

**ASSEMBLY OF  
FIRST NATIONS**

**SPECIAL CHIEFS  
ASSEMBLY**



**ASSEMBLÉE DES  
PREMIÈRES NATIONS**

**ASSEMBLÉE  
EXTRAORDINAIRE  
DES CHEFS**

# **Policing and Public Safety**

**DECEMBER 4-6, 2018**



**DU 4 AU 6 DÉCEMBRE 2018**



## Federal Commitments

- In 2015, Ministerial mandate letters – instructions from the Prime Minister to advance a renewed Nation-to-Nation relationship based on the recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.
- The Prime Minister’s commitment to full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) Calls to Action and The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration).
- December 2016 Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) - Prime Minister commitment to undertake joint effort with Indigenous Peoples, aimed at decolonizing Canada’s laws and policies that for so long have held back, rather than recognized, Indigenous rights
- June 2017 – Assembly of First Nations (AFN)-Canada Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Joint Priorities – Commitment to meet and discuss joint priorities including work with First Nations jointly to decolonize and align federal laws and policies with UN Declaration and inherent and Treaty rights.



## Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Commitments

- MOU on Joint Priorities signed on June 12, 2017.
- The MOU establishes a permanent, ongoing Cabinet-level process for First Nations leadership and members of the federal Cabinet to review progress on jointly set priorities.
- A steering committee of senior officials was established to support the AFN-Canada Working Group.
- Annex A of the AFN-Canada MOU identifies the following joint priorities:
  - i. policing and community safety issues.

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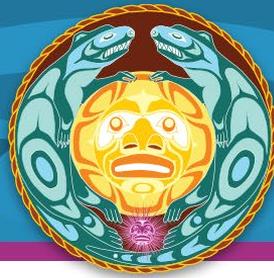
## MOU Process

- The MOU is a simple commitment to meet at least 3 times annually with one meeting including the Prime Minister.
- Meetings with Ministers are open to First Nations, and will be supported by regular communications to keep First Nations informed.
- The following Ministers are involved: Carolyn Bennett (Crown-Indigenous Relations), Jody Wilson-Raybould (Justice), Bill Morneau (Finance), Ralph Goodale (Public Safety), Jane Philpott (Indigenous Services), and Pablo Rodriguez (Canadian Heritage).



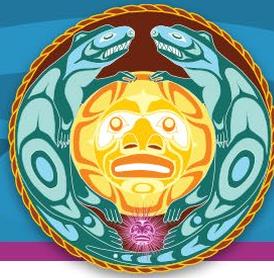
## Progress on Policing

- First Nations have called for a renewed Indigenous policing program and recognition that police services be declared an essential service.
- On September 8, 2016, Minister Goodale launched a national stakeholder engagement process on policing in Indigenous communities
- On January 10, 2018, the Minister of Public Safety announced the new renewal of the First Nations Policing Program, along with additional investments of \$291.2 million to begin flowing April, 2018.
- There were 185 police service agreements covering 1,299 negotiated police officer positions in over 450 First Nations and Inuit communities across Canada.



## Progress on Policing cont.

- Funding will provide 110 additional police officer positions, starting in 2019-2020.
- On November 15, 2018, Minister Goodale announced at the FPT Ministers of Justice and Public Safety meeting, in St. John's, that \$80 million will be provided for First Nations policing infrastructure.
- Further, Minister Goodale stated that he is open to discussions about transforming the First Nations Policing Program into a legislated essential service.



## First Nations Policing Program (FNPP) Issues

- The funding structure is inefficient, which has led to chronic underfunding of essentials for First Nations to operate a sufficient police service. Underfunding for infrastructure, salaries, equipment and training.
- Communication issues are prevalent in the operation of the FNPP. First Nations police services are not provided with timely information on public safety issues.
- This has created a “cookie-cutter” approach to funding formulas, which do not reflect the needs of First Nations police services.
- New legislation on cannabis deregulation has created further burdens on our police services that are expected to adhere to these laws.



## Public Safety – AFN Joint Work

- Public Safety Canada (PSC) and the AFN have taken initial steps to operationalized the MOU on joint priorities.
- As mandated by AFN Resolution 01/2017, *Four Corner Table Processes on Community Safety and Policing*, First Nations support the creation of a multilateral table involving all levels of government to address public safety issues and systemic barriers.
- A collaborative partnership between the AFN and PSC is focusing on:
  - scoping and defining “policing and community safety”,
  - identifying program and delivery gaps, and
  - highlighting best practices and challenges to advancing public safety in First Nations.

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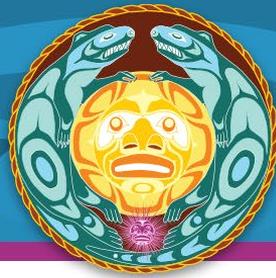


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## Public Safety (PSC) – AFN Joint Work cont.

- Gap Analysis Report – Policing and Community Safety - The AFN and PSC are working jointly on deliverables to support a gap-analysis on issues facing First Nations police services and research to outline funding needs.
- Work Plan for identified policing and community priorities.
- Protocol – AFN-PSC to enable technical staff to advance policing and community safety priorities.



## AFN Meeting on Public Safety and Policing

- Meeting held in Wendake, QC, on March 26 and 27, 2018.
- Issues:
  - Chronic underfunding of First Nations Policing Program and capacity.
  - Funding for Training and Programs.
- AFN Resolution 45/2017, *Federal Investments in First Nations Policing Services*:
  - First Nations Policing to be considered an “essential service”.

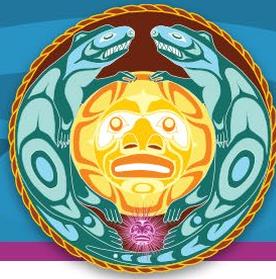


## Next Steps

- Meet with First Nations police agencies in 2019 to obtain information on priorities and existing gaps.
- Develop Gap Analysis Report on scoping and defining the AFN's priorities.
- Development of a Work Plan with PSC to achieve the identified policing priorities.
- Finalize protocol between PSC and the AFN to enable technical staff to advance the policing and community safety priorities, and any other mutually agreeable initiative.
- Continue to engage with the RCMP on developing a strategic response to the issues of racism and discrimination outlined in the AFN-RCMP Relationship Protocol.
- Continue to develop a strategic relationship with the new RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki.

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# Questions