

Chapter 52

Monitoring Provincial Policing Services Delivered by the RCMP Follow Up

1.0 MAIN POINTS

Effective May 25, 2012, Corrections and Policing became part of the Ministry of Justice (Ministry).

The Ministry is responsible for provincial policing. To meet its policing objectives, the Ministry contracts for the services of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Our 2009 Report – Volume 1 contained the results of our audit of the processes to monitor provincial policing services delivered by the RCMP including five recommendations. As of October 9, 2012, management has taken action on four recommendations. The remaining recommendation relates to verifying the accuracy of costs charged by the RCMP.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

One of the purposes of the Ministry is to plan, develop, promote and implement policies and programs of the Government of Saskatchewan related to policing.¹ To meet its policing objectives, the Ministry contracts with the Government of Canada for the services of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) as allowed under *The Police Act, 1990*. The total provincial cost for RCMP services for Saskatchewan for 2011-12 was \$146 million.² This cost is expected to increase annually, reaching over \$326 million for the final year of the current agreement in 2032.³

If the Ministry does not adequately monitor the services the RCMP provides under its agreement with the Ministry, those services may not meet the Ministry's needs. Not meeting the Ministry's needs could contribute to a lack of effective law enforcement resulting in reduced public safety. Also, if costs of the agreement are not adequately managed, the Ministry may pay for services it did not receive.

In 2009, we assessed the Ministry's processes to monitor provincial policing services delivered by the RCMP. Our 2009 Report – Volume 1, Chapter 3 concluded that for the twelve-month period ended January 31, 2009 the Ministry did not have adequate processes to monitor provincial policing services delivered by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We made five recommendations.

3.0 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This section sets out the recommendations and outlines actions taken by the Ministry up to October 9, 2012. We found that the Ministry has made good progress, but still has work to do.

¹ The Ministry of Justice Regulations, s. 3(2)(b).

² *Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety & Policing, 11-12 Annual Report*, p. 28.

³ Orders in Council 512/2011. Schedule B.



3.1 Provincial Policing Services Agreement Signed

We recommended that the Ministry of Justice (formerly the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing) establish an adequate provincial policing services agreement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that:

- › Includes performance targets to measure progress towards planned objectives
- › Allows for verification that costs charged by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for provincial policing are accurate
- › Requires adequate written explanations of differences between planned and actual results
- › Describes processes for resolving disputes

(2009 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement February 2, 2010)

Status – Implemented.

In 2011, the Ministry signed a new provincial policing services agreement with the Government of Canada for the services of the RCMP for the years 2012 to 2032. Per the agreement, the Ministry will provide the RCMP with its annual objectives, priorities and goals. The agreement requires the RCMP to report on the implementation status of those objectives, priorities and goals. The RCMP is also required to report on its actual expenses along with explanations of differences between planned and actual results. The agreement allows the Ministry to request audits to verify that costs charged by the RCMP are accurate. Dispute resolution processes included in the agreement provide various means to address financial and operational issues.

3.2 Service Expectations Communicated

We recommended that the Ministry of Justice (formerly the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing) ensure it communicates to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in writing its provincial policing service level objectives and priorities each year. (2009 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement February 2, 2010)

Status – Implemented.

The Ministry set out its annual priorities for 2011-12 in a letter to the RCMP. This letter explained the importance of the priorities and the actions expected of the RCMP.

3.3 Performance Reports Received

We recommended that the Ministry of Justice (formerly the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing) obtain regular reports from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on progress towards service level objectives and priorities, including explanations of differences between actual and planned results. (2009 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement February 2, 2010)

Status – Implemented.

The RCMP reported on its performance in accordance with the annual priorities the Ministry set for 2011-12. The report described progress toward priorities, program challenges, and future actions planned. The Ministry also requested the RCMP to complete evaluations of selected programs to help it assess progress towards objectives.

3.4 Verify Costs Charged by the RCMP

We recommended that the Ministry of Justice (formerly the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing) verify that costs charged by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for provincial policing are accurate. (2009 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement February 2, 2010)

Status – We continue to make this recommendation.

As described above, the Ministry signed a new provincial policing services agreement with the Government of Canada for the services of the RCMP for the years 2012 to 2032. The agreement allows the Ministry to request audits to verify the accuracy of costs charged by the RCMP. The Ministry has not yet received or requested any audit reports because this is the first year under the new agreement.

The RCMP provided monthly financial reports and a year-end report of expenses. These reports did not include explanations of differences between actual and planned results. Management receives verbal explanations of these differences. Written explanations would enable the Ministry to analyze the information and identify key issues to report to senior management. Management indicated it is working to address this issue through revisions to its reporting requirements.



3.5 Identifying Risks to Police Service Delivery

We recommended that the Ministry of Justice (formerly the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing) identify and treat all significant risks to police service delivery by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (2009 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement February 2, 2010)

Status – Implemented.

Before signing the new provincial policing services agreement, the Ministry undertook a review of the previous agreement. This process considered risks to provincial policing and if and how these risks would be addressed by a new agreement for RCMP services. In addition, the new agreement provides for periodic reviews of the police services, which can identify new risks to be addressed. These review practices demonstrate that processes exist to help manage risks to provincial policing.