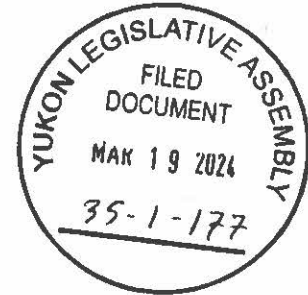




Minister's Office
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

March 5, 2024

Chief Superintendent Scott Sheppard
Commanding Officer, RCMP "M" Division
4100 4th Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1H5



Dear Chief Superintendent Sheppard,

Re: Yukon's Policing Priorities for 2024-25

I am writing to provide an update on the Yukon's 2024-25 policing priorities. As in previous years, communication and collaboration between the Department of Justice, the Yukon Police Council and community partners provide the foundation for the Yukon's policing priorities.

As you know, going forward, the policing priorities will be renewed every two years. Maintaining the 2023-24 list of priorities for the coming year will support consistency in police services and allow the Police Council to undertake additional public engagements to better inform the priorities for the coming years. As such, the policing priorities for 2024-25 will remain the same as the previous year.

The 2024-25 policing priorities are as follows.

Priority 1 – Strengthening relationships and increasing public trust.

Continued efforts to build trust and strengthen relationships that support Yukoners and communities more broadly.

The primary objectives of this priority include the following:

- Continuing to develop and invest in initiatives that support a trauma-informed and appropriate police response to sexualized assault, and gender and race-based crime.
- Initiating and participating in interagency meetings where applicable to support collaborative and community specific relationships.
- Ensuring continued access to timely mental health and other supports for RCMP members as a component of self-care.

- Strengthening relationships between RCMP and communities to cultivate a deeper understanding of the land, culture, existing relationships, and the priorities of each community.
- Responding to all crimes in all communities and conducting proactive outreach patrols in a manner that is seen and scheduled to meet the unique needs of Yukon communities.
- Working to increase meaningful communication regarding policing efforts to the public through available channels, including social media, which allows for transparency to build greater trust.
- Continuing to build trust and relationships with children and youth through positive, interactive engagements to prevent and/or deter gang involvement.
- Maintaining a positive presence within communities through ongoing participation in community gatherings and events.
- Taking accountability for mistakes, and where necessary repairing relationships with individuals and communities to demonstrate a police force responsive to the public's needs.

Priority 2 – Enhancing policing targeted at toxic illicit drugs and serious crime.

The ongoing substance use health emergency continues to negatively impact Yukoners and their loved ones. The toxic illicit drug supply and serious crimes that plague our communities require ongoing efforts by Yukon RCMP to ensure the safety of Yukoners. Maintaining collaborative efforts with partners, such as the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Unit (SCAN) and the Mobile Crisis Unit "Car 867", will support increased safety for Yukoners and is necessary to combat the illicit drug supply and reduce serious crimes.

The primary objectives of this priority include the following:

- Collaborating with partners and seeking solutions or assistance with resources to help as required.
- Improving and enhancing police response through continued deployment and support of dedicated resources used to address drug and gang-related crimes facing the community.
- Continuing to support the Yukon Opioid Action Plan and work with communities and partners such as Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services, hospitals, and the Mobile Response Unit "Car 867" as proactive responses to the opioid crisis.
- Continuing efforts to investigate the Yukon's most serious crimes, both current and historical.

Priority 3 – Policing with First Nations.

Although work with First Nations has been ongoing, attention, effort and collaborative work remain necessary to further strengthen relationships.

The primary objectives of this priority include the following:

- Participating in the development and implementation of community-specific training and orientation through collaborative efforts with First Nations leadership.
- Improving efforts to collaborate with First Nations on any new, existing, or future community safety initiatives to foster trust, and build and maintain relationships.
- Encouraging Yukon First Nations citizens to apply to the RCMP through the newly established RCMP-Indigenous Collaboration, Co-development, and Accountability (RICCA) office, which supports a mobile, community-based recruitment strategy. Continuing focus on the Indigenous Pre-Cadet Training Program and offering lateral training processes and opportunities alongside future initiatives to attract and retain First Nations members.
- Ensuring effective engagement with Yukon First Nations and other community leaders to identify and address their specific and unique needs relating to the consumption and sale of drugs and alcohol.

The Police Council has activities planned for the coming year which will include travel to Yukon communities as well as engagements with the business community and downtown residents of Whitehorse. The Police Council will identify where feedback received from Yukoners aligns with current policing priorities and where new issues that arise can be addressed through future recommended priorities.

Yukon's RCMP "M" Division has demonstrated exceptional progress in addressing the policing priorities from this past year, which continues to speak volumes to their capability and effectiveness in delivering services to Yukoners. I remain confident that the upcoming year will be the same, and that Yukon's RCMP will continue their efforts to support and protect Yukoners, while taking action guided by these priorities.

As always, I look forward to receiving progressive updates on the implementation of policing priorities throughout the year and thank you for your continued commitment to law enforcement and the safety and wellbeing of all Yukoners.

Yours truly,



Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Justice and Attorney General