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# User Report

## INVENTORY OF ABORIGINAL POLICING PROGRAMS IN CANADA

### PART VI: TAKING ACTION AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE

NO. 1992-17

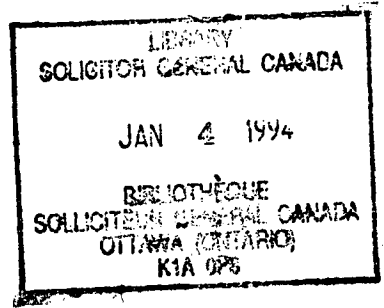
## Aboriginal Policing Series

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Julie Jarvis

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**INVENTORY OF ABORIGINAL  
POLICING PROGRAMS IN CANADA**

**PART VI: TAKING ACTION AGAINST  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**NO. 1992-17**

The views expressed in this working paper are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada. It is made available as submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada. The English version was reviewed and formatted by Tessier Translations Corporation.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES</b> .....	i
<b>PART VI: TAKING ACTION AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE</b> .....	1
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
<b>2. SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION/AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS</b> .....	3
<b>2.1 Drug Awareness Program         RCMP Quadra Island Detachment         Quathiaski Cove, British Columbia</b> .....	3
<b>2.2 Drug and Alcohol Program         RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment         Prince Rupert, British Columbia</b> .....	5
<b>2.3 Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program         RCMP Vernon Detachment         Vernon, British Columbia</b> .....	8
<b>2.4 Impaired Driving Program         RCMP La Loche Detachment         La Loche, Saskatchewan</b> .....	11
<b>2.5 Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program         RCMP Punnichy Detachment         Punnichy, Saskatchewan</b> .....	13
<b>2.6 Solvent Abuse Prevention Project         First Nations Northern Policing Section         O.P.P. Kenora Sub-Division         Kenora, Ontario</b> .....	15
<b>2.7 Alcohol and Drug Awareness and Suicide Prevention Workshops         RCMP Stewiacke Detachment         Stewiacke, Nova Scotia</b> .....	18
<b>3. ADDITIONAL RESPONSES</b> .....	21

## INVENTORY OF ABORIGINAL POLICING PROGRAMS IN CANADA

### INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

#### A. Background to the Survey

As part of an ongoing effort to improve policing policies and programs for Aboriginal communities in Canada, the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada surveyed selected federal, provincial and municipal police services in early 1991 to solicit information on their current Aboriginal peoples policing policies and programs. The objective of the survey was to compile and publish an overview of police initiatives targeted at Aboriginal peoples to serve as a resource document for police officials wanting to develop or expand special initiatives. In order to make the results more accessible and readable, the survey has been published as a series of seven reports.

#### B. Survey Methodology

The survey targeted 430 police services responsible for providing services to Aboriginal communities or to communities with a significant Aboriginal population. The majority of participants were police services providing front-line policing for local communities (including municipal and First Nations forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) detachments). Other participants included units at the divisional and Headquarters level of the O.P.P., Sûreté du Québec and the RCMP.

The survey questionnaires requested information on specific initiatives, including:

- Training and Development Programs for Aboriginal police officers;
- Cultural Awareness Training Programs for non-Aboriginal police officers; and
- Special Programs for Aboriginal communities (i.e., crime prevention, victims assistance, drug and alcohol abuse, family violence, child sexual abuse, youth and others).

The participants completed individual questionnaires for each program and initiative identified.<sup>1</sup>

#### C. Response

Through this survey, 203 respondents identified close to 460 individual initiatives.

Many detachments made reference to the same provincial, divisional or national initiatives. Duplicated references of programs are included in the total number of initiatives identified.

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1. In some cases, respondents used one survey questionnaire to describe several programs. Wherever possible, these initiatives have been divided and categorized as separate initiatives.

#### **D. Interpretation of the Findings**

A key feature of the survey questionnaire was that it left the definition of what constitutes a "police-based" Aboriginal policing initiative to the discretion of respondents. As a result, this concept was widely interpreted. All divisional, provincial and national police participants identified strictly police-based or operated initiatives, whereas front-line police respondents tended to rely on a broad interpretation of Aboriginal policing, including many examples of inter-agency and police-community partnerships. The overall response included the following types of initiatives:

- general or specific references to nation- or province/division-wide initiatives;
- local- or detachment-level implementation of national or provincial Aboriginal policing initiatives;
- local- or detachment-level implementation of other national or provincial policing initiatives in Aboriginal communities (with or without modifications for Aboriginal communities);
- initiatives developed by police on an individual basis to meet the unique requirements of local communities (including those developed in cooperation with other local agencies and/or community members); and
- information on police involvement in, and contributions to, initiatives initiated by other agencies/organizations or by the community.

#### **E. Highlighted Initiatives**

In undertaking the survey, it was found that many programs had shared characteristics. To avoid considerable duplication of descriptions, we selected as highlighted initiatives the 100 most comprehensive program descriptions. These form the major part of the seven reports. In addition, at the end of each report similar initiatives were referenced by providing a contact person. Therefore, those seeking information on a particular initiative could refer to those initiatives highlighted and those found in the additional responses section at the end of each report.

