



Overview

Background

In November 2018, the City of Surrey decided to change how it wants policing services to be delivered and exercised its authority under the BC Police Act to have its own municipal police service. The Province approved this change and appointed a new Surrey Police Board in July 2020.

As a result, policing services in Surrey are transitioning from being delivered by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) under the Municipal Policing Service Agreement and Municipal Police Unit Agreement, to being delivered by the Surrey Police Service (SPS). The SPS was created as an independent police service by the Surrey Police Board in August 2020. The SPS is not yet operational and policing services will continue to be provided by the RCMP until SPS is ready to operationalize and assume responsibility for policing and law enforcement in Surrey.

Establishment of the SPTTC

There are a lot of activities that are happening to transfer policing services from the RCMP to SPS. To oversee these activities the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments set up the Surrey Police Transition Trilateral Committee (SPTTC) in September 2020. A Terms of Reference outlines the mandate, purpose and principles under which the SPTTC operates.

Assistant Deputy Ministers from the Government of Canada and the Province of BC with the City Manager and General Manager from the City of Surrey make up the SPTTC. It is tasked with guiding and supporting the development, negotiation and implementation of a phased transition of policing services. Senior leaders of the RCMP and the SPS also participate on the committee in an “ex officio” capacity to provide their expertise and input to the design and implementation of the transition process.

The SPTTC is supported by a Working Group and obtains subject matter expertise from within each of the partners as required, to plan and implement transition activities. There are dozens of experts with in-depth Surrey-specific knowledge and experience of policing who are working collaboratively to enable the transition. As well the Working Group is engaged with legal counsel to ensure appropriate legal review of all transition matters is completed. The City of Surrey provides secretariat support for the SPTTC.

Working Group members are senior staff members from each of the partners and they are tasked with coordinating and delivering the directions received from the SPTTC. They are in turn supported by other staff from across the partner organizations.

Mandate and Purpose of the SPTTC

The shared mandate of the SPTTC partners as agreed in the Terms of Reference is:

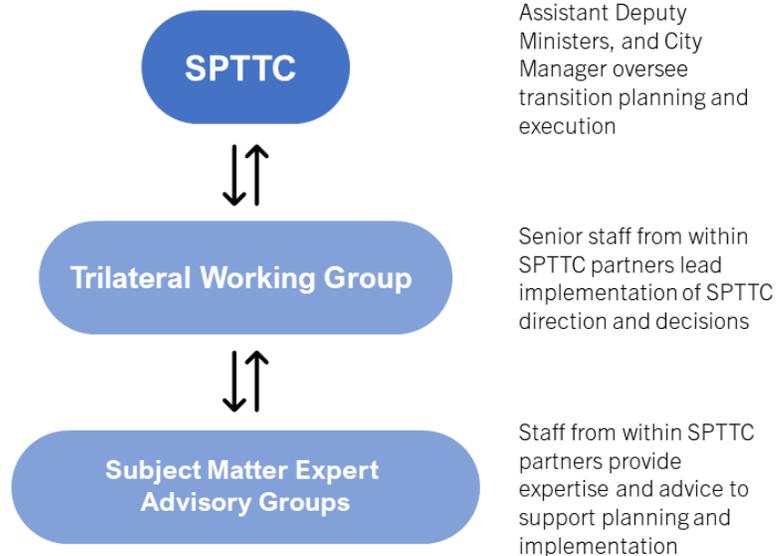
“to support the orderly, efficient and timely transition of policing services from RCMP, pursuant to Canada-BC Municipal Policing Services Agreement, to an independent Surrey Police Service operating under BC statutes”

All of the partners are fully committed to working collaboratively under their agreed mandate and purpose to plan, implement and complete an effective transition of policing services for the citizens of Surrey. Significant work has already been accomplished to enable the transition. Surrey’s transition to its own municipal police service is well underway and several key milestones have been achieved.

All of the SPTTC partners are also committed to ensuring no disruption to policing services during the transition period. Members of the community can have confidence that public safety is the number one priority, and they will continue to receive services.

Structure

The graphic illustrates the governance structure for the committee.

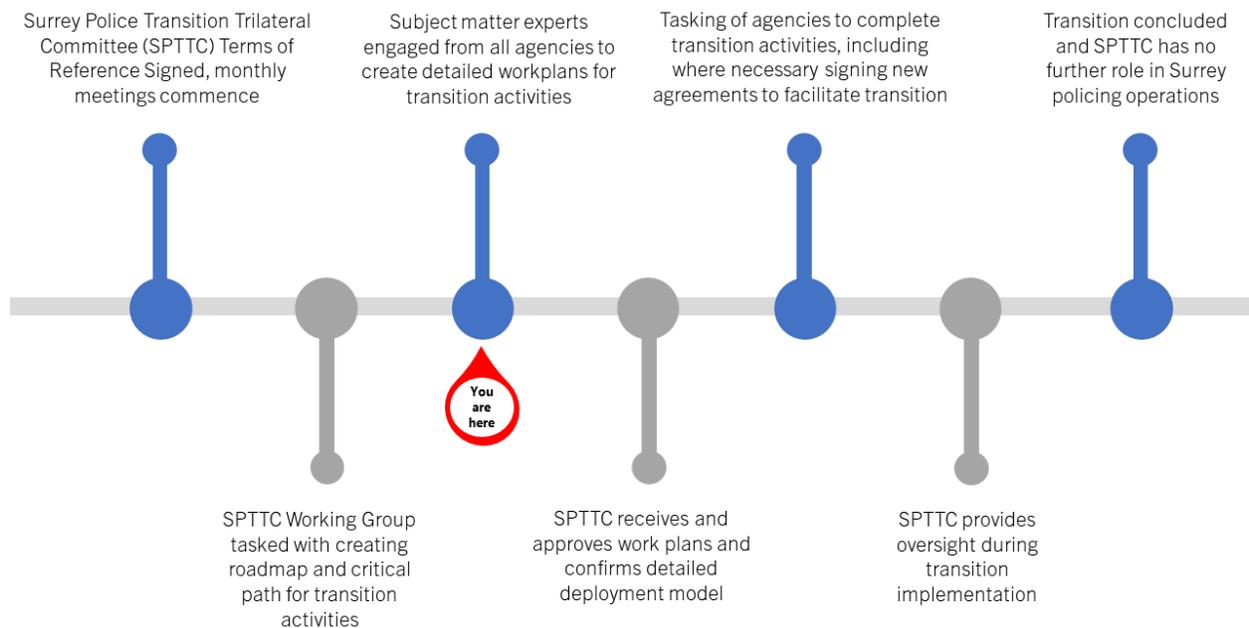


Process

There are many complex matters under discussion related to the transition and it is important to respect that SPTTC decisions have a direct impact on the Surrey RCMP

members and civilian staff that are currently delivering policing services in Surrey. Confidentiality must be maintained for these complex negotiations and to protect the privacy of employees. The SPTTC is committed to transparency and will be ensuring that employees are informed as soon as practicable on decisions impacting their employment and that the public receives information when information is finalized.

The SPTTC is committed to completing the work in a timely manner and it meets frequently in order to move the project forward efficiently. The graphic outlines the main steps in the process of the transition.



Specific timelines are not included on the graphic as these are subject to change based on discussions which are underway.