

APPS Engagement Session Quick Questions Guide

What is the issue?

The Government of Alberta is exploring the creation of an Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS), as recommended in the [Fair Deal Panel](#). To support this, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (JSG) has released three documents prepared by PricewaterhouseCooper (PwC) regarding the transition to an APPS. The [APPS Transition Study](#) (APPSTS), [APPS Current State Report](#), and [APPS Future State Report](#) provide a roadmap for how the province could transition to an APPS from the current policing model which utilizes the RCMP.

What is RMA doing to support members?

RMA has drafted an [engagement guide](#) for members, which is hosted on a new hub on our website: [RMA Resources for Provincial Police Transition](#). This guide provides an overview of the information in the PwC reports to help members engage with JSG. Additionally, RMA hosted a virtual townhall with members on January 6 to present information and answer questions from members.

How do I use this guide?

This guide is being created to provide members with quick access to questions RMA recommends asking during the JSG engagement session. These questions are grouped by themes, which correspond to the discussion points during the JSG session. These questions are the same as those in the full RMA engagement guide, but are pulled out here for easy access.

Theme: Governance and Oversight

Recommended Questions

- ◆ How will provincial police commission members be selected? Will this be a political process or a competency-based process? Who would be responsible for recruitment and selection? How will the provincial commission be funded and administratively supported?
- ◆ How will local police committees be structured? What level of flexibility will be available for communities to populate and operate police committees as they see fit?
- ◆ What accountability mechanisms will be developed to require detachment leaders to consider and report on direction provided by local committees?
- ◆ How will detachments serving multiple communities balance input received from various local policing committees?
- ◆ How will local policing committees provide input on provincial policing priorities to the provincial commission? How will the commission be accountable to local committees?

Theme: Staffing and Human Resources

Recommended Questions

- ◆ The staffing levels under both Models A and B suggest that municipalities with an MPSA will no longer be able to contract their policing from the RCMP. Is this what is being proposed?

- ♦ Will the HR programs and policies detailed in the current state report be implemented by a future APPS? If not, how will they be replaced?
- ♦ Is it possible to provide effective policing under Model A, which would see the total number of officers trained to the Level 1 standard decrease by approximately 50%? How would the distribution of Level 1 and Level 2 officers be determined?
- ♦ How will staffing requirements in rural detachments be determined? What method will be used and will it be different from the current RCMP approach?
- ♦ How will conflicts of interest and personal relationships be addressed in a model that emphasizes policing by local residents in small and rural communities?

Theme: Mental Health

Recommended Questions

- ♦ On what factors will the deployment of mental health teams be based? Will there be situations where mental health teams encounter dangerous or unpredictable situations?
- ♦ What measures will be put in place to ensure that the relatively small number of mental health teams are able to provide an equitable level of service throughout the province, especially in rural areas?
- ♦ How will response decisions be negotiated between frontline officers and mental health teams? If disagreement exists on how to approach a specific situation, whose approach takes precedence?
- ♦ How will APPS mental health teams collaborate with local mental health related organizations and experts regarding specific calls? How will the APPS' regional teams effectively leverage local knowledge?

Theme: Deployment

Recommended Questions

- ♦ What metrics will be used to identify hub detachments?
- ♦ Will all hub detachments offer identical specialized services or will there be different levels of hubs with different types of services available?
- ♦ Are all existing detachments physically capable of serving as hubs? If not, will the costs of upgrading existing infrastructure be used as a consideration in the selection of hubs?
- ♦ Will municipalities with hubs located within their boundaries have more input into regional specialized services than those without hubs? How will community policing and hub-based specialized service delivery be separated in terms of municipal and community input?
- ♦ How will centralized specialized services (such as those delivered through ALERT) be evaluated at the regional and local level? Will municipalities or local policing committees have a voice into the effectiveness of these specialized units?
- ♦ How will the “smart owner” approach to contracting with the Edmonton and Calgary police services work in practice? Who makes deployment decisions? Who maintains equipment and resources?
- ♦ How will the APPS and the Edmonton and Calgary police services be accountable to rural communities for ensuring service levels delivered through the smart owner approach are adequate?
- ♦ What happens if the Edmonton and/or Calgary Police Service is unwilling to enter into a collaborative agreement with the APPS? What would be the costs of delivering specialized services to rural areas under a standalone APPS model?

What if the municipal police budgets or capacities in Edmonton or Calgary change significantly and their scope of specialized services is reduced? Would the APPS incur increased costs or would provincewide availability of those specialized services also be impacted?

Theme: Integration

Recommended Questions

- ◆ Have the stakeholders identified to work with in an integrated manner indicated their support for this model?
- ◆ The areas of operations to be integrated with other organizations represent a significant change from the current system. Who will provide oversight to this transition?
- ◆ Under the proposed APPS information-sharing model, would community peace officers have full access to information needed to perform their duties safely and effectively?
- ◆ What up-front capital and long-term operational costs would be associated with building and maintaining an Alberta-specific police training regime?

Theme: Costs

Recommended Questions

- ◆ How accurate will the cost comparisons found in the report between the current RCMP model and the proposed APPS models be if an actual transition would likely not occur until 2025? How might RCMP cost drivers and projected APPS cost drivers change in the minimum of three years until the actual transition will occur?
- ◆ As municipalities are major stakeholders on this issue and directly impacted by the proposed change in terms of both service delivery and financially, why was the municipal cost allocation for the APPS model deemed out of scope for the PwC report? Can the GOA consult with municipalities on this aspect of the APPS model prior to making any final decisions on a transition?
- ◆ Why are there so many assumptions built into the cost model related to shared services and the formation of provincial communication networks, etc.? As these aspects would rely heavily on collaboration with the Government of Alberta, why were the relevant provincial entities not consulted more thoroughly during the report development?
- ◆ How will a heavy reliance on existing Government of Alberta administrative systems impact the ability of those systems to support other provincial business that they already support?

Have questions?

Contact RMA Policy Advisor Warren Noga at warren@RMAAlberta.com.