



APPS BACKGROUNDER

Last updated October 25, 2022

Issue

The Government of Alberta is seriously considering the creation of an Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS) to either replace the RCMP as the province's police service or augment it.

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General met with municipal governments at more than 40 closed-door sessions in early 2022 and presented the provincial government's vision on a prescribed set of topics. Members of the public and media were not allowed to take part in these stakeholder engagement sessions. Justice Minister and Solicitor General Tyler Shandro unveiled the Government of Alberta's provincial police implementation plan in mid-August 2022 to mixed reviews, especially from municipal leaders. Minister Shandro criticized the current model as being too centralized, too bureaucratic and suggested the RCMP in Alberta was too closely aligned to the federal government.

Alberta Municipalities' actions to date

In 2021 –

- Conducted 2021 President's Summit on Policing online in February 2021. Attendees were surveyed about the possible creation of an APPS at the end of the summit. Survey results showed there was widespread support among members for keeping the RCMP as Alberta's provincial police force.
- Repeatedly called on the provincial government to officially release the \$2-million [PricewaterhouseCoopers \(PwC\) feasibility report](#) it commissioned in October 2020.
- Issued an [official statement](#) outlining our main concerns on October 29, 2021, when the provincial government finally released its report.
- Conducted media interviews in November and December 2021 to increase public awareness of the issue and make our concerns known.

In 2022 –

- Conducted further media interviews on the issue to increase public awareness of the issue and our concerns.

- Participated in the National Police Federation’s public consultations, which were conducted openly and transparently, on this critical issue.
- Conducted a virtual policing summit for our members on January 19, 2022. More than 400 participants received an update on the PricewaterhouseCoopers feasibility report, discussed key aspects of the report, and raised many good questions about accountability, funding, operations, and logistics.
- Posted a web page outlining our association’s advocacy efforts on this issue to date and presenting a summary of the questions our members raised at our January 2022 virtual policing summit.
- The issue was discussed at our Municipal Leaders’ Caucus (MLC) in March 2022.
- Alberta Municipalities’ official position on the possible creation of an APPS was shared publicly on March 9, 2022. More than 80 per cent of the members who voted at MLC opposed the creation of an APPS (see ABmunis’ [news release](#) for more details).
- ABmunis issued an [official statement](#) calling for the creation of a public security task force to consider the root causes of criminal behaviour in Alberta (including affordable housing, homelessness, mental health, addictions and an under-resourced judicial system) on Sept. 1, 2022.
- The topic was discussed at Alberta Municipalities’ 2022 Convention in late September. Premier Smith said that her government would “move immediately with augmenting our current policing” by introducing a provincial police force.
- Alberta Municipalities continues to ask the Government of Alberta why a provincial police service is needed and why it is so eager to start implementing changes.
- The association is currently trying to determine what newly appointed Premier Danielle Smith and Minister Shandro mean when they say a new provincial police service will augment RCMP in Alberta.

Online resources (related links)

- Alberta Municipalities’ [Policing Hub](#), including [Alberta Provincial Police Service \(APPS\)](#) information.
- Government of Alberta’s [Provincial Police Service Engagement](#) synopsis.
- National Police Federation's [Public Engagement](#) calendar.

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