



RESOLUTION 2023-04

Funding for Indigenous Policing

WHEREAS the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has ruled that the government of Canada is perpetuating systematic discrimination against First Nations by not adequately funding the Mashteuiatsh Police Service (Lac-Saint-Jean, Quebec) and specifically that Indigenous communities have insufficient access to police services that are adapted to their needs and equal in quality and quantity to the services provided in surrounding communities with similar conditions, and

WHEREAS the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls called for reforms to address chronic underfunding and specifically an inability to properly provide policing services due to understaffing, where officers face burnout, where detachments are under-resourced and where working conditions are unsafe, and

WHEREAS the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls called for reforms to the criminal justice system specific to high rates of crime in Indigenous communities and specifically highlights the need to address intimate partner violence, and

WHEREAS the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls called for reforms to avoid systematic harm through adequate and bias-free policing services, effective oversight and adjudicative mechanisms, meaningful and accessible remedies for violence, and

WHEREAS the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls called for reforms to address racial profiling in order to ensure Indigenous people receive the same access or outcomes from the justice system as non-Indigenous people, and

WHEREAS the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls called for reforms to enhance oversight and accountability mechanisms to protect the human rights of Indigenous people and:

WHEREAS Public Safety Canada has taken several actions in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, including support for the Indigenous Policing Services program and justice reforms to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS the Public Safety Canada Departmental Plan 2023–24 made commitments to the delivery of responsive, dedicated, professional, and culturally sensitive Indigenous policing services, including the expansion of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program, and:

WHEREAS since 1991, the federal government has funded Indigenous policing under the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program with a policy goal to enhance community policing in Indigenous and Inuit communities and:

WHEREAS the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program uses a 52-48 federal-provincial cost-share ratio with fixed-term contracts requiring renegotiations at renewal, and:

WHEREAS the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program limits the use of funds specific to policing services, crime prevention initiatives, training, equipment, infrastructure, and community engagement at a level of service that has not achieved the same level of public safety in Indigenous communities as in non-Indigenous communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) calls on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to fund an increase to policing in Indigenous communities to a level where public safety is the same in Indigenous communities as in non-Indigenous communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OACP calls on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to amend the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program to replace fixed-term contracts with predictable and sustainable funding, to repeal restrictions on the use of funds and that policing be provided in a culturally responsive manner, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OACP calls on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to take further actions to enhance public safety as outlined in the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.