

Please ensure that your response to this survey is conveyed over the online survey platform.

## **NSFM Membership Survey: Policing**

This survey is meant to deepen NSFM’s understanding of membership concerns with policing services and assist in the analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the different policing models found in Nova Scotia.

Individual responses will be kept confidential and reviewed internally. Reports on the results and findings of this survey will not attribute particular responses to any municipality or police force.

NSFM is looking for one (1) response per municipality. Responding Mayors, Wardens, or CAOs, may wish to respond in collaboration with elected officials on your Police Commission or Advisory Board, the Commanding Officer of your police force, and perhaps council as a whole.

After gathering respondent information, this survey includes 13-17 required questions, and 6 optional questions. These questions (with the exception of Question #17) are meant to be apply to all policing models (i.e.: RCMP policing service and local police forces) and are categorized as cost concerns, governance concerns, service-levels concerns, and staffing concerns.

If you are unable to answer any of the following questions on the timeline provided, simply state “Unknown” or “Requires Additional Time”.

**We request that responses be submitted by June 20, 2023.**

### **1. Name of Responding Municipality**

### **2. Who was involved in responding to this survey?**

- Mayor/Warden
- Police Commissioners/Advisory Board members
- Police Chief
- municipal council
- Other (please specify)

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## Cost-Related Concerns

3. Please use the comment box below to state the total cost of policing service for your municipality in 2023/24. To assist NSFM in our analysis, please provide costs by category if possible (i.e.: operational costs, capital costs, indirect costs, forensic laboratory services, etc.).

If practical, please send the following to [wpetite@nsfm.ca](mailto:wpetite@nsfm.ca). These documents will be kept confidential and internal to NSFM.

- i. MPSAs: please provide your Multi-Year Financial Plan.
- ii. PPSAs: please provide the budget provided by the RCMP.
- iii. Municipally owned police departments: please provide a breakdown of your policing budget and related costs.

4. What expenses, other than regular salary, are causing notable budgetary pressure? (e.g.: forensic laboratory services, technology upgrades, training, overtime, mandatory municipal contributions to corrections, fuel, etc.). If your council does not have insight on specific cost drivers, please state "Unknown".

5. (Optional) What other cost concerns does your municipality have?

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## **Governance-Related Concerns**

6. How would you describe the state of your Board of Police Commissioners/Advisory Board (i.e.: are all positions filled, are meetings regularly occurring, are these meetings productive and responsive to issue that your municipal council is concerned about)?

7. Does your council or Board of Police Commissioners/Advisory Board experience difficulties obtaining requested information on your police force?

8. What sort of information have you had difficulty obtaining (e.g.: vacancies, budgetary information, etc.)?

9. (Optional) What other governance-related concerns does your municipality have?

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## Service-Level Concerns

Using the checklist below, please indicate which central support or specialized services provided by the RCMP your police department utilized over the last five years.

These services are organized under the headings of Operational Communications and Emergency Operational Coordination, Tactical and Specialized Operations, Investigative Service Units, and Other Support Services.

### Operational Communications and Emergency Operational Coordination

- Division Emergency Operations Centre
- Risk Manager Program
- Provincial Ground Search and Rescue
- Provincial Operational Communication Centre
- Emergency Management

### Tactical and Specialized Operations

- Police Service Dogs
- Critical Incident Program
- Emergency Response Team
- Emergency Medical Response Team
- Underwater Recovery Team
- Special Tactical Operation

### Investigative Service Units

- Major Crime
- Proceeds of Crime
- Commercial Crime
- Human Trafficking
- Internet Child Exploitation
- Synthetic Drugs
- Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System
- Cybercrime Coordinator
- Truth Verification/Polygraph services
- Interview Assistance

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### **Other Support Services**

- Forensic Analysis
- Finger Printing
- Identification Services
- Collision analysis
- Traffic Services
- Community Policing Service
- Source Witness Protection
- Bomb disposal
- Victim Services
- Information Commissioner Criminal Investigations

### **14. Other?**

15. Has your police force experienced slow responses or additional costs when accessing central support services over the last five years?

16. In which cases of central support or specialized services has this occurred?

17. **For Municipal Police Forces:** Has your police force found alternative sources or developed independent resources that provide the supports and specialized services mention above? If so, which ones? Please indicate the source of support or independent resources.

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18. Has the public demanded additional services or reforms of your police force (e.g.: increased attention to equity, reallocation of resources, etc.)?

19. Please list these additional services and briefly explain the challenge this presents to your police force.

20. Does your police force engage in Community Policing strategies? For clarity, Community Policing is defined as policing strategies that proactively address conditions that give rise to public safety issues by engaging in partnerships with community members and problem-solving techniques.

21. (Optional) What other service-level concerns does your municipality have?

## Staffing Concerns

22. How has your police force utilized the Additional Officer Program?

23. When was the last time your staffing complement of armed officers and support staff increased? What positions were added?

24. Does your police force support or feature civilianization of certain positions? In what areas of policing do you find civilianization to be most feasible?

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25. What is your approved number of officer positions?

26. How many vacancies, on average, are there among your police force?

27. (Optional) What other staffing concerns does your municipality have?

28. (Optional) Please share any stories or anecdotes that you believe illustrate the state of policing in your municipality. Responses to this question will be kept confidential and NSFAM staff will ensure that responses quoted in reports are not attributable to a specific municipality or police force.

29. (Optional) Is there anything else that you would like to add about your police force and how your municipal policing model can be improved or better supported?