

December 14, 2010

New law enforcement framework strengthens community policing, integration and police accountability

Edmonton... Law enforcement in Alberta will be better-equipped to serve and protect Albertans through a new framework that focuses on community flexibility to address local policing needs more effectively and efficiently. The framework will also ensure law enforcement across the province is more coordinated, intelligence-led and accountable to Albertans.

“The current model of law enforcement no longer reflects the realities of modern policing,” said Frank Oberle, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. “This new framework will benefit all Albertans by improving how law enforcement services are delivered, and ensuring policing is more open, accountable and responsive to local policing priorities.”

The Law Enforcement Framework modernizes a model of law enforcement that dates back to the 1930s, and is the result of extensive stakeholder consultation and online input from Albertans. It contains strategic directions that provide a foundation for how government will work in partnership with communities, police services and other law enforcement partners and guides both government and law enforcement in their organization and deployment of resources.

The new framework is supported by the following initiatives:

- **The Alberta Police Integrated Information Initiative (API3)**, which allows greater collaboration and intelligence-sharing among law enforcement. API3 will increase public and officer safety and improve the effectiveness of police work. As part of this initiative, Niche Technology was recently selected to develop an integrated records management system for law enforcement agencies.
- **The *Police Amendment Act***, which ensures Albertans who allege police misconduct, and the police members involved, will have their complaints resolved more quickly and efficiently.
- **Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT)**, which are proving highly successful in using an integrated approach to fight gangs and organized crime. ALERT will serve as a model for further law enforcement integration and cooperation in Alberta.

In addition, the government continues work on the following initiatives that support the framework:

- **A police and peace officer training centre in Fort MacLeod**, which will play a critical role in ensuring consistent, state-of-the-art recruit training and on-going professional development for all police and peace officers in Alberta. It will support the framework’s

call for law enforcement to be guided and assessed using clear, strong standards and performance indicators.

- **A new funding model** to distribute the costs of local policing in an equitable, transparent and sustainable manner (as called for in Strategic Direction 9 in the framework). The government is continuing to consult with Alberta's municipal associations to develop a new funding model.

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Background: Alberta's New Law Enforcement Framework — Vision, Guiding Principles and Strategic Directions

To view or print a copy of the framework, visit: bit.ly/LawEnforcementFramework

Editor's Note: To access audio of Minister Oberle's quote please visit: bit.ly/lefquote.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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Alberta's new Law Enforcement Framework

Vision, Guiding Principles and Strategic Directions

Vision

Policing reflects the priorities of Albertans, is transparent and accountable in the delivery of services, and the entire spectrum of available policing and public security resources are properly and appropriately utilized.

Guiding principles

- Public safety should be enhanced through better coordination among law enforcement organizations, with functions and activities organized to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.
- Law enforcement resources should be effectively organized and deployed to maximize community-based approaches to local policing, while ensuring the ability of police to handle complex investigations.
- Policing services should be delivered with minimal duplication, with functions placed with those personnel who are best suited in terms of training and authority.
- It is the Government of Alberta's role to set the direction, strategic framework, performance expectations and accountability mechanisms within which local law enforcement should be delivered. It is also the Province's role to set the pace for improvement and ensure law enforcement has the legislative powers and tools to fulfill their responsibilities in order to ensure law enforcement is adequate and effective.
- The cost of policing services in Alberta should be shared in an equitable manner among Albertans and Alberta communities.

Strategic directions

1. Capable, flexible and responsive operational policing will be the foundation of modern law enforcement in Alberta.
2. The full continuum of law enforcement delivery will be utilized to provide flexibility in policing approaches throughout the province.
3. Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) will be the mechanism to coordinate and enhance the delivery of integrated, specialized policing services on a province-wide basis.
4. Law enforcement in Alberta will be intelligence-led.
5. Law enforcement in Alberta will be guided and assessed using clear, strong standards and performance indicators.
6. Alberta communities will be safer through a balance between traditional enforcement

activities and community-led prevention initiatives aimed at reducing crime over the long term.

7. All Alberta municipalities will have adequate, transparent and meaningful community input into local policing needs and priorities.
8. The police public complaint process will be responsive and timely thereby enhancing oversight of Alberta police officers and police services.
9. Develop a model to distribute the costs of local policing in an equitable, transparent and sustainable manner.

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