



GRANDE PRAIRIE
POLICE SERVICE

THE CITY OF
GRANDE prairie | POLICE COMMISSION

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



On March 7, 2023, Council for the City of Grande Prairie passed a resolution to transition to a municipal police service, and on March 20th they passed a Bylaw to create the Grande Prairie Police Commission (Commission).

Since that time, the Grande Prairie Police Commission has accepted their mandate and moved forward with preparing for a municipal police service. At the end of June, the Commission selected a Chief of Police (Chief) and on August 29th Chief Dwayne Lakusta became the first sworn member of the Grande Prairie Police Service (GPPS). Over the last few months, the Chief has been building his executive and support team to ensure GPPS is operational by the end of the transition period. The full transition is anticipated to take 5 years to complete.

The Commission and the Chief are committed to the success of GPPS and to ensure success the community needs to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of policing in our community. Insights, perspectives, and experiences of stakeholders

are vital to the collective effort in redefining the landscape of law enforcement, better serving our residents. The first stage of their stakeholder engagement process was to gather information from the community. From October 23rd through October 25th, the Commission and the Chief held 8 stakeholder engagement sessions.

The Commission and the Chief are very pleased with the input received from community members. Over the 3 days in October, 143 residents of Grande Prairie, and surrounding areas, provided input on 6 different questions. An online survey was available until the end of October for anyone wanting to provide input but unable to attend in person. 36 individuals provided input through the online platform.

It was not surprising to hear some very common themes throughout all 8 sessions. Community members are very in tune with what is happening in Grande Prairie and what they want to see in the future. The Commission and Chief came away with a strong understanding of what the community wants for GPPS. This document provides a summary of key themes from the input received.



1. What you want the community to look like when Grande Prairie Police Service are the police of jurisdiction:

Diverse & Culturally Sensitive
Reduced Crime Community Involved
 Community Pride **Respectful**
Innovative
 Responsive Proactive Innovative **Visible Collaborative**
Safe Appropriately Resourced
Communicative Engaged
Accountable Educated & Well Trained

2. What you feel makes positive interactions with the police?

Community Involvement	Community Pride	Accountable
Respect	Publicly Engaged	Humour
Understanding	Follow Up	Consistent
Solutions Focused	De-escalation	Honesty
Responsive	Good Communication	



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3. Programs or initiatives you would like to see in the community.

Alternative Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentencing Circle • Stop program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restorative justice
Specific Programs from Other Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens on Patrol • Neighbourhood Watch • Drive Safe • Local Dispatch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive reinforcement • Report a Drug House • Report a John • School Resource Officer
Community Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice system • Community leagues • Outreach programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention programs • Mobile Outreach • PACT
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking • Foot patrols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build relationships
Data Driven Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address top 3 concerns • Results driven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence based programs
Diversity Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combat biases • Cultural Diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Liaison
Innovative Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body cams • Specialized units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic analysis • Reporting tools
Member Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention programs • Positive culture from the start 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient resources
Training and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Education • Diversity
Visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend events in the community • Drop in to shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foot patrols • Patrols in high crime areas
Youth Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassadors, mentors • Presence in the schools • High School options – Policing course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations at schools • Youth group involvement



4. How police can foster relationships in the community?

- Appropriate Education & Training
- Be Accountable
- Be Diverse
- Be Innovative
- Be Knowledgeable
- Be Responsive
- Be Visible
- Collaborate with Community Groups and Organizations
- Communicate
- Educate the Community
- Engage with Community Members
- Follow Up
- Humanize the Service
- Police Foundation
- Respect
- Transparency

5. Opportunities for GPPS to collaborate with organizations or community members:

- Be part of the community
- Be present
- Build relationships
- Communicate regularly
- Engage with community members
- Engage with organizations
- Share Information
- Use community organizations for training opportunities

6. How GPPS can contribute to a community free of bias and discrimination:

- Accountability
- Be respectful
- Build the right culture
- Build trust
- Collaborate with supportive organizations
- Diversity
- Educate and train members
- Embed it into all you do
- Engagement with diverse groups
- Intentional strategies
- Open communication

The Commission and Chief are incredibly appreciative of all the people that took the time to provide their input. Over the last few weeks, the Commission has been using this input to inform their 3-year Strategic Plan. The Chief will also be referring to this information as he builds out priority policing needs in the community.

If you have any questions, please email policecommission@cityofgp.com