



To: Community Safety Committee
From: Rendall Nasset, Superintendent
Officer In Charge,
Richmond RCMP

Date: February 10, 2011
File: 09-5000-01/2011-Vol 01

Re: Regular Member, RCMP Professional Standards Position

Staff Recommendation

That the OIC's report entitled "Regular Member, RCMP Professional Standards Position" dated February 10th, 2011, be considered as part of the 2012 budget process.

Rendall Nasset
Superintendent
Officer In Charge
Richmond Detachment
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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Origin

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with additional information regarding the request made in the 2011 budget cycle for a regular RCMP member, Professional Standards position and the role that civilians could take in assistance to this position.

Background

The Professional Standards Unit is responsible for the coordination and investigations of complaints against police officers and includes public complaints received by the Public Complaints Commission which are then forwarded to the Detachment. In addition, Code of Conduct and Statutory (criminal) investigations are conducted by the Professional Standards Unit. Currently, Richmond Detachment has one regular member, in the Professional Standards position. This member has the sole responsibility of investigating, monitoring and mentoring 201 regular members of the Richmond Detachment to ensure the general public are receiving the best service possible. Clerical assistance to the investigator is currently being performed by the Executive Assistant to the Officer in Charge. This includes transcription services, photocopying and general clerical work.

As a managerial administrative position, the Commissioner does not need a law enforcement background to investigate. Furthermore, the new oversight body is not required to have a policing background to conduct oversight and review as there will be no investigation. However, comments made at the pre-meet of the BC Chiefs Conference imply that this new body would be comprised of 50% retired police officers and 50% seconded, active members being the only way to achieve a proper skillset.

Analysis

As noted in Table 1, since 2007 the workload of the single investigator has increased from 39 files to 58 files in 2010. This increase amounts to an increase in workload of almost 50% over a period of 4 years.

Table 1 – Professional Standards File Count by Years

Year	File Count
2007	39
2008	37
2009	58
2010	58

Increases in files notwithstanding, the complexity of the Code of Conduct and Statutory Investigations requires an increasing portion of the professional standards investigator's time. As such, this investigator has begun distributing the public complaints to other non-commissioned officers within the Detachment. Due to this distribution, these other operational police officers are being taken away from their substantive duties. In addition to this, as a result of the recent Supreme Court ruling, commonly referred to as the "McNeil Decision", the

Detachment has been mandated to ensure that all regular members attending court must comply with the following:

“Records relating to findings of **serious** misconduct by police officers involved in the investigation against the accused properly fall within the scope of the first party disclosure package due to the Crown from police, where the police misconduct is either **related to the investigation**, or the finding of misconduct **could reasonably impact the case against the accused.**”

As a result of both the increased file count, workload and the McNeil decision, the professional standards investigator is severely over burdened and requires assistance. At this point in time, due to the nature of the work and sensitivities surrounding these types of investigations, the majority of tasks required by this position must be carried out by regular member of the RCMP who has some rank within the organization (for example a constable cannot investigate another constable) thereby eliminating the possibility of any more of the work being performed by a civilian, non-investigator than is currently happening.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the report.

Conclusion

Currently, Richmond Detachment has one Professional Standards position with all non-investigative clerical assistance being performed by the Officer in Charge's assistant. At this point in time, due to the nature of the work and sensitivities surrounding these types of investigations, the majority of tasks required by this position must be carried out by a regular member of the RCMP who has some rank within the organization; thereby eliminating the possibility of any more of the work being performed by a civilian, non-investigator than is currently happening.



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