

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL POLICING FORUM

Chaired by
Inspector Jim Potts, O.O.M.
RCMP and OPP, Retired



Courtesy of the Six Nations Police Service

October 27th & 28th, 2011 • Fairmont Château Laurier • Ottawa, ON

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THE CHAIR



Inspector Jim Potts, O.O.M., Inspector of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Retired, Ottawa, ON. Inspector Potts retired from policing in 2002, after 45 years of service. He has 24 years of operational experience, and served 12 years as liaison officer with the Mohawk Warriors. Inspector Potts is of Ojibway descent and a member of the Temiskaming First Nation. He was the first Status Indian to receive a Commission in the RCMP's 125 year history. He is the recipient of numerous awards. In 1996/7, Inspector Potts was Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Western Ontario. In 2005/6, at the request of the Commissioner of the Ipperwash Inquiry, Inspector Potts co-authored the paper "For the Nonce - Policing During Aboriginal Occupations and Protest." In 2002, he was appointed "Officer of the Order of Merit" for Police Forces by Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada. In September 2010, the Minister of National Defence appointed Inspector Potts, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel with the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group of the Canadian Armed Forces. Inspector Potts resides in the Ottawa area, has been married to his wife, Roberta, for 48 years, and is the proud father of their daughter, Kerry.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

When I began my policing career in 1958, I found very few fellow Aboriginal officers. I later learned that, at that time, most senior police managers in Canada held the opinion that Aboriginal people were not capable of doing police work. In fact, when I applied to the RCMP, the officer conducting enquiries on my application wrote, and I quote, "this applicant's father is an Indian, but he's a hard worker." To this day, I wonder what I would have chosen for a career had my father not been "a hard worker."

Today, over 2,000 of the 62,000 plus officers serving across Canada are Aboriginal. With this, there have arisen new challenges, particularly for the Aboriginal members themselves. Their stories are many, the following is but one:

During the fishing dispute at Burnt Church, New Brunswick, 2002, a young RCMP native officer (whom I'll refer to as Walter) originally from the North Shore

New Brunswick area, was assigned to assist. As he was related to many in the community, he soon found himself dealing with the stress of working with a foot in both worlds, Aboriginal and white.

Early one morning, during a shift change, numerous officers were milling about the small RCMP office preparing to go on and off duty. Walter entered the room and approached the native Elder, who was there to assist. Offering a cigarette, he said, "Could I ask you about something?" He paused, "Last evening while driving through a wooded area, I saw a bear standing in the ditch. It was looking straight at me. It watched as I passed and when I looked back it was still looking at me. I'm a member of the Bear Clan. I hardly slept last night thinking about that bear. What do you think that means?"

Knowing the question was sincere, the Elder thought for a moment and then said, "Remember, the spirit of

the bear is the spirit of justice. Perhaps his spirit was trying to say to yours, "Bring justice to this." The young officer seemed comforted by the Elder's reply.

Meanwhile, two other RCMP members standing nearby overheard the conversation, one spoke and said half-jokingly, "While driving to work the other day I saw two deer in the ditch, what does that mean?" The Elder smiled and said, "It means you can count."

Here was a young Aboriginal officer seeking spiritual guidance on an issue in a way that his workmates didn't understand. Many Aboriginal officers encounter situations like this on a regular basis but seldom talk about them.

The very purpose of this conference is to help enhance our understanding of these kind of situations. Come, add your voice, bring your stories, so we can

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL POLICING FORUM

Aboriginal policing has always been a complex area of serious challenges. However, many leaders who work in this field, share a feeling that Aboriginal policing in 2011 has now "come of age", that we are in the midst of important changes at the executive as well as the operational level, as inspiring individuals and unique approaches work to create significant, positive change in the face of extreme situations.

This forum gathers leading chiefs, officers, educators and government officials to focus on the core issues arising across the country in Aboriginal policing. You will come away not only with a comprehensive understanding of the major issues in the field of Aboriginal Policing today, but also inspired by current success stories, and equipped with practical solutions that work to break the cycle of violence and crime in First Nations communities.

