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POLICING WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLES COMMITTEE

Canadian Association of Chief of Police

2007/2008 Annual Report

Message from the Chair

I am pleased to present the 2007/2008 Annual Report of the Policing with Aboriginal Peoples Committee (PWAPC).

Over the past year the PWAPC experienced the retirement of both of its Co-Chairs, Chief Brian Rupert of Treaty Three Police Service and Deputy Chief Larry Hill of Ottawa Police Service.

While this committee has struggled with consistent representation, the committee has been successful moving a number of important issues forward.

Last year the committee received support for two recommendations:

- Effectively dealing with Aboriginal protests and occupations.
- The potential impact of the Residential School settlement agreement.

Both of these resolutions were successful in educating and raising the level of awareness among the policing community. These resolutions, in part, resulted in the policing community mobilizing and coordinating on a national level. Through the sharing of information, intelligence and best practices the policing community was successful in managing two 'National Day's of Action'. The policing community further mobilized around the potential impact of the Residential School Settlement Agreement. Through increasing awareness and the sharing of best practices the policing community was better prepared to deal with the potential fallout from these payments. While there were some unfortunate incidents, we did not witness the mass chaos that many had predicted. I attribute this to the resilience of our communities and the role we played in working with our communities.

For the coming year the committee will focus on three primary activities:

- Revitalization of the committee (PWAPC). Ensuring a consistent and balanced representation of committee members.
- Contributing to public policy on the First Nations Policing Policy.
- Examining effect strategies for dealing with Aboriginal protest and conflict.

Chief Larry Hill was a driving force and in many ways the glue that kept this committee together, even when membership was waning. He was impetus for a number of worthwhile initiatives that continue shape how we deal with Aboriginal people. While we will miss his presence, we are looking forward to continuing his good work and wish him the best in his retirement.

D.C.RETI, C/Supt.
CACP – Co-Chair
PWAPC