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LEAD Backgrounder

Law Enforcement Aboriginal and Diversity Network (LEAD)

- The LEAD initiative will create a network of national, provincial, regional, municipal and aboriginal community level police officers from across Canada. The network would address the gap that exists between the values and lifestyles of Aboriginal and diverse communities, and the capacity of police officers to serve them with an understanding and respect that contribute in a meaningful way to the safety and security of these communities.
- Members will be law enforcement officers, open to all ranks, who work with Aboriginal and diverse communities, or who have an interest in creating a more inclusive proactive policing agenda in Canada.
- The LEAD network will be a forum for law enforcement officers to ask questions, and share information and best practices about policing in our Aboriginal and diverse communities.
- Activities will include developing a website, E-newsletter, and a virtual platform for the network. The website will include best practices and a forum structure and will be accessible to both police and community members. Plans for the future will also include listing information about hate/bias crimes, national crime statistics, community/police partnerships and current issues in policing.
- The network will also conduct background research on national standards, *international best practices* and universal definitions of hate/bias crimes for police officers and justice personnel working with Aboriginal and diverse communities.
- The LEAD network is a partnership between the Multiculturalism Program of Canadian Heritage and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of *Police facilitated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.*
- *LEAD is considered a benchmark in the progress towards integrated policing in Canada.*
- The initiative will cost \$450,000 spread out over three years (2003-2005)