#### **F. Organization of the Reports**

The information obtained through the survey has been compiled into a seven-part inventory and published as a series of reports:

- I. Aboriginal Police Officer Development and Policing
- II. Aboriginal Cultural Awareness
- III. Increasing Access to Policing Services
- IV. Police-Community Communication and Liaison
- V. Focus on Youth
- VI. Taking Action Against Substance Abuse
- VII. Meeting the Needs of Victims and Offenders

### **Additional Information Gathering**

To supplement and clarify the information provided through questionnaires, the author held follow-up consultations with more than 100 police services. In addition, and to the extent possible, the national and provincial policing initiatives directing local program development have been identified.

The highlighted initiatives represent a cross-section and an overview of Aboriginal policing as it is currently being implemented in communities across Canada.

The information for each highlighted initiative has been organized to emphasize the following types of information:

### **Police and Community Profile**

This section contains the following information:

- jurisdiction of police service;
- number and size (population) of Aboriginal communities within the jurisdiction;
- location and accessibility of Aboriginal communities within the jurisdiction;
- number of police officers providing service; and
- number of Aboriginal police officers providing service.

The information for these profiles was provided by the respondents. In cases where police services could not provide the information, an effort was made to supplement the profile with information based on 1986 census data. In the cases of the RCMP Divisions, the information was taken from data provided by the RCMP.

### **History and Development**

Wherever possible, this section provides the following information on each initiative:

- who is responsible for initiating the program or policy;
- the date (month and/or year) of implementation;
- the purpose and objective(s) of the program or policy;
- the target group or focus of the program or policy; and
- pertinent background information on the program, policy or process of implementation.

In particular, this section highlights the contributions of police services.



### **Aboriginal Community Input**

This section outlines the following:

- any consultation process with Aboriginal community members prior to program implementation; and
- mechanisms to facilitate Aboriginal community input on an ongoing basis.

### **Participants and Target Groups**

This section specifies the individuals and organizations involved in the development and implementation of the program and the groups for whom the policy or program was developed.

### **Design and Delivery**

Where possible, this section provides the following information:

- individuals and/or organizations responsible for program design;
- individuals and/or organizations responsible for program implementation;
- description of policy or program content; and
- description of policy or program implementation and operation.

### **Funding**

Where possible, this section provides the following information:

- the total budget or cost of the program;
- the sponsor(s) (i.e., funding bodies);
- contributions in kind; and
- status of funding.

### **Outcomes and Evaluations**

This section contains the following information, where available:

- respondents' comments regarding police and/or community response to the initiative;
- specific related developments which have emerged as a result of the policy or program;
- specific accomplishments related to the initiative;
- the status of policy or program development or implementation; and
- the status of program or policy evaluation, both formal and informal.

### **Contact**

Individuals responsible for either completing and returning survey questionnaires and/or providing additional information have been identified in this section. If the respondent was not identified, the contact is shown as the Chief of Police or Detachment Commander. These individuals are not responsible, however, for the final content of the reports.

If a respondent identified a program offered by other police departments or outside agencies involved in the program, these police departments and/or agencies were, where necessary, contacted for supplemental information. They are also included as contacts in the descriptions.

### **Additional Responses**

Each report in the series includes in addition to the highlighted programs a section called Additional Responses. This section groups initiatives similar to those highlighted that were identified by survey respondents but not highlighted in the report.

## **PART VI: TAKING ACTION AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

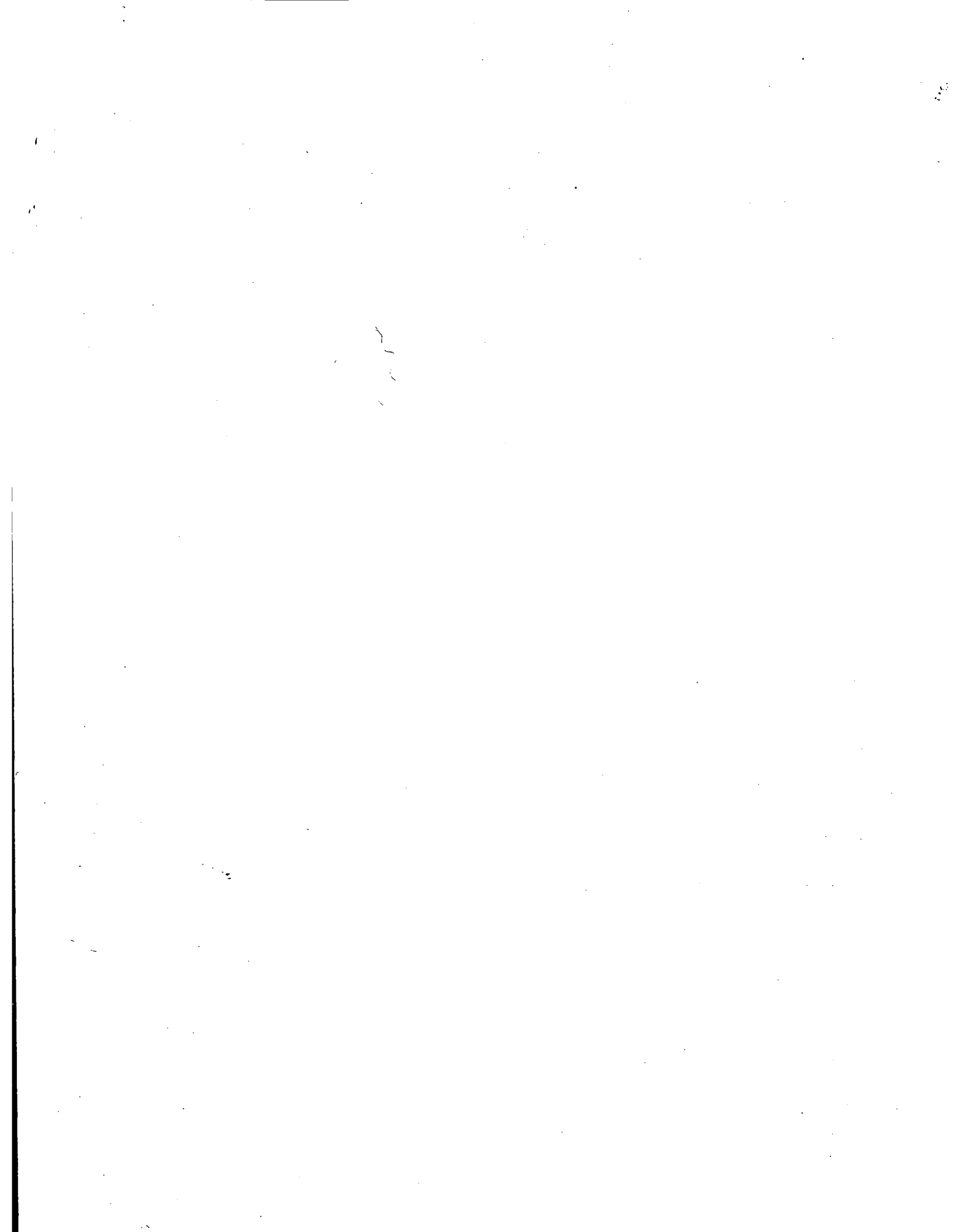
This is the sixth in a series of seven reports on Aboriginal Policing Programs in Canada. This report highlights police involvement in the development and delivery of alcohol, drug and solvent abuse awareness and education programs in Aboriginal communities. The programs highlighted in this section all deal with Substance Abuse Education/Awareness and Prevention Programs.

