



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon enters into new 20 year Territorial Police Services Agreement

WHITEHORSE—Yukon has reached an agreement with Canada that means the RCMP will continue to provide high quality policing services to the territory for another 20 years.

"This agreement will provide for a strong partnership with the RCMP which ensures Yukoners continue to enjoy professional, effective and responsive police services. It confirms the RCMP is our police service of choice and signifies a new relationship based on transparency, trust and accountability," Yukon Justice Minister Mike Nixon said.

The agreement with the Government of Canada will give the territory more control over key areas such as costs, governance, and operational and financial accountability.

"Today is a significant milestone for RCMP contract policing," Canadian Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews said. "I am very pleased to announce that the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon have reached an agreement that will continue the relationship between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the people of Yukon for the next two decades."

The RCMP and its earlier iteration, the North West Mounted Police, have been the police force in Yukon since the 1800s and played a pivotal role in Yukon's development. The new agreement improves on earlier agreements in a number of areas:

- An enhanced Contract Management Committee will help ensure better cost-containment, governance, accountability and contract management during the agreement's life.
- Joint planning, approval and investment in policing infrastructure in Yukon including the construction of new detachments.
- Recognition from Canada of the higher costs of policing in the North in the form of appropriate cost-mitigation mechanisms.
- The opportunity for community input into the hiring of senior RCMP officers in M Division including detachment commanders.
- Enhanced accountability and reporting mechanisms to ensure the territory is engaged on matters affecting the cost and quality of policing.

The new Territorial Police Service Agreement goes into effect on April 1 and will be in effect until March 31, 2032.

For more information about the RCMP in Yukon visit the RCMP website.

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See backgrounder below.

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Background:

- The Territorial Police Service Agreement is a 20 year agreement between Canada and Yukon which establishes the RCMP “M” Division as our territorial police service.
- The current agreement was signed in 1992 and expires on March 31, 2012.
- The agreement sets out the responsibilities and authority for the RCMP to act as our territorial police service.
- The new agreement maintains the cost-share of policing in the territory with Canada paying 30 per cent and Yukon 70 per cent.
- The current budget for police services in Yukon is approximately \$20 million.
- The new agreement provides a number of new or enhanced provisions that give the Minister of Justice greater control and accountability with respect to the territorial police service, for example;
 - The Yukon Justice minister’s role in establishing the priorities, objectives and goals of the territorial police service has been reaffirmed;
 - The RCMP commissioner will now harmonize professional police standards with those set by the Yukon Justice minister either in legislation or as drawn from best practices in Canada;
 - Yukon communities may be consulted on all hiring of senior officers in the territory such as detachment commanders;
 - The RCMP are now required to follow a new and more rigorous set of reporting requirements related to organization and vacancies, financial reporting, reporting on public complaints and annual reports to the minister.

The new agreement also provides for joint investment in policing infrastructure in the territory such as new detachments and member housing. Whereas in the past, Yukon had no control over what was built, the minister will now jointly agree on plans to construct detachments and other policing infrastructure.

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