

MASS CASUALTY COMMISSION COMMISSION DES PERTES MASSIVES

Mass Murder Commission Recommendations Part 3 of 4 monthly installments

Continued from page 10

**82. Recommendation P33
EXPERT WITNESS RETAINED BY THE
SERIOUS INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM**
The Commission recommends that:
The Serious Incident Response Team should adopt written protocols for the identification and retention of experts in its investigations. These protocols should reflect Canadian legal principles with respect to the reliability and independence of expert witnesses.

**83. Recommendation P34
SERIOUS INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM
RESOURCES**
The Commission recommends that:
The Province of Nova Scotia should undertake a review of the Serious Incident Response Team's budget and staffing complement to ensure it can fully exercise its investigative responsibilities and perform its public accountability function and maximize its contribution to enhanced confidence in policing in Nova Scotia.

**84. Recommendation P35
SERIOUS INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM
REPORTS**
The Commission recommends that:
(a) Section 9 of the SIRT Regulations should be amended to adopt the language set out in section 34 of the Ontario Special Investigations Unit Act. This amendment will ensure that the SIRT's public reports in instances where no charges are laid provide sufficient information to allow the public to understand why SIRT has reached its conclusion and to evaluate that outcome.
(b) Starting immediately, all SIRT reports in which criminal charges are not laid against the subject police officer should be drafted with sufficient detail and analytical transparency to allow the public to understand and evaluate the director's reasoning and conclusions.

**85. Recommendation P36
PRINCIPLES OF POLICING**
The Commission recommends that: All levels of government and Canadian police agencies adopt the following principles of policing, as framed by Dr. Ian Loader, "In Search of Civic Policing: Recasting the 'Peelian' Principles" (2016):

1. The basic mission of the police is to improve public safety and well-being by promoting measures to prevent crime, harm and disorder.
2. The police must undertake their basic mission with the approval of, and in collaboration with, the public and other agencies.
3. The police must seek to carry out their tasks in ways that contribute to social cohesion and solidarity.
4. The police must treat all those with whom they come into contact with fairness and respect.
5. The police must be answerable to law and democratically responsive to the people they serve.
6. The police must be organized to achieve the optimal balance between effectiveness, cost-efficiency, accountability and responsiveness.

7. All police work should be informed by the best available evidence.
8. Policing is undertaken by multiple providers, but it should remain a public good. These principles should govern how police do their work and how they are accountable for the work they do.

**86. Recommendation P37
TAKING RESPONSIBILITY**
The Commission recommends that:
(a) The RCMP adopt a policy of admitting its mistakes, accepting responsibility for them, and ensuring that accountability mechanisms are in place for addressing its errors. This policy should apply at every level of the institution.
(b) The demonstrated capacity to accept responsibility for one's errors should be a criterion for any promotion within the RCMP.

**87. Recommendation P38
MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS TO THE
RCMP COMMISSIONER**
The Commission recommends that:
(a) Federal Parliament should amend section 5(1) of the RCMP Act to provide: The Governor in Council may appoint an officer, to be known as the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to hold office during pleasure, who, subject to this Act and any written directions of the Minister, is responsible for the control and administration of the Force.
(b) The RCMP Act be further amended to include the following provisions:
(a) The Minister must cause a copy of any such written direction given to the Commissioner to be: (i) published in the Canada Gazette within eight days of the date of the direction; and (ii) laid before the Senate and the House of Commons within six sitting days of the direction if Parliament is then in session, or, if not, within six sitting days after the commencement of the next session of Parliament.
(b) No Ministerial direction may be given to the Commissioner in relation to the appointment, transfer, remuneration, discipline, or termination of a particular person.

**88. Recommendation P39
POLICIES GOVERNING THE ROLES
AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
RCMP AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC
SAFETY**
The Commission recommends that:
(a) The RCMP and the minister of public safety should adopt complementary written policies that set out their respective roles, responsibilities, and mutual expectations in police / government relations. These policies should adopt the principles and findings on police / government relations outlined in Chapter 10 of Volume 5, Policing, of this Report, including specific provisions on the following issues:
(i) police operational responsibilities;
(ii) government policy responsibilities;
(iii) policy of operations; and
(iv) information exchanges between the RCMP and the government.
(b) These policies should be posted on the RCMP and the Public Safety Canada websites.

**89. Recommendation P40
PROTECTING POLICE OPERATIONS**
The Commission recommends that: The RCMP should establish policies and procedures to protect incident commanders, investigators, and front-line members from exposure to direct government intervention or advice.

**90. Recommendation P41
ADVICE OF THE MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY BOARD**
The Commission recommends that:
(a) Federal Parliament should amend Section 45.18(3) of the RCMP Act to provide that: The management Advisory Board must provide the Minister with a copy or a summary of any advice, information, or report that it provides to the Commissioner, within eight days of providing that advice.
(b) Federal Parliament should add a new subsection, 45.18(4), to the RCMP Act to provide that: The Minister must cause a copy of any document provided by the Management Advisory Board pursuant to section 45.18(3) to be: (a) published on the website of Public Safety Canada; and (b) laid before the Senate and the House of Commons within six sitting days of the direction if Parliament is then in session, or, if not, within six sitting days after the commencement of the next session of Parliament.

**91. Recommendation P42
INTERNAL INVESTIGATION OF
PUBLIC COMPLAINTS**
The Commission recommends that:
(a) The RCMP allocate sufficient resources to the RCMP Professional Responsibility Unit to ensure that it has the capacity to conduct investigations into public complaints.
(b) The RCMP should not assign public complaints to the direct supervisor of a member who is the subject of a public complaint or to investigators within the same program as a subject member.

