

Civilian Review and  
Complaints Commission  
for the RCMP



Commission civile d'examen  
et de traitement des plaintes  
relatives à la GRC

# **Governance and Oversight in Nova Scotia Policing**

**NSFM 2025 Fall Conference**

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**November 5, 2025**



## RCMP OVERSIGHT

- RCMP is Canada's national police force – over 19,000 police officers Canada-wide. Responsible for federal policing, and for provincial and municipal policing in most provinces and many municipalities, and in all territories
- In Nova Scotia, RCMP is responsible for municipal policing in all but 10 municipalities. There are close to 1000 RCMP members stationed in Nova Scotia, and over 400 civilian members and employees.
- In 1988, Canada established the first RCMP Complaints Commission



# CIVILIAN REVIEW AND COMPLAINTS COMMISSION FOR THE RCMP

- The CRCC is
  - **Civilian:** led by a civilian Chairperson appointed by the Governor-in-Council. Chairperson and members cannot be a former or current RCMP member
  - **Independent:** reports to Canadian Parliament and provinces



## CRCC MANDATE

- The CRCC **receives complaints from the public** about the conduct of RCMP members
  - Any person can complain
- Complaints are sent to the RCMP for first instance investigation
- The CRCC **reviews** RCMP decisions about complaints
  - Individuals can request a review by the CRCC
  - CRCC conducts a fully independent review of the complaint
  - CRCC can order or conduct further investigation if information is not sufficient



## PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

- Complaints can be made to
  - Any RCMP member
  - The Nova Scotia Police Complaints Commissioner
  - Directly to the CRCC
- About any issue related to the conduct of RCMP members
- Complaints can be made by **third parties**
  - The Commission obtains consent from the individuals involved
  - Complaint can be refused where no consent is obtained



## SYSTEMIC AND SERIOUS ISSUES

- Chairperson-Initiated Complaint

- To address serious issues in the absence of a complaint or define the scope of the investigation
- CRCC will conduct a review in all cases

- Public Interest Investigation or Hearing

- The Commission to investigate the complaint
- Full powers to compel the testimony of witnesses and the production of documents



## SYSTEMIC AND SERIOUS ISSUES (continued)

### •Specified Activity Reviews

- Reviews of issues of concern, including reviewing policies and procedures
- Can be requested by the Minister of Public Safety or the provincial minister responsible for policing, or conducted at the CRCC's own initiative
- Does not include a review of individual RCMP member conduct

### •Complaints about **level of service**

- Expressly permitted under new legislation for the Commission
- Staffing levels, coverage, response times, etc.



## OVERSIGHT MODEL

- Oversight model based on **public accountability**
- Where the CRCC is not satisfied with the RCMP handling of the complaint, it sends an **interim report** with findings and recommendations
  - Report sent to the RCMP and the Minister of Public Safety
  - RCMP Commissioner has a legal obligation to respond to CRCC findings and recommendations – CRCC then prepares a **final report**
  - The final report is also sent to the provincial minister responsible for policing in the province where the incident occurred
  - A summary or the full report (in public interest cases) is published
- Where the CRCC is satisfied with the RCMP handling of the complaint, a **satisfied report** is sent to the parties, explaining the Commission's decision and reasons.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Training and operational guidance for RCMP members
- Apologies to complainants, specific remedies in rare cases
- Systemic changes
  - Policies and procedures (for ex. for mental health apprehensions, treatment of prisoners, conduct of specific types of investigations)
  - Equipment and facilities
  - Training and supervision
- Discipline
  - Can be recommended, but internal RCMP process must be followed
- CRCC does not interfere with ongoing criminal processes or lay or recommend charges



## Contact

[www.crc-cetp.gc.ca](http://www.crc-cetp.gc.ca)

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