#### **Substance Abuse Education/Awareness and Prevention Programs**

The following types of substance abuse education and prevention initiatives are highlighted:

- police services presentations for young people and adults held in schools and other community venues;
- police services presentations as components of community-based substance abuse treatment or rehabilitation programs; and
- coordinated comprehensive police-community substance abuse initiatives.

The initiatives highlighted in this section also illustrate examples of police-community cooperation to identify and address substance abuse problems and police services efforts to provide communities with access to resource information.



## **2. SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION/AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

### **2.1 Drug Awareness Program RCMP Quadra Island Detachment Quathiaski Cove, British Columbia**

#### **Police and Community Profile**

RCMP Quadra Island Detachment provides policing services for three islands: Quadra Island (estimated population: 4,000); Cortez Island (estimated population: 1,000); and Reed Island (estimated population: 100). There are two First Nations within the Detachment area. Cape Mudge First Nation (Kwakiutl Band) is located on Quadra Island and has a fluctuating population of 500 to 750. Squirrel Cove First Nation (Klahoose Band) is located on Cortez Island and has a population of about 85. Members of the Detachment make weekly visits to Cortez Island and the Squirrel Cove First Nation, a trip of approximately 45 minutes by boat from the Detachment.

Three police officers staff RCMP Quadra Island Detachment.

#### **History and Development**

In November 1989, the Squirrel Cove First Nation Council asked RCMP Quadra Island Detachment to assist the community in addressing the problem of substance abuse.

In response, RCMP Quadra Island Detachment took the first step in a cooperative program and approached the Squirrel Cove Drug and Alcohol Counsellor about developing a community presentation. In addition, the Detachment began making resource materials on substance abuse available to the First Nation Council.

Since that time, RCMP Quadra Island Detachment has continued to work with the First Nation Council to deal with the problem of substance abuse in a variety of ways (as outlined below).

#### **Aboriginal Community Input**

The Squirrel Cove First Nation Council identified the need for this initiative. The Council works closely with RCMP Quadra Island Detachment to identify problems and develop solutions.

#### **Participants**

All members of the Squirrel Cove First Nation may participate in the activities of this program, although there is an emphasis on the involvement of young people and their parents.

### **Design and Delivery**

Mechanisms for cooperation in the Drug Awareness Program include the following:

- the First Nation has established an open door policy (community members with substance abuse problems and RCMP personnel acting in an advisory capacity are invited to attend Council meetings to discuss problems);
- RCMP personnel work with the Council to offer community presentations, distribute literature and show videos on substance abuse;
- the Detachment notifies the Council about any material request received and relevant resource material available through the Detachment; and
- Detachment personnel make a point of patrolling the Squirrel Cove First Nation on a regular basis in order to maintain contact and encourage the rapport that has been established.

### **Funding**

There are no special costs associated with this program. Videos and other resource materials are provided by the Detachment library or obtained through other agencies.

### **Outcomes and Evaluations**

Positive results of the Drug Awareness Program include the following:

- several members of the community have sought treatment for alcohol abuse;
- community projects have been developed to address community concerns;
- a good relationship has developed between the RCMP Detachment and the Squirrel Cove First Nation; and
- there is ongoing sharing of information on drug awareness.

### **Contact**

Constable Paul Desbiens, Corporal Randall Munro  
RCMP Quadra Island Detachment  
Box 399  
Quathiaski Cove, British Columbia  
V0P 1N0  
Tel: (604) 285-3631

## **2.2 Drug and Alcohol Program RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment Prince Rupert, British Columbia**

### **Police and Community Profile**

RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment provides policing services for the city of Prince Rupert (estimated population: 16,000), as well as five Aboriginal communities and several small settlements along the North Shore of British Columbia.

