



Frequently Asked Questions

The frequently asked questions provide background and information on the Surrey Police Transition Trilateral Committee (SPTTC) and the work underway to develop a new service delivery model for policing in Surrey.



What is the Policing Transition?

The term 'policing transition' refers to a process that began in November 2018 when the City of Surrey decided to exercise its authority under the BC Police Act to develop its own municipal police service.

Policing services in Surrey are transitioning from being delivered by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) under contract through the Municipal Police Unit Agreement, to being delivered by the Surrey Police Service that was created as an independent police service by the Surrey Police Board in August 2020.



What is the SPTTC?

The Surrey Police Transition Trilateral Committee (SPTTC) is a committee of senior representatives from the Government of Canada, the Province of BC and the City of Surrey. The committee was established to oversee and coordinate the details with respect to how the transition from the RCMP to the SPS will occur. The RCMP and the SPS participate as *ex officio* members of the committee.



Will the transition affect public safety?

All of the SPTTC partners are committed to ensuring a smooth transition of policing services and maintaining the level of policing resources throughout the transition. Members of the community can have confidence that your safety is the number one priority, and you will continue to receive support.

In an emergency you should continue to call 911, or if you wish to report a non-emergency incident or issue please call (604) 599 0502.



Do the RCMP or SPS participate on the SPTTC?

Senior leaders of the RCMP and the SPS participate on the committee to provide their expertise and input to the design and implementation of the transition process. The Surrey Police Board also participates in the committee. They participate in what is called an “*ex officio*” capacity which means that they do not make the final decisions as to how the transition is happening.

The representatives of the three levels of government hold the authority (under the BC Police Act and other laws, and under existing legal agreements) to determine how the transition is happening.



Why has the SPTTC not made more information on the transition public?

There are many complex policy, operational and legal issues being discussed by the SPTTC. All partners are currently focused on transforming the proposed transition model into a concrete operational plan. Given the important implications that this transition will have on Surrey RCMP Members, civilian staff, new SPS employees, and the public writ large, it would be inappropriate to share details until decisions are agreed by the members of the committee. After each meeting key messages are confirmed by the SPTTC for release to provide updates on progress and we expect more substantive updates will be provided in the coming weeks and months.



When can the public expect to receive more information on the transition?

The SPTTC understands that there is a lot of public interest in the transition and is committed to transparency. It will be making information public as soon as confidential negotiations and decisions are completed.

Over the course of the transition more information will be released about how the transition is progressing and what it means for the citizens of Surrey.



Where can I learn more about the Surrey Police Service?

You should visit www.surreypolice.ca or follow @surreyps on Twitter to find out more about the exciting work underway to establish the SPS.

Chief Constable Norm Lipinski and his team are actively engaging with the community to keep people informed about SPS.



What is the role of the Surrey Police Board?

You can learn more about the role and functions of the Surrey Police Board at www.surreypoliceboard.ca. The Board was established by the province to set up and oversee the Surrey Police Service. The Board provides input to the SPTTC but is not directly involved in its planning and implementation.