

CACP INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

March 2009

Background

The concept of a CACP International Committee was first proposed by Chief Armand La Barge and RCMP Assistant Commissioner Raf Succar during a CACP Strategic Direction meeting that was held in Quebec City on January 14 and 15, 2008. We have witnessed incredible change within communities all across Canada over the past two decades. Although the term "global village" is a much overused descriptor to describe our shrinking world, it is completely accurate given the incredible advances in technology, the advent of 24 hour news stations and the increasing rates of immigration here in Canada.

The recent conflict in India, Israel, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have created great anxiety within large cities across Canada. In some cities, police had to contend with large scale demonstrations in support of one side or the other of the conflict and counter-demonstrations. The routing of the LTTE or Tamil Tigers in Kilinochchi and other parts of Vanni and the Jutna Peninsula has resulted in widespread Tamil demonstrations against the alleged atrocities by the Singhalese troops. Despite the fact that the LTTE has been designated as a terrorist organization by the Canadian Government, LTTE flags and banners and photographs of LTTE leader, Vilapalli Prabhakaran are openly displayed.

The most recent conflict between the State of Israel and the Gaza-based Hamas group and the resulting deaths of hundreds of Palestinian civilians resulted in demonstrations and rallies all across Canada. Important world events like the collapse of the Soviet empire, China's movement towards modernization, the US invasion of Iraq and the war in Afghanistan have had impacts on communities here in Canada. As Chiefs of Police we have to deal with these types of issues but we also have to be able understand the drivers behind them and we have to be able to predict such events.

The International Committee would enable Chiefs of Police and other Senior Police Executives to share best practices and to avoid situations where they have unknowingly or unwittingly put themselves in a position of conflict or they have offended or alienated a segment of their community.

Mission

The new International Committee will better position CACP and its members by providing us with an increased awareness and education about international events and the impact that such global events have or could potential have on our country and on our local communities.

This awareness and education will better enable CACP and its members to influence government policy concerning international policing, crime and security issues that impact on the well being of all Canadians. There is currently no independent committee dealing with international issues of policing, crime and security.

The new International Committee would raise police and public awareness about the impact and realities of international issues on crime and security at home. It would create opportunities for CACP to influence government in matters of international policy that will tend to have security implications for Canadians and it would enable CACP to contribute to priority setting in international crime, security or policing issues. In addition, the new International Committee would create a vehicle for national and trans-national exchange and interaction and it would also create a forum for research of international crime or security issues that impact Canadians and Canadian interests.

Makeup

It is recommended that the International Committee be co-chaired by a member of the RCMP and a municipal Chief of Police. Chief Armand La Barge and RCMP Chief Superintendent Barb Fleury are positioned to take on the co-chairs of this new committee. It is recommended that the committee be comprised of other representatives from the federal, provincial and municipal police services that makeup the CACP.

To be effective, the committee needs representatives from such police services as Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, the OPP, Montreal, the SQ, Halifax, St. John's and any other city with a diverse population base. I have already been approached by Chiefs of Police in Ontario seeking membership on the committee and I anticipate Chiefs from the major services would quickly see the benefit in this committee and either volunteer to sit on the committee or appoint a Deputy Chief or another Senior Executive to the committee.

Outcomes

The committee will be in place for the CACP Conference in Prince Edward Island and will have formalized our mission and mandate and will be prepared to present that at that time. We will work towards a one or two day workshop in

2010 and the production of written material and a comprehensive report each year.