The North Shore communities are accessible by either helicopter or boat. The average travel time is 45 minutes by helicopter or four to five hours by boat.

Approximately 4,800 inhabitants of Prince Rupert, nearly 30 percent, are of Aboriginal ancestry, one of the highest percentage of Aboriginal people in any Canadian city.

RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment has 42 police officers. Thirty-four RCMP members serve the city of Prince Rupert, and the remaining eight provide policing services in the rural areas.

Four of the police officers at the Detachment are of Aboriginal ancestry. Three of these police officers are permanently stationed in Aboriginal communities (working from storefront offices), while a fourth works in each Aboriginal community on a rotational basis.

### **History and Development**

In the spring of 1990, RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment, in cooperation with local agencies and Aboriginal communities, established a coordinated approach to drug and alcohol awareness. Representatives of the RCMP and several local agencies began working with community members to plan and facilitate presentations on drug and alcohol abuse in the community and at the local school.

The program was developed in response to grave concerns expressed by members of the Aboriginal communities regarding the extent of alcohol and drug abuse (and related problems such as family violence and sexual abuse) in their communities.

The program attempts to influence the choices made by young people and reflect the guidance of Elders.

### **Aboriginal Community Input**

Representatives of all Aboriginal communities in the region participated in the establishment of the program.

### **Participants**

While all members of the community may participate, the education programs are primarily aimed at young people.

### **Design and Delivery**

Five members of RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment (including the four Aboriginal police officers) collaborate with the following groups to offer the program:

- local Elders;
- representatives of the First Nation Councils;
- representatives of the National Native Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (NNADAP); and
- medical services personnel.

The educational presentations are designed to reflect community concerns, offer information and support to young people in the community.

### **Funding**

There are no special costs associated with the program.

### **Outcomes and Evaluations**

The program has resulted in:

- an increased perception of community strength and unity (the Elders are beginning to speak and be heard);
- there is a stronger tendency to prohibit alcohol at functions; and
- concerns about substance abuse are being addressed publicly.

Informal evaluations reveal:

- an increase in the number of community residents attending alcohol abuse counselling;
- several community members are undergoing training in alcohol abuse counselling with the goal of returning to the community to help others; and
- a local First Nation Council recently experienced a successful prosecution of an infraction under its liquor by-law, and four other First Nations Councils may also implement liquor by-laws.



**Contact**

Inspector L.J. Baker  
RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment  
100-6th Avenue West  
Prince Rupert, British Columbia  
V8J 3Z3  
Tel: (604) 624-2136  
Fax: (604) 627-3013

## **2.3 Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program RCMP Vernon Detachment Vernon, British Columbia**

### **Police and Community Profile**

RCMP Vernon Detachment has both rural and municipal policing responsibilities. The Detachment territory includes the city of Vernon (population: approximately 20,000), the Okanagan First Nation (population: approximately 1,500), and a number of rural communities (estimated combined population: 20,000). The Okanagan First Nation is located approximately 15 kilometres from the Detachment by road.

RCMP Vernon Detachment has 55 police officers. Fifteen police officers work in the rural area of the Detachment. An additional 32 auxiliary constables assist the rural Detachment police officers. One regular police officer, who spends 95 percent of his time working in the Okanagan First Nation, and two auxiliary police officers are of Aboriginal ancestry.

### **History and Development**

In 1986, two residents of the Okanagan First Nation developed a Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program and introduced it to the community. The program promotes a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle and provides treatment services to individuals and families experiencing problems related to alcohol and drug abuse.

The Aboriginal constable, RCMP Vernon Detachment, assists the Drug and Alcohol Counsellor of the Okanagan First Nation with the coordination of the program. The police officer also offers Drug and Substance Abuse Workshops in the community and provides brochures and other resource materials for program development.

### **Aboriginal Community Input**

Two members of the Okanagan First Nation developed and introduced the program.

### **Participants**

The program is available to all community residents.

### **Design and Delivery**

The Drug and Alcohol Counsellor of the Okanagan First Nation coordinates the program.

Program services include:

- treatment assessment and development of an appropriate treatment plan;
- referrals to other community agencies;
- support and counselling to family members and other individuals who are directly involved with the dependant person;
- life skills counselling;
- outreach services and home visits; and
- workshops for community members and agencies personnel.

One or two workshops are held each year in the Okanagan community. The workshops are open to all members of the community.

The Okanagan First Nation office distributes brochures describing the services available.

### **Funding**

The program is funded by the National Native Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (NNADAP) and the Okanagan First Nation.

### **Outcomes and Evaluations**

The program has resulted in better awareness of alcohol and drug abuse in the Okanagan community.

**Contacts**

Sergeant Hansen, Constable Dave Lawrence  
RCMP Vernon Municipal Detachment  
3402-30th Street  
Vernon, British Columbia  
V1T 5E5  
Tel: (604) 545-7171

Wally Louis  
Drug and Alcohol Self-Help Coordinator  
Westside Road  
R.R. #7  
Vernon, British Columbia  
V1T 7Z3  
Tel: (604) 542-4825

## **2.4 Impaired Driving Program RCMP La Loche Detachment La Loche, Saskatchewan**

### **Police and Community Profile**

RCMP La Loche Detachment provides policing services for the town of La Loche (estimated population: 3,000), as well as an Aboriginal community (estimated population: 800), and two fly-in Aboriginal communities, Garson Lake and Descharme, and both have a population of approximately 75.

