



Office of the Minister
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



April 19, 2010

Mr. Ian McPhail
Interim Chair
Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP
Chair's Office
Service Bag 1722, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 0B3

Dear Mr. McPhail:


RE: YUKON CITIZENS CONCERNS REGARDING RCMP


We are writing in order to convey to you the concerns that some citizens of the Yukon have expressed regarding the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). As you are no doubt aware, policing in the Yukon is considerably different from policing elsewhere in Canada. The unique nature of policing in the Yukon calls for a strong relationship between members of the RCMP and the citizens of the Yukon. Police officers in small, isolated communities are called upon to perform a variety of services in the community that extend well beyond the customary understanding of law enforcement. The relationships that officers in small communities develop with municipal and first nations leaders, teachers, health care workers and others in the community are critical to them in carrying out their duties.

While the majority of RCMP officers provide a valuable service and carry out their duties to the highest ethical standard, a few high-profile incidents in the Territory have tested the confidence that some members of the public have in the RCMP. Some citizens are concerned that, from time to time, some RCMP members might be characterized as indifferent to the well-being of those who they serve. The public has expressed that RCMP officers do not always demonstrate the duty of care expected when a person is arrested and/or detained by police.

In an effort to maintain the trust and confidence of the citizens of the Yukon, the Yukon Department of Justice and the Commanding Officer of "M" Division will initiate a *Review of Policing* in Yukon. We would like to meet with you in order to discuss to what extent your office might wish to contribute to this review in order to ensure it has factually based findings that would assist the Government of Yukon and the "M" Division to respond to the citizens' concerns so as to continue to hold their confidence.

Yours very truly,


Marian C. Horne
Minister of Justice


Superintendent Peter Clark
Acting Commanding Officer
RCMP "M" Division