

# Police Act Review

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Association of Summer Villages of Alberta  
60th Anniversary Conference

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# Introduction



## *Police Act Review*

# Strategic Background

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- The *Police Act* introduced in 1988 with piecemeal amendments introduced later.
- There is a strong consensus among stakeholders for a comprehensive review.

# Strategic Background

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- What we've been hearing about the *Police Act* – there is a desire to:
  - Update civilian oversight mechanisms;
  - Streamline and speed up the complaint process;
  - Address inequities in provincial funding to policing;
  - Recognize police struggle to reduce crime but deliver economical services; and
  - Acknowledge the outreach role that police have been drawn into.

# Process



## *Police Act Review*

# Anticipated Timeline



# Outcome of Engagement

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- Objective: to learn what stakeholders need from policing services and how that can be reflected in legislation.

# We Need...

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- We need to hear about what the legislation could and should look like.
- We need to input on the themes before we can make recommendations on next steps.

# How to participate

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- Roundtable meetings;
- Written submissions; and/or
- Police member survey.

# Principles of Engagement

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1. Build trust through transparency
2. Encourage collaboration
3. Encourage learning
4. Set clear expectations
5. Be inclusive

# Themes



*Police Act Review*

# Engagement Themes

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- Building trust, legitimacy and supports;
- Collaborative approaches;
- Roles and responsibilities;
- Policy and oversight;
- Diversion and the power of discretion;
- Officer safety and employee wellness; and
- Communications, analytics and information exchange.



Comments/questions about the themes?

# Invited Stakeholders

# Stakeholder Sectors

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Include representatives from the following sectors:

- Academia;
- Partner (e.g., health, first responder services);
- Justice Services;
- Municipalities;
- Social Justice;
- Community service and non-profit groups; and
- Indigenous groups.

# Policing Responsibilities

# Detailed role of the provincial government in policing for Albertans

# Responsibilities of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

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- Establishes:
  - legislative authority for policing;
  - standards for police services and commissions;
  - ensures that standards are met;
  - monitors and audits police services; and
  - provides police services, commissions, committees and councils with assistance and advice in developing training, and conducting targeted research.

# Responsibilities

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- Funds:
  - provincial police services;
  - policing assistance grants;
  - restorative justice grants;
  - crime prevention programs;
  - programs and services for victims of crime; and
  - programming to help offenders transition successfully back into the community.

# Overview of the *Police Act*

# The *Police Act*

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- Defines how policing, and the administration of policing, operates in Alberta;
- Identifies the responsibility of government and municipalities for policing;
- Sets the population threshold where a municipality must provide its own municipal policing; and
  - Outlines that cities, towns and villages with a population over 5,000 must provide their own police service. The Province provides policing to all other municipalities at no direct cost to them.

# The *Police Act*

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- Includes sections relating to the:
  - Law Enforcement Review Board (part 2);
  - police services and commissions (part 3);
  - police officers (part 4) and complaints and discipline; and
  - lock-up facilities, impersonating a police officer, and other miscellaneous matters.

# Police Service Regulation

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- Competency of police officers;
- Probationary periods for working as police officers;
- Misconduct of a police officer;
- Relief from duty of a police officer;
- Counseling, time limits, statements and evidence;
- Hearings; and
- Punishment of Officers.

# Other Related Legislation

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- *Peace Officer Act*
  - Limited power and authority are given to peace officers that may be employed by all levels of government, including health authorities and post-secondary institutions.
- *Security Services and Investigator Act*
  - Security personnel (loss prevention, guard dog handlers, security guards, investigators, locksmiths, automotive lock bypass people) and private investigators are required to be licensed by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.

# Other Related Legislation

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- *Police Officers Collective Bargaining Act*
  - Governs labour relations for all municipal police services in Alberta.
  - The Police Officers Collective Bargaining Act prohibits strikes and lockouts and substitutes compulsory binding arbitration.



Questions?