Most (estimated 98 percent) of the residents of La Loche are of Aboriginal ancestry.

RCMP La Loche Detachment has 10 police officers. Two of the police officers are of Aboriginal ancestry.

### **History and Development**

Personnel from RCMP La Loche Detachment participate in the Impaired Driving Program, which consists of a series of monthly alcohol awareness seminars sponsored by the Clearwater Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre in La Loche. The purpose of the seminars is to show people the consequences of driving while impaired and encourage them to seek help for alcohol abuse problems.

### **Aboriginal Community Input**

The course is organized by the staff at the rehabilitation centre, who invite local agencies, including the RCMP, to participate.

### **Participants**

Participants include members of the community who are on probation after having been convicted of impaired driving. Other interested community members may also attend.

### **Design and Delivery**

Workshops are held on the weekends, approximately once per month. Detachment personnel make presentations on the legal aspects of drinking and driving. Other community groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, are also invited to give talks.

RCMP presentations last one and a half to two hours and include the following discussion topics and demonstrations:

- explanation of sections of the *Criminal Code* related to driving (respondents note that the majority of people attending the seminars are not aware of these laws); and
- explanation and demonstration of the breathalyser test.

### **Funding**

The program is funded by the provincial government.

### **Outcomes and Evaluations**

Through this program, individuals convicted of drinking while impaired gain greater awareness of the laws governing driving.

### **Contacts**

Sergeant W.H. Sparkes  
RCMP La Loche Detachment  
P.O. Box 130  
La Loche, Saskatchewan  
S0M 1G0  
Tel: (306) 822-2010

Evangeleen Lemaigue  
Clearwater Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre  
Tel: (306) 822-2705

**2.5 Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program  
RCMP Punnichy Detachment  
Punnichy, Saskatchewan**

**Police and Community Profile**

RCMP Punnichy Detachment provides policing services in a region encompassing four villages and one town (estimated combined population: 1,800 people), and four Aboriginal communities: Day Star (population: approximately 250); Gordon (population: approximately 1,000); Muskowekwan (population: approximately 700); and Kawacatoose (population: approximately 900). Each Aboriginal community is located 10 to 18 kilometres from RCMP Punnichy Detachment.

There are nine police officers at RCMP Punnichy Detachment. One of the police officers is of Aboriginal ancestry.

**History and Development**

In February 1991, RCMP Punnichy Detachment, in conjunction with local National Native Alcohol And Drug Awareness Program (NNADAP) staff, launched an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program.

The short term goal of the program is to raise community awareness of the problem through public meetings. Between February and June 1991, Detachment personnel and NNADAP workers held public presentations in three local Aboriginal communities. The fourth community has introduced its own initiative.

The long term goal of the program is to develop a coordinated approach to alcohol and substance abuse in the community. Through such an approach, RCMP police officers may be able to identify individuals and families with serious drug and alcohol problems and then provide this information to NNADAP workers. RCMP police officers may also accompany NNADAP workers on home visits in order to offer moral support.

**Aboriginal Community Input**

Local NNADAP workers who helped develop the program continue to meet with RCMP personnel on an informal basis to ensure ongoing communication and liaison.

**Participants**

Approximately 30 people attended each of the three community meetings.

### **Design and Delivery**

At each meeting, NNADAP workers and RCMP police officers offered the following information:

- NNADAP workers provided information on alcohol and substance abuse; and
- RCMP police officers discussed police-related programs and gave a breathalyser demonstration.

### **Funding**

The local NNADAP provides funding for the program.

### **Outcomes and Evaluations**

The three meetings were reported to be a great success. RCMP Punnichy Detachment is considering the possibility of providing similar presentations in local hospitals and schools.

This program has resulted in the following:

- through their work with the local NNADAP workers, the RCMP police officers have become better acquainted with the Aboriginal community as a whole; and
- as a result of the support of the RCMP in this program, NNADAP workers have expanded their role to include increased outreach activities.

### **Contact**

Corporal Lomax  
RCMP Punnichy Detachment  
Box 10  
Punnichy, Saskatchewan  
S0A 3C0  
Tel: (306) 835-2282



**2.6 Solvent Abuse Prevention Project  
First Nations Northern Policing Section  
O.P.P. Kenora Sub-Division  
Kenora, Ontario**

**Police and Community Profile**

O.P.P. First Nations Northern Policing Section, Kenora Sub-Division, is responsible for coordinating policing services for Northwestern Ontario (Districts #3 and #9).

There are approximately 78 First Nations in the region. Approximately 25 communities are accessible by road.

The Aboriginal population in the area is estimated to be 10,000.

**History and Development**

Since December 1989, the Kenora Regional Solvent Abuse Committee has been sponsoring the Solvent Abuse Prevention Project. The goal of the project is to provide information about the harmful effects of inhalant and solvent abuse to the children and youth of the Ojibway, Cree and Oji-Cree First Nations in Northwestern Ontario.

The project involves the production of two videos, both dealing with solvent abuse, for children aged 3 to 8 and 9 to 18.

Ten representatives of First Nations communities and four police officers comprise the Kenora Regional Solvent Abuse Committee. Police representatives include personnel from O.P.P. Kenora Sub-Division, Kenora Police Department and RCMP Kenora Detachment. The police officers act as consultants for the committee.

