

Information Item No. 2
Board of Police Commissioners
September 20, 2021

Report on work of the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance (NSAPG)

September 16, 2021

Submitted by Carole McDougall

Vice Chair, BoPC

The Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance (NSAPG) is a provincial organization, established 1991, to support Municipal Boards of Police Commissions and Advisory Boards in the province. Goals include collecting and sharing police governance information, identifying training opportunities to inform civilian and appointed members of their role and responsibilities, providing networking opportunities for members and updating members on policy concerns that have a provincial impact affecting police services in Nova Scotia.

The NSAPG board meets at least three times a year and co-hosts an annual conference with the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police in September each year.

The NSAPG board is composed of a member from each of the ten Municipal Board of Police Commissions and five Advisory Board members - one from each of the five zones established by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities. These five represent the 29 Advisory Boards from across the province. The Executive Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting held in conjunction with the fall conference, meets at least three times per year or as needed.

Covid-19 has created challenges for the NSAPG as well as many organizations in the province. Meetings have been held on Zoom but less frequently. The most recent meeting was held in late August. The agenda included items related to bylaw changes for NSAPG along with reports from provincial Department of Justice (DOJ) committees with NSAPG members. These committees include the Policing Standards committee (had not met over the summer), the RCMP Contract Management Committee (had not met over the summer) and the Wortley Report Research Committee (WRRRC) recommending race based data collection in response to the Wortley Report (report was submitted by a Dalhousie Researcher but not public as yet).

An important development was confirmation that a training module for commissions and boards had been developed by DOJ. A DOJ representative can be scheduled to deliver the training to explain the Police Act and clarify roles and responsibilities of members. The first session will potentially combine boards from Bridgewater, Chester and Kentville in a session in late September or early October. The Halifax BOPC is encouraged to contact DOJ to schedule a training session.