



What is the history of this issue and how does it impact First Nations?

Since 1992, First Nation Police Services have been funded through the federal government's First Nations Policing Policy (FNPP). While the FNPP was intended to improve social order, public security, and personal safety in First Nations, it has been chronically underfunded and therefore a key source of inequities between First Nations and non-First Nations policing systems.

In December 2020, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness announced it would create new First Nations policing legislation and the federal government committed to working with First Nations to create a federal framework that recognizes First Nations policing as an essential service. Since the announcement the AFN has been working closely with First Nations leaders and Police chiefs to develop policy options for a legislative framework. This framework would replace the current First Nations Policing Program (FNPP) which for the last 30 years has been chronically underfunded, leading to inequitable standards and resources for First Nations police services. Following the commitment to develop a new legislative framework for First Nations Policing, Public Safety Canada (PSC) carried out their own virtual engagement sessions to obtain input on the development of the First Nations Policing legislation.

First Nations leaders, advocates, experts, and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), have long advocated for changes to the FNPP. More specifically, calls have been made by First Nations leaders, advocates, and experts for a legislative framework that would give First Nations police access to funds and resources that are otherwise unavailable under the FNPP. The AFN has been actively engaging with First Nations, the federal government, and other important stakeholders to ensure First Nations police receive the equitable funds and resources required to carry out their duties for First Nations citizens, which are not currently available under the FNPP.

How has the AFN's recent advocacy affected this area?

At the Annual General Assembly (AGA) in July 2021, First Nations-in-Assembly passed **Resolution 07/2021, Creation and Implementation of Legislation for First Nations Policing as an Essential Service**. This directed the AFN to advocate for the equitable treatment of First Nations police services through the development of a First Nations policing legislative framework. Our goal at the AFN is to ensure that First Nations police get the funding, resources, infrastructure, and personnel they have not been able to access under the FNPP. AFN will continue to advocate toward the development of a new federal legislative framework that would provide equitable funding and resources for First Nations policing services.



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In December 2021 at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA), First Nations-in-Assembly passed **Resolution 34/2021**, *Support for Regionally Developed First Nations Policing Service*. This directed the AFN to advocate for a Nation-to-Nation, Treaty-based approach to the development of policing legislation and supporting regional policing solutions that include the transfer of sustainable, guaranteed funding to the respective regions.

To meet these mandates, the AFN organized the second National Forum on Policing and Restorative Justice in April 2022 where First Nations leaders, First Nations police officers, and policing experts explored options in the development of a legislative framework for First Nations Policing as an Essential Service. There were several moderated discussion groups that allowed participants to engage in more focused conversation aimed at gathering input from First Nations on what they want to see included in the legislation.

The First Nations policing taskforce committee has continued to meet throughout the year to provide support and guidance for the development of a new First Nations policing legislative framework. The committee comprises regional representatives, technical experts, and executive members of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association. The committee's work takes a principled approach to ensuring the legislative framework fully recognizes and financially supports First Nations policing as part of the Crown's fiduciary duty to First Nations people. The taskforce aids in the articulation of principles, values, and approaches to developing the First Nations policing legislative framework.

AFN has worked to meet our mandates by supporting the AFN regions to carry out engagements so First Nations can give direct input into the new policing legislative framework. Each AFN region was funded to host engagement sessions with interested parties and key stakeholders. Ensuring that First Nations lead the development of the legislation is a keystone to addressing systemic racism against First Nations and enabling our right to self-determination as outlined in our customary laws, historic treaty processes, and in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Where do we hope to go in the future?

The AFN is dedicated to the full implementation of a First Nations policing legislative framework that both secures the proper funding and resources for First Nations police services, and supports non-colonial, community-based models as required by each community wishing to participate in the framework.



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Developing this legislative framework requires input from First Nations across the country, and in the coming months regional engagement will be completed to ensure that the framework is inclusive and flexible to meet the unique needs of First Nations and their police services. Above all, the AFN will continue to advocate for upholding First Nations' jurisdiction over community safety and policing by ensuring Canada respects First Nations' laws, customary traditions, and the inherent rights of all First Nations Peoples.