YOU WILL LEARN:

1. Insights on Aboriginal Policing and Aboriginal Justice from the past 25 years
2. The most pressing issues in First Nations policing across the country in 2011
3. The latest update from Public Safety Canada on the First Nations Policing Program
4. What is happening in terms of standardization and oversight of First Nations policing
5. Everything you need to know about operational policing on Aboriginal reserves in Canada
6. How to plan for effective policing of areas that are rapidly changing
7. The biggest challenges and most successful approaches to policing remote, isolated and large-territory communities
8. The case studies and innovative programs that are best combating crime and violence today, including:
 - a. The best approaches and tactics for overcoming the key obstacles in a major drug investigations on reserve
 - b. The features of an effective Anti-Gang program
 - c. Innovative First Nation Training Programs from the Canadian Police College
 - d. What the Community Cadet Corps can do in your community and everything you need to know to get started now

THIS FORUM IS DESIGNED FOR:

- Aboriginal political leaders and elders
- Aboriginal police officials
- Officials from Federal, Provincial and municipal police organizations providing policing services to Aboriginal people
- Federal, Provincial and municipal government officials dealing with issues relating to Aboriginal policing and safety

THE FACULTY



Inspector Lennard Busch, Canadian Police College, Ottawa, ON. Inspector Busch has over 30 years experience in policing and has been an Inspector since 1999. Inspector Busch served as the Officer in Charge of the RCMP National Aboriginal Policing Services for three years. In 2006 Inspector Busch became the Director of the Professional Development Centre for Aboriginal Policing at the Canadian Police College. He is also on the faculty of the Police and Public Safety Institute at Algonquin College in Ottawa. Inspector Busch is of Sioux ancestry.



Chief Claude Chum, Chief of Police, Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, Thunder Bay, ON. Chief Chum is a proud member of the Moose Cree First Nation, and has been policing for over 21 years. He brings a wealth of knowledge of police operations and experience to the position, and is a strong supporter of community-oriented policing. At age 22, he entered the First Nation Constable Program offered by Northern College, and once graduated, he continued on to policing. He joined the Anishinabek Police Service in 1996 as a Constable with the Sagamok Detachment. Chief Chum became Chief of Police in January 2011.

Elder Peter Decontie, Sacred Fire Keeper, Algonquin Nation, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, ON. Elder Decontie has been very active in supporting Algonquin tradition, culture and Aboriginal rights. On behalf of the Algonquin Nation, he once, along with others, took a case all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada so that he could continue to pass on traditional knowledge to younger generations. When Quebec provincial law prevented him from being able to access traditional Algonquin territory, he resisted by arguing for Algonquin rights. He is also a strong supporter of carrying on Algonquin tradition and continually shares his teachings and prayers with others. He is a fluent speaker of his language and advocates for First Nations language rights, cultural revitalization and the protection of Mother Earth.

Mary Donaghy, Director General, Aboriginal Policing Directorate, Public Safety Canada, Ottawa, ON. Ms. Donaghy joined the government's executive cadre in 1998 as Executive Director of the Ontario Federal Council. She moved into the domain of Aboriginal issues in 1999 as Director, Aboriginal Business Canada within Industry Canada. Between 2000 and 2008, Ms. Donaghy occupied several positions of increasing seniority with Indian Affairs and Northern Development, before accepting an appointment as Director General, Aboriginal Policing, with Public Safety Canada.



Bob Fitches, Superintendent, Retired, R.J. Fitches Inc., Orillia, ON. Mr. Fitches retired from the Ontario Provincial Police in 1999 as a Superintendent. At the time of his retirement he was the OPP Adjudicator, presiding over Police Disciplinary Hearings for the OPP and many other municipal and regional police services in Ontario. Since 1999, Mr. Fitches has been heavily involved in First Nations Policing from a variety of perspectives, such as policy development, professional standards consultation, discipline and civilian oversight. Mr. Fitches possesses a wealth of knowledge relating to mainstream policing, First Nations Policing and the very important relationships among the police, their governance bodies and their communities.



R. Kyle Friesen, Lawyer, Department of Justice Canada, Vancouver, BC. Mr. Friesen is the lawyer assigned to the RCMP Pacific Region. He is responsible for legal advice to the Deputy Commissioner, and his officers and staff throughout British Columbia and Yukon. Since 1998, he has provided live legal advice on all operational and administrative policing matters, including Aboriginal policing. He was Legal Counsel to the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit for the Winter Olympics from 2003 to 2010. Mr. Friesen was posted from 1994 to 1998 with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of British Columbia. From 1986 to 1994, he held various posts in the national security sector in Ottawa. He holds a B.A. (Honours) from Carleton University (1981), an LL.B. from the University of Victoria (1984), and an M.A. from Royal Roads University (2002). He was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1985 and is a member of the Law Society of British Columbia. Mr. Friesen has published many articles on law enforcement and privacy matters in professional and academic journals, and he speaks frequently to public and law enforcement audiences on legal issues.



