



New Expert Panel Report Provides a Foundation for Long-Term Vision of Policing in Indigenous Communities

News Release

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A new expert panel report from the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) finds that many Indigenous communities do not receive policing services that meet their safety and security needs, and the evidence suggests a relationship-based, community driven approach provides an opportunity to make meaningful and sustainable improvements.

Policing in Indigenous communities presents challenges that are distinct from those in non-Indigenous communities. These challenges are embedded within a set of cultural, social, historical, legal, political, and geographic considerations. *Toward Peace, Harmony, and Well-Being: Policing in Indigenous Communities* underscores that policing reforms should be viewed as one element of systemic changes needed to improve the safety and well-being of Indigenous communities. The Panel found that the most promising approaches involve building relationships among police, other service providers, and community members. Effective relationship-based approaches are community-led, preserve core community values, and provide opportunities for police to assist in mobilizing communities and to earn their trust.

The report also identifies principles that could be used to guide how policing can be governed, funded, and practiced in Indigenous communities. These principles arose from the evidence reviewed, and are rooted in holistic views of community safety and well-being that already exist in Indigenous communities.

The report aims to provide Indigenous community leaders, policy-makers, and service providers with the foundation to build effective and appropriate models for the future of policing in Indigenous communities.

Quotes

“It has been an honour to chair this Panel and I give thanks for the opportunity to have exchanged ideas and knowledge with my colleagues. It is our hope that this report will contribute to the ongoing discussions about how we move forward with the role of policing in Indigenous communities in Canada.”

- Kimberly R. Murray, Chair, Expert Panel on Policing in Indigenous Communities

“This report comes at a significant point in the evolving relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. The report specifically examines the present and future role

of police services in Indigenous communities in Canada and what promising and leading practices being used might be adopted on a broader scale.”

- Eric M. Meslin, PhD, FCAHS, President and CEO of the Council of Canadian Academies

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- In 2017, Public Safety Canada asked the CCA to undertake an assessment examining the present and future role of police services in Indigenous communities in Canada.
- *Toward Peace, Harmony, and Well-Being: Policing in Indigenous Communities* builds on the CCA's 2014 policing report, *Policing Canada in the 21st Century: New Policing for New Challenges* by incorporating the latest research findings and related information available on policing in Indigenous communities.
- Visit www.scienceadvice.ca to download the report.

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About the Council of Canadian Academies

The CCA is a not-for-profit organization that undertakes independent, evidence-based expert panel assessments to inform public policy development in Canada. The CCA was founded by three independent organizations that represent some of the finest minds in Canada — the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Their Fellows and senior decision-makers sit on CCA's Board of Directors and Scientific Advisory Committee, and they are a key source of membership for expert panels. The CCA's founding Academies also provide key guidance and input throughout the assessment process, including expert panel nominations and dissemination processes. For more information about the CCA or its assessments, please visit www.scienceadvice.ca.

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