

CACP INDIGENOUS POLICING SUMMIT

Insight to Impact: Advancing Indigenous Policing Excellence

SOMMET DE L'ACCP SUR LA POLICE DES AUTOCHTONES

Du concept à l'impact : Promouvoir l'excellence dans la Police des Autochtones

September 20-22 septembre 2026, Tsuut'ina, AB



Braiding traditions, respect, rights, responsibilities, relationships and opportunities

This national summit will provide a platform for police leaders to strengthen operational readiness and build capacity in relation to Indigenous policing. It has been 10 years since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and over five years since the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We are moving from listening and learning to action. The event will focus on equipping decision-makers with practical strategies and tools to:

- Bring police leaders and Indigenous knowledge together to enhance community safety.
- Support the role of First Nations laws and by-laws in building safer communities.
- Apply lessons from past inquiries and reports to current practices.
- Promote understanding of Indigenous traditions and governance in policing.
- Equip police to support Indigenous-led safety efforts and foster lasting, respectful relationships.

Who Should Attend:

- Law enforcement personnel (Executives, Senior Managers, Supervisors, and Front Line)
- Government policymakers and legal experts
- Indigenous policing and justice sector partners
- Police association representatives

TIME	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
17:00 – 19:00	Onsite Registration (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)

TIME	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026
07:00	Onsite Registration (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)
07:00 – 16:30	Exhibit Show (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026	
07:00 – 08:30	Breakfast (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)
08:15 – 16:30	Plenary Sessions (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom</i>)
08:15 – 08:30	Opening Ceremonies Opening Prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Ellerly Starlight, Tsuut'ina Nation Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Keith Blake, M.O.M., Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service
SESSION 1 08:30 – 09:20	Truth and Reconciliation Is Not Just History; It's About How Trust and Strategy Are Built or Broken Today Presenter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Cadmus Delorme, Cowessess First Nation Description Cadmus brings experience, case studies, and strategy to bridge what we all inherited and build on our Nation's strengths. Truth is the real currency of Policing and accountability goes both ways. After hearing Cadmus, the audience should have tools for validation, focus on purpose, and understand that we all inherited a shared history.
SESSION 2 09:20 – 10:30	Indigenous-Centered Police Leadership – Understanding Expectations of Leadership Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Peacekeeper Dwayne Zacharie, O.O.M., Kahnawake Peacekeepers; President, First Nations Chiefs of Police Association of Quebec Chief Keith Blake, M.O.M., Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service Assistant Commissioner John Brewer, O.O.M., Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superintendent Marcel Beaudin, M.O.M., Ontario Provincial Police; Co-Chair, CACP Policing with Indigenous Peoples Committee Description This panel explores what Indigenous-centered police leadership looks like in practice and what Indigenous communities expect from police leaders today. Drawing on the perspectives of national Indigenous leadership, Indigenous police chiefs, and senior policing executives, the session examines leadership approaches grounded in respect for Indigenous rights, governance, and community-defined safety priorities. Panelists will discuss how police leaders at all levels influence trust, legitimacy, and outcomes through the decisions they make around authority, partnership, and accountability. For municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous police services, the

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	<p>focus is on how leadership choices shape operational relationships, support Indigenous-led safety efforts, and align policing practices with Indigenous laws and bylaws.</p> <p>This session moves beyond theory to examine how leaders can build organizational readiness for Indigenous policing by embedding shared responsibility, clear expectations, and culturally informed decision-making into policy, supervision, and daily operations.</p> <p>Leadership Takeaways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Indigenous expectations of police leadership and decision-making • Applying leadership models based on partnership, shared authority, and mutual accountability • Strengthening police organizations to support Indigenous governance and self-determined safety priorities • Translating leadership commitments into operational practices that build trust and lasting relationships
10:30 – 11:00	Network Break (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)
SESSION 3 11:00 – 11:15	TBC
SESSION 4 11:15 – 12:15	TBC
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)
SESSION 5 13:15 – 14:00	<p>Understanding First Nations Legal Orders</p> <p>Description</p> <p>This session explores First Nations legal orders and governance structures through the perspective of Indigenous Police Commissions, with a focus on how law, governance, and police accountability intersect in practice. Drawing on the lived experience of Police Commission leadership, the session clarifies how Indigenous legal authority shapes community safety, police oversight, and the relationship between police services and First Nations governments.</p> <p>A key focus of this session is the distinction between governance and operations. Presenters will discuss the role of Police Commissions in setting strategic direction, ensuring accountability, and upholding community expectations, while remaining appropriately separated from day to day police operations. This distinction is critical</p>

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for police leaders across all services, particularly when working within or alongside Indigenous governance frameworks.

For municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous police services, this session provides practical insight into how understanding First Nations legal orders supports respectful partnerships, clear lines of authority, and effective decision making. Participants will strengthen their ability to work confidently within Indigenous governance systems while maintaining operational integrity and mutual respect.

Leadership Takeaways

- Understanding the role of First Nations legal orders and Police Commissions in community safety
- Clarifying the separation between governance, oversight, and police operations
- Strengthening police accountability through respectful engagement with Indigenous governance structures
- Building effective working relationships with Police Commissions and First Nations leadership

SESSION 6
14:00 – 14:45

Strengthening First Nations By-Law Enforcement**Presenters**

- Tyler Sturgeon, Ontario Provincial Police

Description

This session examines the role of First Nations by-laws as essential tools for community safety, self-determination, and local governance. Drawing on legal expertise and senior policing experience, presenters will explore how by-laws are created, the authority under which they operate, and how police services can support their enforcement in ways that respect Indigenous laws, leadership, and community priorities.

The discussion will focus on the practical realities faced by police officers and leaders when responding to by-law related matters, including enforcement authority, jurisdictional clarity, and collaborative approaches with First Nations governments and by-law officers. Participants will examine how police services can move beyond enforcement alone to support community-driven compliance, problem solving, and safety outcomes.

For municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous police services, this session offers actionable guidance on operationalizing First Nations by-laws, strengthening partnerships, and aligning policing practices with Indigenous legal orders and governance structures.

Leadership Takeaways

- Understanding the legal foundation and authority of First Nations by-laws

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifying police roles and responsibilities in supporting by-law enforcement Building operational relationships with First Nations governments and by-law officers Developing respectful, community-driven enforcement and compliance approaches Strengthening police capacity to support Indigenous self-determination in community safety
14:45 – 15:15	Network Break (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)		
SESSION 7 15:15 – 16:45	<p>Case Study - Lessons from Tragedy: James Smith Cree Nation Mass Casualty</p> <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Josh Graham, Officer in Charge, Major Crimes, Royal Canadian Mounted Police <p>Description</p> <p>In September 2022, the James Smith Cree Nation and surrounding communities experienced one of the deadliest mass casualty events in Canadian history. This session will provide an in-depth case study of the incident, examining the law enforcement response, inter-agency collaboration, and the unique challenges of policing in Indigenous communities during crises.</p> <p>Through a detailed timeline of events, this session will highlight key takeaways, including crisis communication strategies, operational coordination, trauma-informed policing, and the long-term impact on the affected community. Police leaders will gain insights into best practices for handling mass casualty incidents, building trust with Indigenous communities, and enhancing preparedness for future critical events.</p>		
16:45	Closing Remarks		

TIME		TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026	
07:00 – 13:00	Exhibit Show (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)		
07:00 – 08:30	Breakfast (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)		
08:00 – 15:30	Plenary Sessions (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom</i>)		
08:00 – 08:05	Opening Remarks		

SESSION 8 08:05 – 09:00	Bridging the Gaps: Indigenous and Modern Approaches to Justice Through the Calgary Indigenous Court
	<p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honourable Justice Gregory D.M. Stirling, Alberta Court of Justice • Krysia Przepiorka, B.A./ J.D., Criminal Defence Lawyer • Adam Drew, Crown Prosecutor, Team Lead: ECT/Specialized Courts • Katelyn Lucas, Executive Director, Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary <p>Description</p> <p>This panel examines how colonial legal systems and Indigenous legal traditions intersect in real policing and justice contexts, and where different approaches to safety, accountability, and healing can coexist. Drawing on perspectives from the justice system, policing, and community leadership, the session explores how Indigenous laws and restorative approaches can complement conventional criminal justice processes.</p> <p>For police leaders, the discussion focuses on practical decision points where discretion, referrals, partnerships, and alternative pathways can improve outcomes for individuals and communities. Participants will examine when criminal enforcement is required, when community-based or restorative approaches may be more appropriate, and how police can work collaboratively with Indigenous justice partners while respecting jurisdiction and authority.</p> <p>This session supports leaders in understanding their role within blended justice environments and in recognizing opportunities to braid responsibility, respect, and relationship-building into frontline and supervisory decision making. The lessons are transferable across municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous policing contexts.</p> <p>Leadership Takeaways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding how Indigenous legal traditions and restorative practices relate to police responsibilities • Identifying opportunities for alternative justice approaches that support community safety and accountability • Applying police discretion in ways that respect Indigenous rights and legal orders • Strengthening collaboration with justice partners and community-based supports • Supporting police members to navigate complex legal and cultural environments with confidence
SESSION 9 09:00 – 09:45	Implementing Inquiry Recommendations into Action Policing
	Presenter

