

# NSFM Membership Survey: Policing

This survey is meant to deepen NSFM's understanding of membership concerns with policing services and assist in the analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the different policing models found in Nova Scotia.

Individual responses will be kept confidential and reviewed internally. Reports on the results and findings of this survey will not attribute particular responses to any municipality or police force.

NSFM is looking for one (1) response per municipality. Responding Mayors, Wardens, or CAOs, may wish to respond in collaboration with elected officials on your Police Commission or Advisory Board, the Commanding Officer of your police force, and perhaps council as a whole.

After gathering respondent information, this survey includes 13-17 required questions, and 6 optional questions. These questions (with the exception of Question #17) are meant to be apply to all policing models (i.e.: RCMP policing service and local police forces) and are categorized as cost concerns, governance concerns, service-levels concerns, and staffing concerns.

If you are unable to answer any of the following questions on the timeline provided, simply state "Unknown" or "Requires Additional Time".

**We request that responses be submitted by June 20, 2023.**

1. Name of Responding Municipality – Municipality of the County of Annapolis
2. Who was involved in responding to this survey?  
Municipal Council

## Cost-Related Concerns

3. 2023/24 – total cost of policing service
  - ii. PPSAs - RCMP - \$3,004,248
4. What expenses, other than regular salary, are causing notable budgetary pressure? (e.g.: forensic laboratory services, technology upgrades, training, overtime, mandatory municipal contributions to corrections, fuel, etc.) If you council does not have insight on specific cost drivers, please state "Unknown".
  - a. Unknown – never provided such breakdown of information
5. (Optional) What other cost concerns does your municipality have?
  - a. No input into financial discussions that take place concerning what we pay
  - b. Very rarely do we have present approved number of RCMP officers available for whom we pay (currently 15 members)
  - c. Communication is lacking

## **Governance-Related Concerns**

6. How would you describe the state of your Board of Policy Commissioners/Advisory Board (i.e.: are all positions filled, are meetings regularly occurring, are these meetings productive and responsible to issue that your municipal council is concerned about?
  - a. The Provincial appointed member is missing
  - b. Meetings are being held regularly
  - c. Meetings are productive – RCMP present are able to answer questions by members
7. Does your council or Board of Police Commissioners/Advisory Board experience difficulties obtaining requested information on your police force?
  - a. Depending on subject, response may vary
8. What sort of information have you had difficulty obtaining ( e.g.: vacancies, budgetary information, etc.?)
  - a. Both vacancies and budgetary information is difficult to obtain
9. (Optional) What other governance-related concerns does your municipality have?
  - a. Concern that RCMP members can be seconded or re-deployed elsewhere without a discussion with our Council

## **Service-Level Concerns**

Using the checklist below, please indicate which central support or specialized services provided by the RCMP your police department utilized over the last five years.

These services are organized under the headings of Operational Communications and Emergency Operational Coordination, Tactical and Specialized Operations, Investigative Service Units, and Other Support Services.

### **Operational Communications and Emergency Operational Coordination**

✓ Provincial Ground Search and Rescue

### **Tactical and Specialized Operations**

✓ Police Service Dogs

✓ Emergency Response Team

✓ Underwater Recovery Team

**Investigative Service Units** – We are not aware of any support in this category

### **Other Support Services**

✓ Collision analysis

✓ Traffic Services

✓ Community Policing Services

## 14. Other?

Investigate hate crimes

15. Has your police force experienced slow responses or additional costs when accessing central support services over the last five years?

Citizens have indicated they have experienced slow or nil responses over the past 5 years.

16. In which cases of central support or specialized services has this occurred?

Unknown

## 17. For Municipal Police Forces:

Not applicable.

18. Has the public demanded additional services or reforms of your police force (e.g.: increased attention to equity, reallocation of resources, etc.)?

Yes

19. Please list these additional services and briefly explain the challenge this presents to your police force.

Speeding enforcement

Thefts

Break-ins

Hate crimes

Drugs

20. Does our police force engage in Community Policing strategies? For clarity, Community Policing is defined as policing strategies that proactively address conditions that give rise to public safety issues by engaging in partnerships with community members and problem-solving techniques.

1 - We have a Community Program Officer position that represents RCMP on a variety of community groups: Neighbourhood Watch, School Advisory Committees, Family Matters Board, Health Promoting Schools Committee, Schools Plus, Annapolis County Youth Hub, madd, WITS/LEADS program and other youth and youth-at-risk programs.

2 - We also have a Seniors Safety Officer that promotes the safety, security and well-being of seniors **through programs, support, information and advocacy**

21. (Optional) What other service-level concerns does your municipality have?

1 – Large geographic area to cover

2 – Dealing with mental health issues / transporting and supporting residents at health facility until the resident are handed over for assessment

3 – Death attendance – time required for member to stay on site

## **Staffing Concerns**

22. How has your police force utilized the Additional Officer Program?

Unknown

23. When was the last time your staffing complement of armed officers and support staff increased? What positions were added?

2015 – took on additional officer assigned to Bridgetown after dissolution

24. Does your police force support or feature civilianization of certain positions? In what areas of policing do you find civilianization to be most feasible?

Unknown

25. What is your approved number of officer positions? 15

26. How many vacancies, on average, are there among your police force?

Although not always informed, we expect that number to be 3.

27. (Optional) What other staffing concerns does your municipality have?

1 – Transferred member leaves before replacement arrives which sometimes is many months.

2 – Secondment without input

3 – Overtime – concern about our members' mental health due to working overtime to keep up with the vacancies, bringing in members from other detachments, and if there are any financial impacts to the County for the overtime.

28. (Optional) Please share any stories or anecdotes that you believe illustrate the state of policing in your municipality. Responses to this question will be kept confidential and MSFM staff will ensure that responses quoted in reports are not attributable to a specific municipality or police force.

None to share

29. (Optional) Is there anything else that you would like to add about your police force and how your municipal policing model can be improved or better supported?

1 - Explore other options for policing

2 – Training required to members relative to the area they have been transferred to help them become invested in the area.