In addition, the following organizations are represented on the committee:

- Migisi Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centre;
- Kenora Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee; and
- Addiction Research Foundation.

Community members from the following First Nations also serve on the committee:

- Oshagimis;
- Rat Portage;
- Islington; and
- Couchiching.

The videos are intended to reflect the traditional cultural values of the First Nations.

Initiated in December 1989, the Solvent Abuse Prevention Project will continue until February 1992. The videos are to be formally launched on August 14, 1991.

### **Aboriginal Community Input**

Members of the Whitedog and Islington communities originally developed the idea of producing videos. Community members recognized the need to show children and youth the physical and mental effects of solvent abuse, but they found there were very few relevant resource materials available. Materials that dealt with the problem in First Nations did not address the particular needs of the Cree and Ojibway First Nations.

To ensure that the message of the project is delivered by and for First Nations peoples, the First Nations committee members have directed the production process.

### **Target Group**

Ojibway, Cree and Oji-Cree children (3 to 8 years) and youth (9 to 18 years) in Northern Ontario.

### **Design and Delivery**

The videos focus on prevention. They employ a holistic, values-oriented approach to the problem and each video demonstrate the use of community strengths to deal with the problem.

The first video, entitled "Spirit of the Woods", is aimed at children (3 to 8 years) and uses animated cartoon-like characters to convey its message.

The second video offers a candid look at glue sniffers in that community. It uses a narrative documentary style and is intended for young people (9 to 18 years). The video was filmed in the Whitedog community.

The videos have been produced to allow for Ojibway, Cree, Oji-Cree or English to be dubbed-in as required.

Promotional materials will also be available in these four languages.

The videos will be distributed to the 78 First Nations in Northwestern Ontario. The Chief and Council in each community will handle local distribution.

Distribution rights have also been granted to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) and the O.P.P. These rights have been granted with the provision that the second video, for older children, can only be shown if an Elder is present. This was done to prevent

stereotyping and the possibility of police services using the video to "tell Aboriginal about themselves". NNADAP will also keep a copy on file in Ottawa.

### **Funding**

The production of the videos and the promotional materials cost \$123,000. The Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada; the Ministry of Solicitor General (Province of Ontario); and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation (Province of Ontario) provided funding for the project.

### **Outcomes and Evaluations**

Although a formal evaluation will be conducted once the videos are officially in use, the O.P.P. report that to date the results of the video production process are excellent.

### **Contact**

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**2.7 Alcohol and Drug Awareness and Suicide Prevention Workshops  
RCMP Stewiacke Detachment  
Stewiacke, Nova Scotia**

**Police and Community Profile**

RCMP Stewiacke Detachment provides policing services for several communities in Nova Scotia, including the Indian Brook First Nation (population: approximately 1,500).

RCMP Stewiacke Detachment has 22 police officers. Four of the police officers are of Aboriginal ancestry.

**History and Development**

In 1986, due to the high number of suicides (approximately 12) which had occurred in the Indian Brook First Nation during a 10-year period, an Aboriginal police officer from RCMP Stewiacke Detachment identified the need to provide suicide prevention education in the community. The police officer became concerned when young people of the Indian Brook First Nation decided to establish a shrine for a young suicide victim. With the assistance of another Aboriginal police officer, he designed and implemented a two-part community workshop that deals with the link between alcohol and drug abuse (other suicidal related behaviour patterns) and suicide.

The respondent notes, however, that the police officer initially tried to address the topic of suicide at a community meeting, but found it too difficult to broach the subject. After attending a workshop in Truro, Nova Scotia, he found the information he needed to proceed with developing the Suicide Prevention Initiative.

In designing the workshops, the police officer encountered a lack of "relevant" resource material. Consequently, he and another Aboriginal police officer from the Detachment developed a video entitled "Life Cycle" which deals with suicide and the Micmac people. The video is used in the workshops. When local media became aware of the initiative, they ran a story on the workshops which generated interest in the community and increased awareness of the problem. The resulting support allowed the police officers to obtain funding and produce the video.

**Aboriginal Community Input**

Members of the Indian Brook First Nation, including the Chief and Council members, assisted with the development of the presentations.

Volunteers from the community assisted with the making of the video "Life Cycle".

### **Target Group**

Target groups for the workshops include youth in the community and other groups (both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) who request the service.

### **Design and Delivery**

The two Aboriginal police officers from RCMP Stewiacke Detachment who were responsible for designing the program offer the presentations with the assistance of a volunteer from the community.

Each presentation comprises two sessions:

#### **Alcoholism as a Disease**

- definitions of alcoholism and descriptions of symptoms;
- discussion of the available treatments for alcoholism, including detoxification and Alcoholics Anonymous; and
- a personal perspective on alcoholism (offered by one of the facilitators).

#### **Suicide among Aboriginal Peoples**

- a definition of the term "suicide" focusing on the inclusion of suicidal related behaviour patterns such as risk-taking, glue and gas sniffing, excessive drinking and dangerous driving;
- facts about suicide, including, for example, profiles of the most likely candidates; and
- the role of volunteers, including how to motivate people to participate in Mental Health Programs.

Participants also view "Life Circle", a video dealing with the prime candidates for suicide attempts and the danger signs or clues displayed by persons contemplating suicide.

