



**POLICE
PREPAREDNESS FOR
ABORIGINAL CRITICAL
INCIDENTS**

OPP Strategic Objectives

Our Work, People, Relationships, Infrastructure

Our Relationships

Engage in and strengthen our relationships and trust with the people we serve, our Justice sector partners and our stakeholders.

- Work on Relationships
- Transition of Ontario First Nations police services

Mission Critical Issues

- Professionalism
- Relationship Building with Aboriginal Communities
- Meeting Needs of Diverse Communities
- Supporting Marginalized Persons
- Responsible Fiscal Management

MCI - Aboriginal Communities

The OPP's relationship with Aboriginal communities is a core business of the organization. The OPP through developed and ongoing relationships will continue providing policing assistance to Aboriginal communities and supporting First Nations Police Services.

OPP Training

- Native Awareness Training
- Diversity Training
- ART / MELT Training
- Napanee Detachment Training (2002 – 2003)
- Justice Circle Training – TMT
- Indigenous Approaches To Restorative Justice – TMT

Aboriginal Critical Incidents

- Ipperwash
- Douglas Creek Estates
- Culbertson Tract Reclamation
- Robertsville Uranium Mine

Ipperwash Report - Recommendations

Police Services in Ontario should promote peacekeeping by adopting the following:

- Minimize risk of violence
- Preserve and restore public order
- Facilitate the exercise of constitutionally protected rights
- Remain neutral
- Facilitate the building of trusting relationships that will assist in the dispute

Ipperwash Report – Recommendations – Con't

- OPP should maintain its Framework for Police Preparedness for Aboriginal Critical Incidents
- OPP should commission independent, third-party evaluations of its Framework
- OPP should post all significant OPP and provincial government documents and policies on its website

Ipperwash Report – Recommendations – Con't

- OPP should develop a consultation and liaison policy regarding non-Aboriginal communities (MELT)
- OPP should develop a strategy to restore relationships with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities after an occupation or protest

Ipperwash Report – Recommendations – Con't

- The provincial gov't should develop a provincial peacekeeping policy to govern response to protests / occupations
 - Ministerial directive from MCS&CS to the OPP
 - Support for the Framework
- Ministerial guideline for other police services
- Applicable to all other ministries (e.g. MNR)
- Should be promulgated ASAP

Ipperwash Report – Recommendations – Con't

Provincial gov't should adopt a flexible policy and consider the following factors:

- Realistic assessment of the claim
- Risks to public safety
- Willingness of the protesters to negotiate
- Likelihood of a constructive, peaceful, timely agreement
- Social or economic disruption
- Other relevant factors

Ontario Provincial Police

**A FRAMEWORK FOR
POLICE**

**PREPAREDNESS
FOR ABORIGINAL
CRITICAL
INCIDENTS**

Purpose of the Framework

The purpose of the document is threefold:

- promote an operationally sound, informed and flexible approach to resolving conflict and managing crisis in a consistent manner;
- offer a framework that demonstrates accommodation and mutual respect of differences, positions and interests of the involved Aboriginal community and the OPP; and
- promoting and developing strategies that minimize the use of force to the fullest extent possible.

Definition of Term Aboriginal

- For the purposes of this document the term Aboriginal refers to a collective group including;
 - Status Indians (as defined by the federal Indian Act),
 - Non-status Indians,
 - Métis and
 - Inuit.
- The term First Nation, when used refers to Indian Band (as defined by the federal Indian Act).

Aboriginal Relations Teams

- fostering trusting relationships between the OPP and Aboriginal communities
- maintaining contacts within local and regional Aboriginal communities
- remaining current on issues related to local Aboriginal communities
- sharing information with each other
- assisting in facilitating communications during any Aboriginal related dispute, conflict or critical incident
- providing informed advice to the Aboriginal Liaison, Operations Officer, OPP regional command staff and incident commanders regarding Aboriginal issues

Major Event Liaison Team

- Originally designed for major events, such international summits or dignitary visits
- Gap found in effective police communications with other stakeholders
- Affected residents within communities also need to be heard
- Role of MELT evolved to include liaison between police and non-aboriginal communities during aboriginal critical incidents

Critical Incident Mediator

During an Aboriginal related Critical Incident

- meets with Aboriginal representatives and communicates police interests
- listens for and identifies key issues and interests of the Aboriginal representatives
- communicates these issues and interests to the incident commander
- develops in concert with the incident commander a mutually acceptable and lasting resolution strategy

Aboriginal – Critical Incident Commander

- Responsible for managing an event
- Minimum rank of inspector
- All units, such as ART, MELT, POU, specialized units, detachment personnel, etc., report to the I/C

HOW TO USE THIS FRAMEWORK

Pre-Critical Incident

Critical Incident

Post Critical Incident

Pre-Critical Incident

- *What to look for*
 - an initiative or event is being planned that could lead to conflict
 - there exists a high probability that an ongoing initiative or event could lead to conflict or crisis
- *What can be done*
 - remain informed of issues
 - be open, talk to all parties
 - always be honest. Overt and consistent honesty is the best way to earn trust
 - build positive trusting relationships

Critical Incident

Strategy Opportunity

- *All parties can contribute to a resolution*

Transparency

• What to look for

- questions from involved persons are not being satisfactorily addressed
- comments related to the critical incident increase in frequency or intensity and indicate greater likelihood of crisis
- positions being communicated become increasingly entrenched and polarized

What can be done

- Position*
- Interests*
- Procedures*

Critical Incident

What can be done

- **Position**

- emphasize that negotiations will be used at every opportunity
- communicate to disputants everyone will be treated with dignity and respect
- state the role of First Nations police officers

- **Interests**

- establish the policing interests as they relate to the dispute at hand
- identify the organizational structure of the disputants and key external persons
- take every opportunity to facilitate productive communications

Post Critical Incident

- *What to look for*

- Persons in dispute are emotionally and physically exhausted
- Parties may want to reflect on what has just occurred and want to discuss the lessons learned and identify peace-building actions

What can be done

- Encourage a non-confrontational meeting to discuss with the disputants the lessons learned from the crisis
- Facilitate a session where police and parties in conflict can establish an action plan that addresses the damage done during the dispute or crisis
- Debrief

Role of the Police

What can the communities expect for police response?

- The OPP will follow the Framework
- Augmenting detachment resources
- ART / MELT
- Incident Command



Questions???