



March 18, 2019

Honourable Kathleen Ganley
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
424 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Ganley:

On behalf of Alberta's urban municipalities, I am pleased to share the following information for the first phase of the Alberta Police Act review.

AUMA has identified the following key priorities for urban municipalities with respect to the Alberta Police Act:

1. The Police Act should specify a new, more equitable funding model for police services where all municipalities contribute directly to the costs of policing. The new funding model should consider both the demand for services in a municipality, as well as the municipality's ability to pay.
2. Alberta must have a mechanism to enable municipalities to assist in establishing local policing priorities and to hold police services accountable for local service delivery and reporting on performance and outcomes. This is particularly important for municipalities that receive policing services from the RCMP.
3. Albertans need to feel safe and protected in their communities. High RCMP vacancy rates and long response times have contributed to the perception that some communities are not safe. The Alberta Police Act should ensure that all Albertans have equitable access to police services, regardless of who provides this service.

In addition to identifying these key priorities, AUMA has also developed suggested principles for the Alberta Police Act as well as a new, more equitable police funding model (enclosed).

If you have any questions about this submission, or if you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me by email at president@auma.ca or my cell phone at (403) 363-9224.

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Thank you again for your willingness to review the Alberta Police Act. AUMA looks forward to continuing discussions on this important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Morishita', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barry Morishita
AUMA President

Enclosures

AUMA's Suggested Principles for the Alberta Police Act

AUMA believes that police services in Alberta should:

- Ensure the safety and security of all people and property in Alberta.
- Safeguard the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Alberta Human Rights Code.
- Work closely with the communities they serve.
- Respect victims of crime and work to understand their needs.
- Be sensitive to the diverse, multiracial, and multicultural character of Alberta society.
- Ensure police services are representative of the communities they serve.¹

The Alberta Police Act and its associated regulations, programs, and policies must enable police services to achieve these outcomes (be effective), and require police services to meet accepted rules and standards (be legitimate).

Effective

Policing is more likely to be effective if it collaborates with the public and other social service agencies; is independent and impartial; and is evidence-based and requires and provides relevant education of police officers and police employees.

Legitimate

Police methods and police oversight should be legitimate in that they are generally acceptable to the community and inspire public trust in police. Policing which is accountable, transparent, and equitable is more likely to inspire public trust and promote the public's cooperation with police.

The themes of effectiveness and legitimacy are therefore supported by the following key principles:

1. Collaborative
 - Police must work with community stakeholders to develop a culture and practice of policing that reflects the value of protecting and promoting the dignity of all members of the community.
 - Collaboration requires that police and community stakeholders work together by sharing responsibilities, resources, and decision-making.
 - The Police Act should enable collaboration across police services and between police and other public agencies and non-government organizations (social supports, health, etc.).

¹ Outcomes for police services in Alberta are based on the principles described in the Ontario Police Services Act and Sir Robert Peel's Nine Principles of Policing.

2. Independent

- Police must exercise a high degree of independence to ensure impartial policing, while remaining accountable to civilian authority.
- The Alberta Police Act must separate police from political interference while ensuring police accountability to civilian authority.

3. Educated

- Police must respect and to the best of their abilities abide by the standards of the profession, while at the same time seeking to improve them.
- The Alberta Police Act should promote the development and adoption of the highest standards in policing.
- Police should have access to and be required to participate in ongoing education delivered by subject matter experts in a curriculum designed for adult education.