### **Funding**

RCMP police officers make presentations during their shifts, where possible, as well as during their free time.

Community sponsors provided \$35,000 to make the video "Life Circle".

### **Outcomes and Evaluations**

The workshops have been given in each of the 13 Aboriginal communities in Nova Scotia (and some communities have hosted the workshops twice). In addition, the presentations have been offered at all high schools on the Detachment territory.

The presentations are now being made in other provinces, including New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. In addition, requests for the presentations are also coming from non-Aboriginal communities.

Although there has been no formal evaluation, the community response to this initiative has been very positive. The RCMP police officers who facilitate the workshops have received between 200 and 300 letters from participants.

The results of this initiative include:

- increased understanding of the role alcohol and drugs play in the Aboriginal society;
- increased awareness of the Aboriginal society on the part of the non-Aboriginal society;  
and
- better communication between both communities and the RCMP.

**Contact**

Constable S.J. Michael  
RCMP Stewiacke Detachment  
P.O. Box 10  
Stewiacke, Nova Scotia  
B0N 2J0  
Tel: (902) 639-2366

### **3. ADDITIONAL RESPONSES**

#### **RCMP National Drug Awareness Program**

The following RCMP Divisions provided information on the operation of the National Drug Awareness Program, including involvement in public awareness campaigns, role model programs, and the Police Assisting Community Education (PACE) Program at the Divisional level:

Sergeant D.R. Noseworthy  
RCMP "D" Division  
1091 Portage Avenue  
Box 5650  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 3K2  
Tel: (204) 983-2285  
Fax: (204) 983-2628

Sergeant Gary Grant  
RCMP "H" Division  
3139 Oxford Street  
Box 2286  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3E1  
Tel: (902) 426-6677  
Fax: (902) 426-8845

#### **Solvent Abuse Public Awareness Initiative**

The following respondent identified the development of a Solvent Abuse Public Awareness Initiative involving cooperation between police services and local NNADAP workers:

Corporal R.I. Strawson  
RCMP Rose Valley Detachment  
Box 70  
Rose Valley, Saskatchewan  
S0E 1M0  
Tel: (306) 322-2244

## **Referral Programs**

The following respondents identified initiatives in which police services make immediate referrals to appropriate community agencies and assessment teams in cases of, for example, threatened or attempted suicide, and substance abuse related offences. In addition, police services may make sentencing recommendations regarding the need for treatment:

### **Suicide Prevention Program**

Sergeant Bert Clarke  
RCMP Amaranth Detachment  
Box 118  
Amaranth, Manitoba  
R0H 0B0  
Tel: (204) 843-2691

### **Drug and Alcohol Program**

Sergeant Jack Drisdelle  
RCMP Port Hardy Detachment  
7355 Columbia Street  
Box 86  
Port Hardy, British Columbia  
V0N 2P0  
Tel: (604) 949-6336

### **S.T.O.P. Alcohol Abuse**

Corporal G.A. Funk  
RCMP Bella Bella Detachment  
General Delivery  
Waglisla, British Columbia  
V0T 1Z0  
Tel: (604) 957-2388  
Fax: (604) 957-2616

### **Drug Awareness Education in Schools**

The following respondents identified police services involvement in drug and alcohol awareness presentations in the community and in local schools:

Constable S.J. Belleau  
RCMP Chase Detachment  
226 Shuswap Avenue  
Box 960  
Chase, British Columbia  
V0E 1M0  
Tel: (604) 679-3221

Sergeant R.E. Johnston  
RCMP Sooke Detachment  
Box 40  
Sooke, British Columbia  
V0S 1N0  
Tel: (604) 642-5241



Constable G. Stevens  
RCMP Merrit Detachment  
R.R. #1  
Merrit, British Columbia  
V0K 2B0  
Tel: (604) 378-4262

Staff Sergeant R.A. Baker  
RCMP Smithers Detachment  
Box 2020  
Smithers, British Columbia  
V0J 2N0  
Tel: (604) 847-3233

Corporal P.N. Haugen  
RCMP Kelowna Detachment  
350 Doyle Avenue  
Kelowna, British Columbia  
V1Y 6V7  
Tel: (604) 762-3300

Constable A.D. McCambridge  
RCMP Inuvik Detachment  
Box 1300  
Inuvik, Northwest Territories  
X0E 0T0  
Tel: (403) 979-2953  
Fax: (403) 979-3691

Sergeant M.R. Devaney  
RCMP Rosthern Detachment  
Box 969  
Rosthern, Saskatchewan  
S0K 3R0  
Tel: (306) 232-4844

Sergeant Hank Bogers  
RCMP Thompson Detachment  
122 Selkirk Drive  
Thompson, Manitoba  
R8N 0M9  
Tel: (204) 677-2344

Corporal Craig Cochrane  
RCMP Churchill Detachment  
Box 40  
Churchill, Manitoba  
R0B 0E0  
Tel: (204) 675-8821

Sergeant R.A. Forget  
O.P.P. Beaverton Detachment  
Box 860  
Beaverton, Ontario  
L0K 1A0  
Tel: (705) 426-7366

Sergeant R.S. Brakefield-Moore  
RCMP Roblin Detachment  
Box 1-24  
Roblin, Manitoba  
R0L 1P0  
Tel: (204) 937-2164

Sergeant W.R. Meeks  
O.P.P. Dryden Detachment  
Box 550  
Dryden, Ontario  
P8N 2Z2  
Tel: (807) 223-2221

