



“It will foster a culture of excellence and enhance police accountability.”

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Leadership Bulletin

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Manitoba Justice: Police Services Act Review

In the fall of 2020, Manitoba released the final report of the *Independent Review of The Manitoba Police Services Act*, which was authored by the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance (CSKA).

The report includes 70 recommendations, touching on areas such as oversight and accountability, police board governance, policing standards, a uniform code of conduct, and new service delivery models, among others. The province has established an implementation team within Manitoba Justice to lead on further research and consultations with a variety of stakeholders and subject matter experts including police agencies, the Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police, Indigenous and non-governmental organizations, oversight agencies, police governance organizations, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and others.

The implementation of these reforms will guide policing and police governance in our province for years to come and help to ensure that Manitobans have the utmost confidence in the law enforcement agencies that serve our communities so well.

Some of the foundational components of this work have already been put in place through two separate pieces of legislation – Bill 7 and Bill 30. Bill 7, [The Police Services Amendment Act \(Enhancing Independent Investigation Unit Operations\)](#), was introduced on November 29, 2021. The Bill makes a number of amendments to The Police Services Act that deal with the operation of the Independent

Investigation Unit (IIU), which is responsible for investigating all serious incidents involving police officers in Manitoba. Notable amendments include:

- establishing of a Director of Indigenous and Community Relations position;
- replacing the Civilian Monitor Program with a Community Liason Program;
- discontinuing the practice of allowing serving police officers to serve as IIU investigators; and
- establishing a duty to comply with requests from the IIU's civilian director or investigators.

Bill 30, The Police Services Amendment and Law Enforcement Review Act, was introduced on March 17, 2022. This Bill lays the foundation for the creation of policing standards and a uniform code of conduct for police officers. Notable reforms include:

- establishing the Manitoba Criminal Intelligence Center (MCIC) and the Criminal Intelligence Director, a new position;
- enabling Manitoba Justice to establish policing standards respecting police service operations, facilities and equipment;
- enabling the Criminal Intelligence Director to create standards respecting criminal intelligence;
- designating the Manitoba Police Commission with the responsibility for monitoring compliance with policing standards;
- enabling Manitoba Justice to establish a uniform code of conduct for police officers; and
- extending the time for filing complaints under the Law Enforcement Review Act from 30 to 180 days.

Moving forward, our key areas of focus include the development of specific policing standards and the uniform code of conduct, police board governance, enhancements to the Community and First Nations Safety Officer Programs, as well as reforms to the processes by which Manitobans bring forward police misconduct complaints.

Stakeholder consultations are critical to the success of this work and will remain a priority going forward, especially as we consider the scope of reforms that the review asks us to consider. To date, we have engaged all Manitoba police services through the MACP Strategic Issues Committee. This has been supplemented with meetings, or the offer of, to all Executives of Manitoba Police Services. We have also started to engage with the Associations and will be meeting with police boards, municipal and First Nations representatives, and community groups going forward. Further, we intend to conduct public consultations over the coming months as well.

Manitoba Justice is committed to working with and supporting police services as we implement these important reforms and we look forward to working closely with the MACP over the coming months.

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-MACP Partners in Public Safety-

