

June 22, 2020

Community Safety Knowledge Alliance  
120 Sonnenschein Way - Main  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7M 0W2

Mr. Cal Corley and Dr. Rick Linden:

On behalf of the Winnipeg Police Board (the Board), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input as you review *The Police Services Act – Manitoba*. The Board recognizes the window to provide meaningful dialogue is closing, but have drafted a few points for your consideration with an understanding there may be more points raised as we continue to consult and engage communities and stakeholders.

Since 2017, the Board has been collecting information from the community and the past three configurations of the board have deliberated on how to enhance police board governance regularly. In the span of the past week the Board has consolidated a review of our current practices and research so that we can make this written submission.

Board staff completed a cross jurisdictional scan of provincial legislation in British Columbia, Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan in efforts to understand best practices in each provincial regime, many of which share similarities as I am sure your research has also revealed. The Board suggests the following to provide greater clarity and improve effectiveness of Manitoba boards. It would be helpful to refine language to make the purpose and authorities of boards clear.

1. A process by which an initial budget estimate can be considered by council and rejected with reasons so that a board can provide a rationale or more information to support a budget request and in turn for which a municipality can supply a rationale for a revision of a budget estimate.
2. In rare cases a police board may recommend an expense that is not approved by the council. It would be practical for there to be a final arbiter of disputed estimates similar to British Columbia's process (the Director of policing resolves budgetary disputes and their decisions are binding).
3. The Board has experience working in a collaborative relationship with the Winnipeg public service. It would be helpful to codify the role of municipal administration within the statute to maximize transparency and to be clear about their relationship to a police board.
4. The Board receives many complaints which are referred to the police service for action. It would increase transparency if routine complaints related to service were formally able to be routed through

police boards as well as LERA and were tracked so that the public perceived a police board as a legitimate avenue of dialogue with police agencies.

5. Greater clarity on the role of a mayor or councillor on a board would be helpful. Ontario's legislation sets out that the mayor must decide to either be on the board or not. The mayor is not necessarily chair of the board either as several jurisdictions provide that the board may elect the chair and vice chair from among appointed members. Notably British Columbia sets out that the mayor is the de facto chair of a police board.
6. Establishing that a board member cannot be dismissed without cause would alleviate any concerns regarding undue political influence on board members.
7. A board chair is the official spokesperson for the Board. When the chair is a Councillor, there is a possibility that they may not be fully supportive of a board position. It is important to balance the duties of Councillors assigned to a police board so that there is no appearance of conflict. It would enhance effectiveness to tie the operational planning to the budget in some way, so for example in Alberta a commission approves the annual business plan and it is presented annually to council along with proposed budget allocations.
8. There are some language anomalies in the present Act that lack clarity, for example 'adequate and effective policing' is entirely subjective. It would be helpful to define what is considered to be adequate and effective.
9. It is recommended that policing standards be created for Manitoba that would support best practices and measure success in terms of achieving and adequate and effective police service. The Board has a policy that sets out compliance with the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and monitors regular compliance audits as a matter of course. As a result, the Board is uniquely placed to participate in developing made in Manitoba policing standards.

Thank you for meeting me and the Secretary to the Winnipeg Police Board on our virtual conversation. It is appreciated. The Board has a strong interest to partner with the Provincial Government in due course in an effort to be a strong voice of the community and work with decision-makers to create made in Manitoba policing standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Markus Chambers', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Councillor Markus Chambers, Chair  
Winnipeg Police Board

cc. Minister of Justice Cliff Cullen