

Community Survey to Measure Trust and Confidence

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1 - Title

Community Survey to Measure Trust and Confidence

2 - Purpose

The role of the Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) is to provide civilian oversight and to reflect the needs and values of the community. Community members need to be consulted *annually* so the BOPC can gain a better understanding of what trust and confidence in police means to community members. The BOPC is committed to gaining a better understanding of community needs and values and recommending policies to enhance trust and confidence. This policy outlines the BOPC commitment to fulfilling its role to reflect the needs and values of the community by working with HRP, RCMP and potentially a research firm to survey the community attitudes to policing services in HRM.

3 - Scope

The Halifax Board of Police Commissioners (the Board) is established as an independent authority pursuant to the *Police Act*, NS 2004, c. 31 as amended. The Board has dual roles: provide civilian governance to the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) on behalf of Halifax Regional Council (Council) (s 55) and function as an advisory board regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in its role as a contractual policing service with the Halifax Regional Municipality. (s 68(1)).

4 – Definitions

In the context of this document:

Police Act means the *Police Act*, S.N.S. 2004, c. 31 as amended

Board means the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

Chair means Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners

Chief of Police means the Chief of Halifax Regional Police

Chief Superintendent means the Chief Superintendent of the RCMP, Halifax District

Chiefs means the Chief of Police of HRP and the Chief Superintendent of the RCMP

Council means Halifax Regional Council

HRM means the Halifax Regional Municipality

HRP means the Halifax Regional Police

Legislative Assistant means representative of the Municipal Clerk's Office

Member(s) means a member of the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

RCMP means the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax District

5 - Distribution

Policies may be distributed to all Board of Police Commissioners, CAO, Municipal Clerk, HRM Councillors, the Chiefs and their respective departments, Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance and posted on HRM website with link to HRP website. This list may be expanded as required.

6 - Roles and Responsibilities

1. The Board is created by the *Police Act* which gives it the responsibility to provide civilian oversight and to reflect the needs and values of the community.
2. The first step in “reflecting the needs and values of the community” is to conduct research to determine a benchmark and to then continue to measure these categories year after year.
3. The research questions may be designed in collaboration with HRP, RCMP, BOPC and a consultant experienced in conducting community research.
4. Once responses are evaluated and reported to the BOPC, policies may be recommended to respond to the results and if necessary, address concerns raised by the public.
5. The BOPC will add this item to its annual calendar so the research remains a priority and can be reported annually to Council in the BOPC Annual Report.

7 - Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed every four years and when the Act is amended.

8 - Contact

Office of the Municipal Clerk

9 - References

None