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Canada

CACP • ACCP Ethics Committee

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
Ethics Committee
Annual Report 2007

Current Members of the CACP Ethics Committee:

D/C Jim Hornby Calgary – Chair
D/C Norm Lipinski, Edmonton
Chief Stephen McIntyre, Rothesay
Supt. Grant Foster, Saskatoon
Michelle Farrell, Toronto
Mr. Bill Maxwell, RCMP Ret.
Dr. David Sunahara

A/Comm Rod Smith RCMP – Vice Chair
Insp. Peter Lennox, Toronto
Ret. Chief John Middleton-Hope, Lethbridge
A/Comm Sandra Conlin
Lana Hohn-Martens, Calgary
John Jones
Cpl. Marie Damian, RCMP-CPC

In August 2005, the CACP Board of Directors elected to make the Ethics Committee a full committee, separating it from the Human Resources committee. This was recognition that ethical issues were of great importance and needed the attention that full status could provide. The Committee also increased in size to get participation from all regions of Canada. A mandate and objectives were created based on CACP direction.

Mandate:

To promote appropriate ethical behaviour in the Canadian law enforcement community.

Objectives:

- To promote ethical and professional leadership amongst the CACP membership

- To provide or identify learning opportunities for police organizations that enhance ethical decision-making in member organizations
- To provide the CACP membership with information pertaining to learning opportunities available through other organizations

- To identify and provide information on best practices in ethical decision-making
- To provide a link to other entities that support ethical organizational development
- To provide advice on ethical issues to the Board of Directors of CACP

To accomplish these objectives, a number of strategies are being developed at the Committee level. These include:

- Communication strategy – to raise awareness of the Committee and its role within the CACP family.

- Education - encouraging organizations to adopt values that are consistent with CACP ethical values and ethical framework. This will be accomplished by:

  - Providing references to available ethics-related training.
  - Providing or identifying current, progressive training and a forum to discuss timely issues in police ethics through a variety of methods such as annual conferences and workshops.

- Advisory Role - adopting an advisory and facilitation role in police ethical issues to CACP. This would be accomplished by:

  - Providing position papers on topical ethical issues
  - Supporting CACP by providing opinions as it addresses issues being faced by members or member organizations.

- Development of a Professional Participation Model – providing a participation model based on CACP guidelines describing current practices in use by policing organizations demonstrating sound ethical decision making. This model could be used by CACP organizations wishing to enhance their ethical profile in the community.

The Committee has met four times in this reporting period, three face to face meetings and a videoconference to develop and implement action items in support

of the Committee's objectives. The following have been actioned or completed as of this date:

- The Committee has provided an opinion on the ethical implications of sponsorship to the board of directors and is completing a second written opinion on bias-free policing.

- Technology has been adopted that permits the Committee to work more collaboratively. This software minimizes the geographical impact experienced by a national committee and significantly improves our ability to work together regularly throughout the year.

- An orientation package on the Ethical Framework of the CACP has been developed and will be provided to new members of the CACP. This orientation will provide information on the CACP's ethical framework, available North American ethics training, web resources, and a reading list of topical articles.

- CACP website has been updated regarding the Ethics Committee and we are supporting Executive Director Peter Cuthbert in the pursuit of a new and more accessible website.

- The Committee has been working on a nomination process for the Governor General's Awards. Annually we will be submitting a list of candidates who the committee believes that their ethical conduct within policing has been meritorious, to the Governor General's Award process.

- A list of educational resources is being assembled for use by CACP members and ultimately available through the website, technology permitting.

- During the last reporting period, a research proposal requesting funding to identify proven practices that have demonstrated improved ethical behaviour in organizations was submitted. While much has been written explaining police corruption and the path to unethical behaviour, there has been very little research related to evaluating programs, policies and practices that are aimed at positively impacting police misconduct. The request has been approved and a contract has been awarded to Dr. Jeff Pfeiffer of the University of Regina to conduct the research. We are anticipating completion of the project by the middle of next year.

Over the next year, it is the intent of the Ethics Committee to continue to raise the profile of this issue within CACP. Our objective in this next reporting period is to make available reference material and proven concepts for the development of ethical behaviour to CACP members looking for assistance in this critical area.

Jim Hornby
Chair, CACP Ethics Committee
2006 August 16