**92. Recommendation P43
CIVILIAN REVIEW AND COMPLAINTS
COMMISSION PROCESS**
The Commission recommends that:
(a) Federal Parliament amend the RCMP Act to specify: (i) timelines for the RCMP commissioner to conduct an initial investigation and attempt to resolve public complaints, and to respond to CRCC interim reports; and (ii) a requirement for the RCMP to publicly report annually on the implementation of CRCC recommendations.
(b) The federal minister for public safety issue a written direction to the commissioner of the RCMP to prioritize the timely investigation of public complaints at the initial stage of the CRCC process and to work to resolve these complaints where possible at the initial stage.

**93. Recommendation P44
CIVILIAN REVIEW AND COMPLAINTS
COMMISSION FUNDING AND POWERS**
The Commission recommends that:
(a) The Government of Canada ensure that the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission has sufficient stable funding to fulfill its mandate. In particular, in addition to reviewing public complaints, it must be able to conduct systemic investigations and public interest investigations as it deems necessary, and to explore alternative complaint resolution mechanisms, such as Indigenous legal approaches to dispute resolution.
(b) The minister for public safety issue a written direction to the RCMP commissioner that RCMP employees should support efforts by the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission to explore alternative complaint resolution mechanisms.

**94. Recommendation P45
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN
SENIOR RECRUITMENT**
The Commission recommends that:
(a) Provincial ministers and municipal chief administrative officers should discharge their responsibility under the Provincial Police Services Agreement and the Municipal Police Services Agreement to ensure that they and the community are consulted on the selection of detachment commanders.
(b) The RCMP should facilitate this consultation by ensuring that the provincial minister or the municipal chief officer (as applicable) receives timely notice of a pending change in detachment commander.

**95. Recommendation P46
IMPLEMENTING THE 2007 BROWN
TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**
The Commission recommends that:
The RCMP implement the following recommendations that were made by the Brown Task Force in 2007:

Recommendation 41 – Delegation of Decision Making with Respect to Contract Policing. The RCMP should examine and review its approval authorities to ensure that those closest to operational police activity have the requisite authority to make decisions in a timely manner.

Recommendation 42 – Contract Partner Participation Headquarters should give greater weight to the views and priorities of contracting authorities and should involve them in a more meaningful way in decisions that have an impact on their jurisdictions.

Recommendation 44 – Roles and Responsibilities of Headquarters The RCMP should develop a written mandate defining the roles and responsibilities of headquarters and its relationship with its divisions.

**96. Recommendation P47
ADDRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT
POSITION VACANCIES**
The Commission recommends that:
The RCMP should adopt a system that ensures that contracting provinces and territories receive the active service of the number of members for which they have contracted. The RCMP should ensure that temporary vacancies are filled to ensure that appropriate coverage is provided in contract jurisdictions.

**97. Recommendation P48
ENSURING ADEQUATE FIELD
SUPERVISION**
The Commission recommends that:
The RCMP should ensure that general duty members in rural areas have adequate field supervision and that trained supervisors are available to provide scene command when needed. In smaller districts or detachments, this supervision may be achieved through an on-call rotation for corporals and sergeants. Risk managers, who provide remote supervision, do not fulfill this requirement.

**98. Recommendation P49
A COMPREHENSIVE EXTERNAL
REVIEW OF THE RCMP**
The Commission recommends that:
The federal minister of public safety commission the in-depth, external, and independent review of the RCMP recommended by Mr. Bastarache in his 2020 report Broken Dreams, Broken Lives. In addition to examining the matters raised by Mr. Bastarache, this review should specifically examine the RCMP's approach to contract policing and work with contract partners, and also its approach to community relations.

**99. Recommendation P50
RESTRUCTURING THE RCMP**
The Commission recommends that:

After obtaining the external review recommended here, Public Safety Canada and the federal minister of public safety establish clear priorities for the RCMP, retaining the tasks that are suitable to a federal policing agency, and identifying what responsibilities are better reassigned to other agencies (including, potentially to new policing agencies). This may entail a reconfiguration of policing in Canada and a new approach to federal financial support for provincial and municipal policing services.

**100. Recommendation P51
REWRITE AND PUBLISH RCMP
POLICIES**
The Commission recommends that:
(a) The RCMP should adopt a systematic approach to policies, procedures, plans, and other guidance materials for its Contract and Indigenous Policing business line: (i) Existing policies should be rewritten to provide concise, evidence-based, meaningful guidance to RCMP members and employees about core functions. (ii) Policies and other guidance documents should reflect – and refer to – Canadian legal principles that guide the exercise of police powers. Gaps and duplication within policies should be eliminated. (iii) An institutional process of reviewing policies and guidance documents when training or institutional practice changes should become routine.
(b) The RCMP should post on its public website, as soon as feasible and on an ongoing basis, up-to-date copies of those policies and standard operating procedures that govern the interaction of police with the public, the manner in which policing services are provided to the public, and public communications.
(c) Where a policy or procedure or a portion of a policy or procedure is deemed confidential, the RCMP should post a public description of each exempted section and the reason why it has been deemed confidential.

Part 4 which will be published in the September 2023 issue will include recommendations 101 to 130.



Work continues on the Portapique Community Hall, which will be a lovely permanent location for the weekly Farm Market.

Yes it still hurts...

The Mass Murder Commission Final Report has been released with 130 recommendations. We are publishing all 130 recommendations in a four part series - June, July, August & September.

We want our publishing effort to provide a larger audience so people can save the pages, hold in their hands to read and study.

By understanding the recommendations, although we might not agree with them in their entirety, We can use as tool and yard stick to ensure recommendations are implemented.

We are here...

For the betterment of our/all people and communities along the shore.

We want to help develop and deliver "mental wellness.

We will follow your suggestion and pitch in to help where you deemed appropriate.

Should we develop a page or two each issue on "mental wellness"?

You call, we will respond to help.