4. Accountable and Transparent

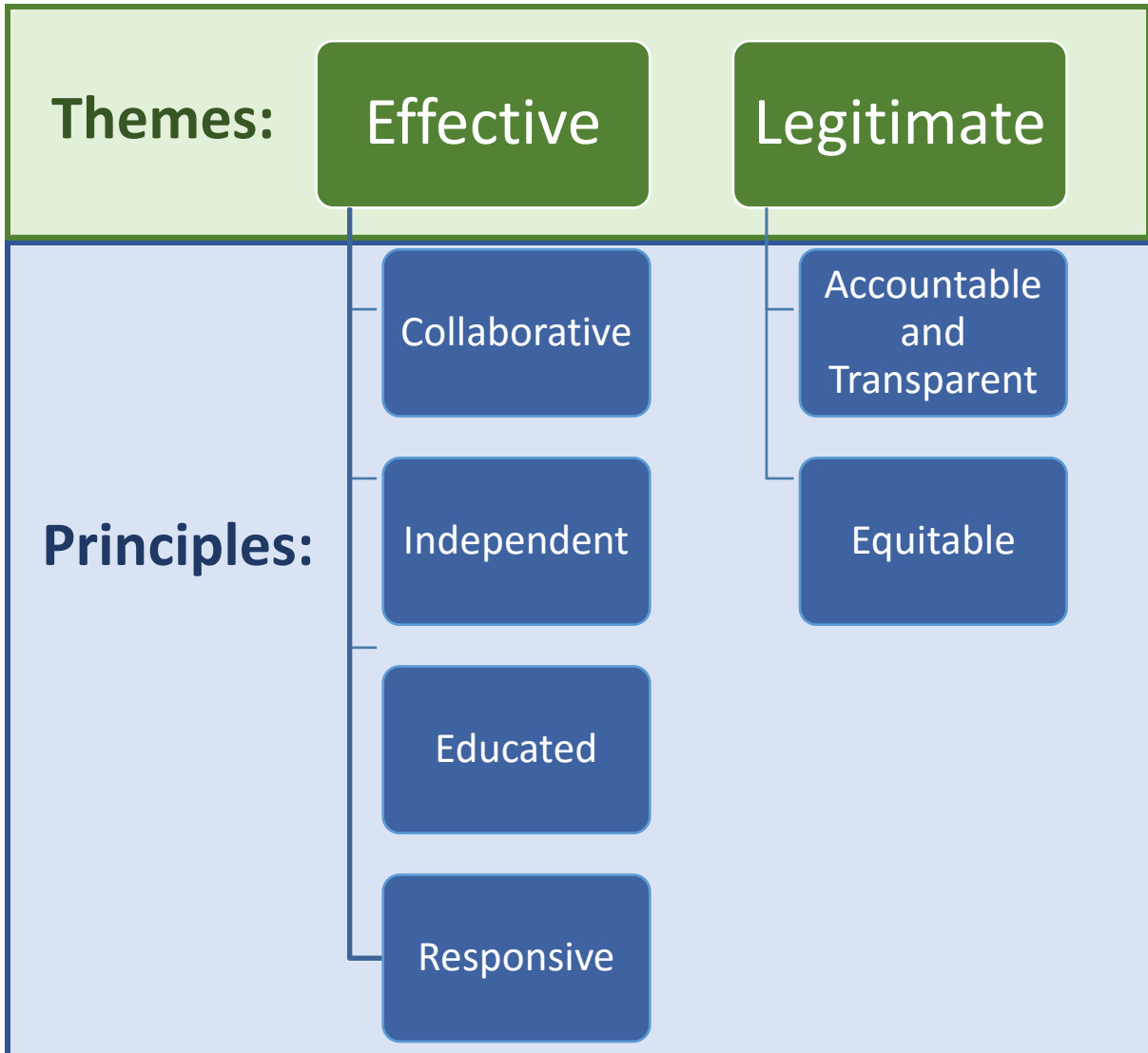
- Police must be accountable to their communities for the services they deliver, and individual officers must be accountable for how they interact with individual citizens.
- Alberta must have a mechanism to enable municipalities to assist in establishing local policing priorities and to hold police services accountable for local service delivery and reporting on performance and outcomes.
- Allegations of police misconduct must be fairly and effectively investigated or reviewed by an independent civilian authority in a timely manner.

5. Equitable

- All Albertans are entitled to receive police services.
- All Albertans should be treated equitably by police.
- All Albertans should contribute to the costs of policing.
- Police governance and oversight should be equitable and universal.

6. Responsive

- Police must be responsive to the needs of Albertans.
- Police must be responsive to changing legislative and social environments.
- Police should have the flexibility to adjust to regional differences.
- Policing must be appropriately resourced to fulfill its responsibilities.



AUMA's Suggested Principles for an Equitable Police Funding Model

1. A fair, flexible, and equitable model should be developed that:
 - Ensures the level of provincial funding is sufficient to meet standard levels of service.
 - Requires services beyond the standard level to be funded by the jurisdiction wanting the additional services.
 - Recognizes the unique needs of each municipality.
 - Recognizes the ability of a municipality to pay for services.
2. The model should encourage efficiencies by:
 - Using other mechanisms to address municipal capacity issues.
 - Encouraging regional policing models.
3. The transition to a new model should:
 - Ensure an adequate impact assessment analysis is completed.
 - Ensure that effective education and consultation mechanisms are available to Alberta's municipalities.
 - Allow for an adequate notice period.
4. Revenues created from the new model should be reinvested in public safety.
 - Ensure any revenue collected from an "everyone pays" model is returned to the municipalities that generated the revenue for the protection of public safety.
 - Ensure fine revenues stay in the municipalities in which they are generated.
5. Paying directly for policing should enable municipalities to participate meaningfully in police oversight, e.g. setting local policing priorities.