develop protocols, where appropriate, for individuals who require an enhanced response.

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