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MANITOBA WILL BE MAKING CHANGES TO *THE PROVINCIAL POLICE ACT* IN 2009.  
THE PROVINCE INVITES MANITOBANS TO PROVIDE THEIR COMMENTS TO HELP  
SHAPE THE NEW LAW. CONSULTATION PAPERS HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO HELP  
OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF MANITOBANS ON THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE NEW ACT.

# Background: Profile of Police Services in Manitoba

There are 17 police services in Manitoba. They are:

## Municipal Police Services

Altona Police Service  
Brandon Police Service  
R.M. of Cornwallis Police Service  
Morden Police Service  
Rivers Police Department  
Springfield Police Service  
Ste. Anne Police Department  
Victoria Beach Police Service  
R.M. of Whitehead Police Service  
Winkler Police Service  
Winnipeg Police Service

## Aboriginal Police Service

Dakota Ojibway Police Service

## Federal Police Services

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)  
“D” Division  
CN Police  
CP Police  
Military Police Shilo Detachment  
Military Police 17 Wing Winnipeg

## Municipal Police Service Legislation

### The City of Winnipeg

In the City of Winnipeg, municipal police service is governed by The *City of Winnipeg Charter*. Under this statute the city is responsible for maintaining the Winnipeg Police Service.

### Other municipalities

Outside of Winnipeg, municipal police services are governed by *The Municipal Act*. Under subsection 271(1) of *The Municipal Act*, urban municipalities with a population of 750 or more must maintain a police service. They can do so by establishing their own police service or by contracting with the Government of Manitoba, the Government of Canada or other municipalities to provide police services.

## Qualifications and training to be a police officer in Manitoba

The qualifications and training required to be a police officer in Manitoba, except for the RCMP, are outlined in the regulations of *The Provincial Police Act*. An officer must:

- be 18 years of age or over
- be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident

- have a high school diploma or academic training the police chief considers to be equivalent to that required to obtain a high school diploma
- provide a current criminal record check from a law enforcement agency that confirms no criminal record
- have successfully completed a training course for police officers with a recognized police service, including the RCMP, the Brandon Police Service, the Winnipeg Police Service, or any other service approved by the minister of Manitoba Justice.

## The Royal Canadian Mounted Police

The RCMP is the provincial police service for Manitoba. It performs specific duties as part of an agreement with the provincial government to provide policing in smaller municipalities and rural areas of the province. Some municipalities have also contracted the RCMP to provide municipal police services in their communities instead of setting up their own service, such as Selkirk and Thompson.

The RCMP operates under the federal *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act*.

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that provinces cannot control or direct the RCMP. The contract between Canada and Manitoba for RCMP service in this province specifies the framework for how:

- policing services will be provided
- provincial public safety priorities will be met
- emergencies will be managed
- payments are to be made for policing services

## Aboriginal Police Services

The Dakota Ojibway Police Service (DOPS) provides policing services to five First Nations in Manitoba: Roseau River, Sioux Valley, Birdtail Sioux, Sandy Bay and Oak Lake (Canupawakpa).

DOPS is overseen by a police commission with representatives from each of the First Nations they serve. DOPS was formed in 1977 and revised under the federal First Nations Policing Policy (FNPP) in 1994. The FNPP recognizes the unique legal status of First Nations, the responsibility of the federal government under the *Constitution Act* for specific First Nations issues and the responsibilities of the provincial government for the administration of justice.

The FNPP creates two policing services options that can be applied in First Nations:

- 1) a First Nations-administered police service, such as DOPS
- 2) a special contingent of First Nations officers within an existing police service, such as the RCMP

First Nations RCMP officers provide police service in a number of First Nations communities.

## Oversight of Police Services

Under *The Provincial Police Act*, the minister of justice is responsible for ensuring effective and efficient policing in the province. When a municipality that is responsible for providing police services does not provide adequate and effective police services, or does not comply with *The Provincial Police Act* or its regulations, the minister may intervene. The minister may take those steps needed to create an adequate and effective police service within the municipality.

*The Provincial Police Act* allows municipal councils to establish local police commissions to oversee municipal police services. Where no commission is established, the municipal council performs this function. The Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council has established a police commission to oversee the Dakota Ojibway Police Service. The City of Winnipeg has established a police advisory board to provide advice on policing issues to various committees of the City of Winnipeg.

Communities policed by the RCMP can establish consultation committees with local RCMP detachments. Because the RCMP is governed by federal legislation, these committees are co-operative and not legally required.

## Special police units and agencies

There are a number of special police agencies that operate in Manitoba in addition to the 17 police services. These agencies deal with a wide range of issues, from investigating specific types of criminal activity to representing the labour interests of individual police officers. Examples of these special agencies include:

### Manitoba Integrated Organized Crime Task Force

The Manitoba Integrated Organized Crime Task Force is an integrated partnership including investigators from the RCMP, Winnipeg Police Service, Brandon Police Service and other municipal police agencies, backed up with resources from the province.

## Law Enforcement Review Agency (LERA)

LERA is an independent, non-police agency created to investigate public complaints about police conduct that are not about criminal misconduct. LERA only deals with complaints about municipal or local police performance arising out of the performance of police duties.

## Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police

The association encourages and develops the co-operation of its members. It is a management association to lead the development of policing in Manitoba and represent police leadership to the public, the minister of Manitoba Justice and the provincial government.

## Criminal Intelligence Service Manitoba (CISM)

CISM is the provincial arm of the national Canadian Intelligence Service of Canada, which has been a leader in the development of an integrated and intelligence-led approach to tackling organized crime in Canada. Its fundamental purpose is to facilitate the timely production and exchange of criminal intelligence within the Canadian law enforcement community.

## Winnipeg Police Association

The Winnipeg Police Association is a professional labour organization representing the police and staff members of the Winnipeg Police Service. It is responsible for all aspects of collective bargaining and helps WPS members with day-to-day issues that arise in the workplace.

## Manitoba Police Association

The Manitoba Police Association represents all municipal police officers within the province, with the exception of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The association helps smaller police agencies with bargaining issues and legal representation, if requested. Members of the Winnipeg Police Association are also members of the provincial association.

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## Further Information:

More information about policing in Manitoba can be found online at:

**Manitoba Justice** [www.gov.mb.ca/justice/](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/)

- **Laws of Manitoba**

[web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/index.php](http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/index.php)

**LERA** [www.gov.mb.ca/justice/lera/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/lera/index.html)

**Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP**  
[www.cpc-cpp.gc.ca/](http://www.cpc-cpp.gc.ca/)

**RCMP** [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/)

**Winnipeg Police Service** [www.winnipeg.ca/police/](http://www.winnipeg.ca/police/)

**Brandon Police Service** [www.brandon.ca/police](http://www.brandon.ca/police)

**Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police**

[www.macp.mb.ca/](http://www.macp.mb.ca/)