

## The Provincial Police Service Agreement

**Who's responsible for policing?** Policing is a municipal responsibility in Nova Scotia. Under the Police Act, "Every municipality is responsible for the policing of and maintenance of law and order in the municipality and for providing and maintaining an adequate, efficient and effective police department at its expense in accordance with its needs."

**Name:** Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA)

**Current Contract:** expires March 31, 2012

**New Contract:** begins April 1, 2012

**Who with?** RCMP to provide the policing. Contract is with Public Safety Canada.

### Contract highlights:

- The province retains a 70/30 cost-share agreement for municipalities, including the Halifax Regional Municipality, at considerable savings to municipalities and the province.
- An enhanced Contract Management Committee will help ensure better cost-containment, governance, accountability and contract management during the contract's life. For example, the committee will have more oversight and governance powers related to programs that impact the cost to provinces.
- New processes and mechanisms to report, plan, monitor, review and evaluate financial and operational aspects of the RCMP programs to ensure the province is engaged on matters affecting the cost or quality of policing before key decisions are taken at the federal level.
- A two-year escape clause remains for municipalities that want to opt-out and create a municipal police force.
- Clarification of financial and staffing processes, including clarity around the re-deployment of RCMP to special events.
- NS Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee is expected to be involved in identifying issues and assessing solutions.

**Value:** \$100 million in 2011-12,

- Municipalities - \$64 million (for policing of municipalities)
- Province - \$34 million (for centralized policing services such as highway patrol, major crime investigations, bomb disposal, dog units, et cetera.)
- Federal funding of 30 per cent in addition to municipal/provincial funding

**Value in 2012-13:** one-time 4 per cent increase in Nova Scotia.

**Reason for increase:** Majority of increase is to pay for constructing and maintaining detachments and member living quarters.

**Length:** 20 years

**History:** RCMP have been Nova Scotia's Provincial Police Service for almost 80 years.

**Negotiations:** The federal and provincial/territorial governments have been negotiating this contract since 2010. Other provinces and territories are still in bilateral negotiations with Ottawa or need to put this issue to their Governments for approval so the full contract will not be made public at this time.

**Purpose:** Provides police services to 60 per cent of the population covering 94 per cent of Nova Scotia's land mass. Municipalities that use the Provincial Police Service as their local police pay two-thirds of the cost of the PPSA. The province funds one-third to provide common services.

**Staff:** 820 FTEs at all levels of the RCMP organization are part of the PPSA. Of these, 200 work for the province to provide traffic and specialized crime services, such as major crime investigators, 100-series highway patrols, canine units, emergency response teams and other such services.

**Detachments:** There are 37 detachments in the province.

**Other policing models in NS:**

- Nine other municipalities directly contract with Public Safety Canada for the RCMP to provide policing services and do not fall under the PPSA. They are the towns of Yarmouth, Oxford, Port Hawkesbury, Digby, Antigonish, Parrsboro, Pictou, Windsor and Shelburne.
- Ten other municipalities have their own police departments (Cape Breton Regional Municipality, New Glasgow, Stellarton, Westville, Springhill, Amherst, Bridgewater, Annapolis, Kentville and Truro).
- Halifax Regional Municipality has a unique integrated policing model where Halifax Regional Police and RCMP work together.
- First Nations communities contract their police services from other agencies.