

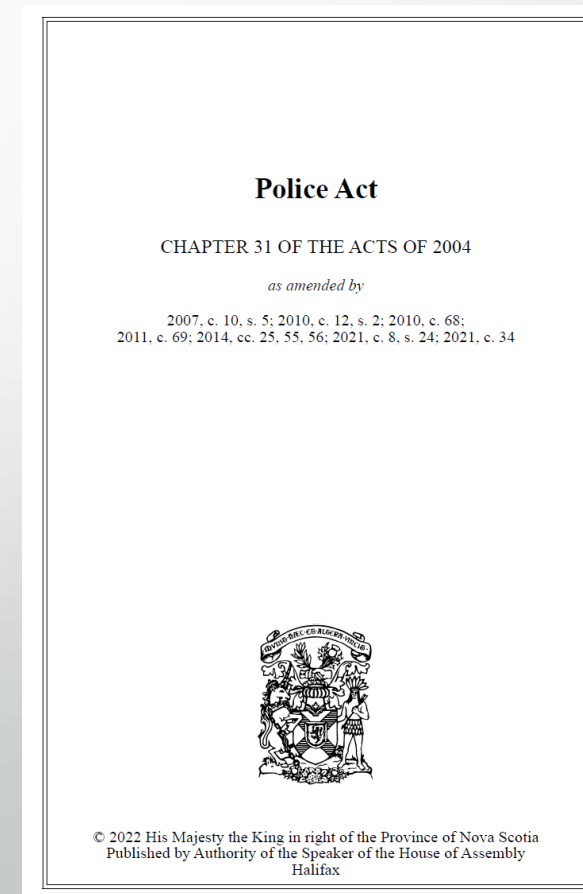


Police Governance at the Grass Roots Level

Local Focus, Lasting Impact

The Kinda Boring Stuff First

- The Police Act establishes Police Boards and their composition



Police Advisory Boards and Boards of Police Commissioners

- **RCMP**

- Contracted by the Province via DOJ
- Regional municipalities contribute to cost
- Regional split of costs, depending on the contract
- By virtue of size, can provide many varied services

- **Municipal Police Services**

- Ten municipalities
- Cost borne largely by the town or region
- May need MOU for outsourced serviced

What do Police Advisory Boards Do

(Section 57)

The function of an advisory board is to provide advice to the council in relation to the enforcement of law, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime in the municipality, but the advisory board shall not exercise jurisdiction relating to complaints, discipline, personnel conduct or the internal management of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Who does the local Commanding Officer/OIC report to?





What do Boards of Police Commissioners Do

(Section 55)

The function of a board is to provide

- (a) civilian governance on behalf of the council in relation to the enforcement of law, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime in the municipality; and
- (b) the administrative direction, organization and policy required to maintain an adequate, effective and efficient police department,



Who does the Chief of Police report to?

Governance?

- If you're a councillor, mayor, CAO, town staff, you already deal with governance
- Police Boards are similar, but limited to policing
- High level administrative direction, organization and policy for
- Adequate, effective and efficient policing
- But not at the operational level

The more interesting stuff: What areas to provide governance on at the local level?

- Policies – ensure they exist; get them published on the police website
 - Off-duty and Extra duty policies—**required** by the Police Act
 - Police already have oodles of policies...ask about them
- Local issues !!
- Public Engagement
- Talk with your Chief or Officer In Charge (OIC) at Board meeting

What local issues? 2 examples

- Homelessness+
 - Substance abuse, little/no income, mental health, retail theft...and more
 - These are basically SOCIAL ILLS
 - Police deal with these issues repeatedly
- Hiring and Retention of Officers
 - Officers are in great demand across the country.
 - Expenses of hiring, outfitting, ongoing training are
 - Poaching?

What can your Board do?

- Talk with your Chief, and LISTEN!
- Community engagement: Board meetings, coffee with a cop, public meetings—LISTEN!
 - Board can take recommendations to council and to support police
 - Find out what other communities are doing (NSFM, NSAPG)
- Health and Wellness
 - Officers are in one of the most stressful jobs in the country
 - Support and promote health and wellness measures (high level direction)
 - Recognize the job your local law enforcement is doing

The Future....

- The NS DOJ has introduced 6 Foundational Changes, plus Policing Standards
 - These are positive changes that will help move NS Law Enforcement into the 21st century
 - But....the devil will be in the details
 - Boards: do your homework and find out about the changes!
 - ASK QUESTIONS of the DOJ, your council, your Chief or OIC, NSAPG and at board meetings



For more info or help with advocacy

- The NS Association of Police Boards (NSAPG)
- president@nspoliceboards.ca