Chief Stan Grier, President, First Nations Chief of Police Association, Chief of Police, Tsuu T'ina Nation Police Service, Tsuu T'ina, AB. Chief Grier has been with the RCMP since 1979 and is currently the Chief of Police of the Tsuu T'ina Nation Police Service. He has broad front-line operational policing experience in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. During Chief Grier's extensive career in policing, he has been awarded numerous citations for his achievements and accomplishments in the field of policing. Chief Grier is a member of the Piikano Nation, part of the Blackfoot Confederacy.

Provincial Constable Jay Hutton, Wasaga Beach Detachment, Ontario Provincial Police, ON. Constable Hutton spent 13 years with the Rama Police Service. From 1998 to 2002, he was on general patrol. From 2002 to 2003, he was seconded to the OPP Intelligence Unit and the OPP Drug Enforcement Unit. From 2005 to 2010, Constable Hutton was seconded to the OPP Drug Enforcement Unit, writing criminal code and search warrants. During this secondment, he wrote over 70 search warrants and was the lead investigator for the largest seizure of crack cocaine in the history of the OPP. In 2008, Constable Hutton was included in the Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario Undercover program where he did buys for firearms and illicit drugs. He has also done cell jobs for murders and other criminal code offences.



The Honourable Justice Leonard S. Mandamin, Federal Court, Ottawa, ON. Justice Mandamin is an Anishnawbe member of the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, Ontario. He gained his LL.B. in 1982 and was called to the Alberta Bar in 1983. Justice Mandamin has represented First Nations, Aboriginal organizations and individuals, and appeared as counsel before the Alberta Queen's Bench and Provincial Courts, the Alberta Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. He was Faculty Coordinator for an Aboriginal Justice Seminars series conducted at the Banff School of Management and, as Adjunct Professor, lectured on Aboriginal legal issues at the University of Alberta School of Native Studies. He served as Chairperson of the Edmonton Police Commission and also President of the Canadian Native Friendship Centre in Edmonton. He was appointed a Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta in 1999 and presided in the Tsuu T'ina Court which involved a First Nation peacemaker justice initiative as well as the Siksika Court involving traditional Aboriginal mediation. He was appointed a Judge of the Federal Court and ex officio member of the Federal Court of Appeal, April 27, 2007.

Corporal Ron Stenger, Community Cadet Coordinator, Aboriginal Policing Services, RCMP F Division Head Quarters, Regina, SK. Corporal Stenger has served 14 years policing, of which nine have been in E Division Aboriginal communities. In 2010, he transferred from Depot Division Firearms Division as a Facilitator to APS. Corporal Stenger is also on the Department of National Defence Bold Eagle management board which provides basic military training to Aboriginal members incorporating one week of cultural training for recruits and instructors. He is also actively involved in the Wiclitowin Foundation which provides scholarships for Aboriginal members seeking careers in justice or policing. Corporal Stenger is of Maliseet ancestry.



Chief John Syrette, Chief of Police, Anishinabek Police Service, Garden River, ON. Chief Syrette began his policing career in 1987 at his home community of Garden River as one of a three member Indian Special Constable Office. He joined the OPP in 1990 and was posted to Thunder Bay detachment and then to OPP General Headquarters at the First Nations Policing Section. In 1996, he returned to operational policing with the Anishinabek Police Service and was later promoted to Staff Sergeant in charge of the APS Central Region. Chief Syrette later held the position of Director or Support Services, prior to being promoted to Police Chief in 2005.

Jacqui Wasacase, Director, Regina Anti-Gang Service, Regina, SK. Ms. Wasacase brings 22 years of human service experience which includes counselling, working on designing programs from the grass roots level and applying evidence based research from the experts, the people themselves who will utilize these programs. She realizes that in order to break through the various cycles that keep young men and women stuck in their lifestyles you have to hit it head on, and that the willingness of the program participants is key.



Dave Whitlow, Owner and Operator, Dave Whitlow & Associates, Coldwater, ON. Mr. Whitlow began his career in policing working for Six Nations Police as they became one of the first self-directed Aboriginal police services in Ontario. He then worked in three detachments for the Ontario Provincial Police in southern Ontario before becoming Rama First Nation's first-ever Police Chief in 2005 when they transitioned away from the OPP. He spent ten years developing the Rama Police Service into a respected, accountable First Nation police service. He is a life member of the Ontario and Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police and previously held the position of Director for First Nation Policing on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. He continues as a member of the First Nation Chiefs of Police Association.

