



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT: POLICING SERVICES

November 7, 2023

Better government. Stronger communities.

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- What We Heard Report Review
- Questions and Discussion



MODES OF ENGAGEMENT

- Staff research and outreach
- Direct engagement through an online meeting (July 12th)
- NSFAM Survey on Policing (43% response rate!)
- Direct engagement for Public Safety Canada's consultation on contract policing



WHAT WE HEARD REPORT REVIEW

- Costs are rising for all police forces
- Central support services are important, but not always timely
- Officer workload occasionally takes them away from their core duties
- Additional Officer Program is helpful and appreciated.
- Provincial appointee absent from many Advisory Boards/Police Boards
- Recruitment and Retention challenges/Vacancies and Overtime
- Community Policing is important
- Both new and regular policing services are under growing demand



SURVEY RESULTS BY THE NUMBERS

- Our survey received a **43% response rate** and a **representative sample** of different municipal types and policing models.
- Respondents indicate that their policing costs range between **6% to 23% of their annual budgets** (average 15%).
- **60% of respondents** representing Boards of Police Commissioners, and **37.5% of respondents** representing RCMP Advisory Boards report no provincial appointee.
- Respondents receiving contract policing services report that **vacant positions range from 10% to 50%** of their approved officer complement (average 26%).
- **100% of respondents** representing municipal police forces and **37.5% of respondents** representing municipalities receiving services from RCMP provide Community Policing



POLICING MODEL

- Municipal councils set budgets and priorities for municipal police forces. However, they do so without a formal cost-sharing partner. Municipal police forces have been able to collaborate with each other to increase their collective capacity.
- Municipalities receiving contract policing from the RCMP are limited in setting the priorities goals and objectives of their police force through their Advisory Board. There is a cost-sharing partner but limited financial transparency on cost breakdowns and cost drivers.
- Municipalities with their own police forces are able to provide much more information than municipalities receiving contract policing services.
- The RCMP has a liaison position to the Department of Justice (DoJ), and municipal police forces do not have this formalized channel of communication with DoJ.



MUNICIPAL TYPE

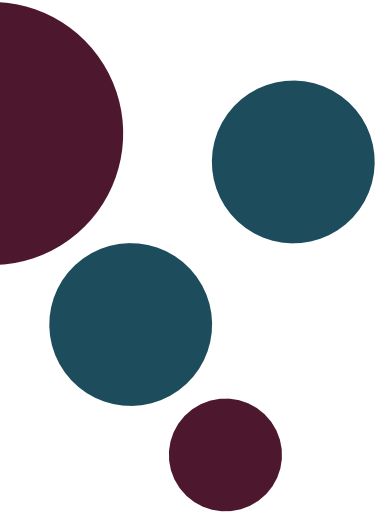
- Districts, counties, and regional municipalities are typically large, which requires the officers who are on shift at any given time to travel long distances to respond to calls.
- Towns have the advantage of being able to focus their officers in a concentrated geographic area but are service centres that attract visitors from the surrounding community and tourist community who do not help financing policing services provided in these towns.
- Efforts should be made to weigh service demands and officer time availability to determine optimum staffing levels that must be maintained (e.g.: General Duty Policing Resource Model).



CENTRAL SUPPORT SERVICES

- Our survey identified frequent utilization of certain central support services.
- All municipalities pay into Biological Casework Analysis, but not all get high quality or timely results/return on this investment.
- Localization of central support services is an asset.
- Identifying a sustainable way to provide these important services is vital, as discussion on cost recovery for municipal police forces and MPSAs has been developing since 2021.





QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



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