Sergeant R.B. McManus  
Detachment Commander  
O.P.P. Pickle Lake Detachment  
Box 70  
Pickle Lake, Ontario  
P0V 3A0  
Tel: (807) 928-2211

Constable Preston J. Levi  
RCMP Digby Detachment  
Box 1149  
Digby Cove, Nova Scotia  
B0V 1A0  
Tel: (902) 245-2579

### **Police Assisting Community Education (PACE)**

The following respondent identified specialized training - Police Assisting Community Education (PACE) Program - provided for the Aboriginal police officer. The police officer is to utilize the training to develop appropriate community education programs on substance abuse:

Staff Sergeant R.A. Pennoyer,  
Sergeant W.W. Lucash  
RCMP Cochrane Detachment  
359-1st Street East  
Cochrane, Alberta  
T0L 0W1  
Tel: (403) 932-2211

### **Public Education - Community Treatment Programs**

The following respondents identified programs in which the police services provided drug awareness education for individuals in treatment and counselling programs in the community:

Staff Sergeant R.D. Beckwith  
RCMP Grand Centre Detachment  
Box 1229  
Grand Centre, Alberta  
T0A 1T0  
Tel: (403) 594-3302  
Fax: (403) 594-4900

Constable A.D. McCambridge  
RCMP Inuvik Detachment  
Box 1300  
Inuvik, Northwest Territories  
X0E 0T0  
Tel: (403) 979-2953  
Fax: (403) 979-3691

Corporal D.A. Hardy  
RCMP Ile a-la-Crosse Detachment  
Box 40  
Ile a-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan  
S0M 1C0  
Tel: (306) 833-2063

Corporal P.W. McNeil  
RCMP Nain Detachment  
General Delivery  
Nain, Labrador  
A0P 1L0  
Tel: (709) 922-2862  
Fax: (709) 922-2133

**Public Education - Inter-Agency Workshops**

The following respondent reported being involved in Inter-Agency Workshops on substance abuse:

Sergeant K.G. Morrison  
RCMP Winnipegosis Detachment  
Box 369  
Winnipegosis, Manitoba  
R0L 1S0  
Tel: (204) 656-4421

**Public Education - Radio Talk Show**

The following respondent provided information on a Radio Talk Show on substance abuse which is done by police officers:

Corporal D.A. Hardy  
RCMP Ile a-la-Crosse Detachment  
Box 40  
Ile a-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan  
S0M 1C0  
Tel: (306) 833-2063

**Community-Based Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee**

The following respondent identified police services involvement in a Community-Based Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program operated by a community committee:

Corporal Vern White  
RCMP Lake Harbour Detachment  
Box 59  
Lake Harbour, Northwest Territories  
X0A 0N0  
Tel: (819) 939-2333

**Canadian Offensive on Drug Education (CODE)**

The following respondent identified a national initiative entitled CODE in which police services provide educational materials and programs for young people:

Corporal R.B. Tiffin  
RCMP High Prairie Detachment  
Box 1230  
High Prairie, Alberta  
T0G 1E0  
Tel: (403) 523-3378

**Public Education - Drinking and Driving**

The following respondents identified public education initiatives directed at preventing alcohol abuse and drinking and driving:

Constable G. Stevens  
RCMP Merrit Detachment  
R.R. #1  
Merrit, British Columbia  
V0K 2B0  
Tel: (604) 378-4262

Corporal J.T. Hyland, Constable J.C. Pullen  
RCMP Fort Franklin Detachment  
General Delivery  
Fort Franklin, Northwest Territories  
X0E 0G0  
Tel: (403) 589-3431  
Fax: (403) 589-3815

The seven reports included in the Aboriginal Policing Programs in Canada series are:

**I. Aboriginal Police Officer Development and Policing**

This report highlights examples of current Aboriginal policing arrangements which employ Aboriginal police officers as well as training initiatives for Aboriginal police officers and strategies for recruiting personnel. This includes Aboriginal Policing Arrangements; Aboriginal Police Officer Training; Recruiting: Policies and Practices; and Pre-Employment Training and Education Programs.

**II. Aboriginal Cultural Awareness**

This report highlights initiatives intended to increase the level of mutual understanding and respect between non-Aboriginal police officers and the members of the Aboriginal communities they serve. This includes Aboriginal Policing Conferences; and Cultural Awareness Training Programs.

**III. Increasing Access to Policing Services**

This report highlights Special Programs that are being used to increase police presence in Aboriginal communities. This includes Community Patrols; Storefront Offices; Community-Based Work Stations; and Satellite Detachments.

**IV. Police-Community Communication and Liaison**

This report highlights initiatives in which police and community members work together to improve policing services and address issues of mutual concern. This includes Public Education and Liaison Strategies; Police-Community Advisory Groups; and Inter-Agency Cooperation.

**V. Focus on Youth**

This report describes the involvement of police services in Crime Prevention and Community Relations Programs aimed primarily at young people in Aboriginal communities. In addition, it illustrates examples of police involvement in services for young offenders and youth at risk. This includes Recreational, Educational and Skills Development Programs; and Services for Young Offenders and Youth at Risk.

**VI. Taking Action Against Substance Abuse**

This report highlights police involvement in the development and delivery of Alcohol, Drug and Solvent Abuse Awareness Programs in Aboriginal communities. This includes Substance Abuse Education/Awareness and Prevention Programs.