AGENDA

Day Two • October 28th, 2011

8:30 Welcome and Introduction

Inspector Jim Potts, O.O.M.
RCMP and OPP, Retired

EFFECTIVE POLICING OF ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

8:35 Do You Know Your Authority to Enforce Criminal, Provincial and Band By-laws on First Nations Territory?

R. Kyle Friesen — *invited*
Department of Justice Canada

This session will cover all aspects of operational policing on Aboriginal reserves in Canada. You will learn about: The three B's - band council resolutions, by-laws and banishment, all as they relate to police assistance in evictions from reserve properties; provincial laws and their application on reserve lands, including the Highway Traffic Act and liquor laws; traffic by-laws and enforcement on reserve roads; civil disobedience and law enforcement; police consultations with bands and members of First Nations; and the prosecution of offences under Indian Act by-laws.

9:55 Questions and Discussion

10:05 Refreshment Adjournment

WHAT IS WORKING? CASE STUDIES AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

10:20 Prescription Drugs – A Community Problem: Approaches that Work and Preventative Models

Provincial Constable Jay Hutton
Ontario Provincial Police, Wasaga Beach Detachment

This session will look at the issue of prescription drugs – specifically, oxycontin – as a community-wide problem. You will learn all about major investigations on a First Nation community and the hurdles involved. You will hear which approaches are most effective in this area from the perspective of an officer who has worked tirelessly in this area for many years.

11:20 Questions and Discussion

11:30 Luncheon Adjournment

YOUTH SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

We are pleased to offer our successful sponsorship program for First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth to attend conferences offered by the Pacific Business & Law Institute. For further information about applying to attend this or other conferences please go to www.pbli.com/student.

1:00 The Community Cadet Corps: Why it is Working and What the Program Can Do in Your Area?

Corporal Ron Stenger
Community Cadet Corps Coordinator

This session will look at the very successful Community Cadet Corps program – including the widespread effects of the program. We will explain everything you need to know to start a Community Cadet Corps in your own community.

1:50 Questions and Discussion

2:00 Refreshment Adjournment

2:15 Innovative First Nation Training Programs in 2011

Inspector Lennard Busch
Canadian Police College

This session will discuss the latest innovative training for police officers delivering services to Aboriginal peoples and communities. You will have the opportunity to consider the programs that are most relevant to your current and future work.

3:00 Questions and Discussion

3:10 Native Gangs: Successes and Challenges of the Regina Anti-Gang Service

Jacqui Wasacase
Regina Anti Gang Service

This session will explain the challenges and features of the leading-edge gang intervention program, The Regina Anti-Gang Services (RAGS), a program funded through the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) Youth Gang Prevention Fund. You will learn the advantages of a tailor-made model that integrates philosophies on gang reduction as articulated by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) as well as the relevant social sciences literature on the subject. The Director of RAGS will explain the approach that has led to their successes, focusing on not only individual change but social context and outreach work with Provincial Court Judges, prosecutors, and public and private legal counsel as well as development of formal protocols with various police services.

4:30 Questions and Discussion

4:40 Closing Ceremony

4:50 Chair's Concluding Remarks

5:00 Conference Concludes

Information

Four Ways to Register:

1. Telephone us: 604-730-2500 or toll free 877-730-2555
2. Fax us: 604-730-5085 or toll free 866-730-5085
3. Mail your registration form with payment
4. Register at www.pbli.com/926

Registration: The registration fee is \$995.00 plus HST of \$119.40 totaling \$1,114.40 covering your attendance at the conference, written materials, a light breakfast and refreshments during the day.

When and Where: Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m. The conference starts at 8:30 a.m. The Fairmont Château Laurier is located at 1 Rideau Street, Ottawa, ON. For hotel room reservations, please contact the hotel directly at 866-540-4410.

Payment: You may pay by VISA, MasterCard or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to the Pacific Business & Law Institute. Registration fees must be paid prior to the conference.

Cancellations: Full refunds will be given for cancellations if notice is received in writing five full business days prior to the conference (October 20th, 2011). Unfortunately, after that time we are unable to refund registration fees, however substitutions will be permitted. We reserve the right to cancel, change or revise the date, faculty, content or venue of this event.

Materials: The faculty will prepare papers and other materials explaining many of the points raised during this conference. Please contact us if you are unable to attend the conference and wish to purchase a set of materials.

Your Privacy: We will keep all information that you provide to us in strict confidence, other than to prepare a delegate list containing your name, title, firm and city for our faculty and the conference delegates. We do not share our mailing lists with any non-affiliated organization.

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