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- Chief Superintendent Gary Maracle, M.O.M., Indigenous Policing Bureau, Ontario Provincial Police

Description

This session focuses on how police services can move beyond acknowledgment of inquiry findings to sustained operational change. Drawing on leadership experience at the provincial and national levels, Chief Superintendent Maracle examines what meaningful implementation of recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Public Order Emergency Commission and other key reports looks like in practice.

Participants will explore how police leaders translate broad recommendations into concrete policies, training, supervision, and accountability mechanisms. The session addresses common implementation challenges such as competing priorities, organizational resistance, and the gap between strategic commitments and frontline practice.

Designed for leaders across municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous police services, this session emphasizes leadership responsibility, organizational alignment, and measurable outcomes. It reinforces the importance of shared responsibility in embedding inquiry commitments into everyday policing decisions, relationships, and service delivery.

Leadership Takeaways

- Understanding why inquiry implementation often stalls at the operational level
- Translating national inquiry recommendations into practical policing actions
- Aligning policy, training, and supervision with reconciliation commitments
- Strengthening accountability for sustained organizational change
- Supporting police members to apply inquiry principles in daily practice

09:45 – 10:15**Network Break** (*Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer*)**SESSION 10**
10:15 – 11:15**Building Trust-Based Relationships****Presenter**

- Deputy Chief Julie Craddock, Anishinabek Police Service

Description

This session focuses on how police leaders can intentionally build and sustain trust-based relationships with Indigenous communities over time. Drawing on leadership experience within an Indigenous police service, Deputy Chief Craddock will share practical insights into what trust looks like in practice and how it is earned through consistency, transparency, and shared problem solving.

Participants will explore how everyday policing decisions, communication styles, and leadership behaviours influence long-term relationships with Indigenous communities, leadership, and service partners. The session emphasizes that trust building is not a single initiative, but an ongoing leadership responsibility that must be embedded in supervision, policy direction, and frontline practice.

Relevant to municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous police services, this session highlights concrete strategies for strengthening collaboration, supporting Indigenous-led safety initiatives, and creating opportunities for mentorship and shared learning. Police leaders will leave with a clearer understanding of how strong relationships directly support operational effectiveness, community safety, and police legitimacy.

Leadership Takeaways

- Understanding how trust is built and maintained through consistent police actions
- Strengthening communication and collaboration with Indigenous communities and partners
- Supporting Indigenous-led safety initiatives through respectful partnership
- Using mentorship and relationship-based approaches to reinforce organizational culture
- Embedding trust-building expectations into leadership, supervision, and daily policing practice

SESSION 11 **11:15 – 12:00**

Joint Forces Drug Enforcement in Indigenous Policing Contexts

Description

This session examines joint forces drug enforcement operations involving Indigenous and non-Indigenous police services, with a focus on removing drugs and traffickers from communities to improve safety and reduce harm. Drawing on operational experience from Indigenous and municipal drug enforcement units, presenters will speak candidly about the challenges, successes, and lessons learned from working across jurisdictions, mandates, and organizational cultures.

The session will explore how joint operations are planned, governed, and executed, including intelligence sharing, jurisdictional authorities, accountability structures, and operational decision making. Particular attention will be given to the complexities of enforcing drug laws in Indigenous policing environments, where historical context, community impacts, and inter-agency trust all influence outcomes.

Designed for municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous police leaders, this session focuses on practical enforcement realities rather than theory. Participants will gain insight into what makes joint forces models effective, where friction commonly arises,

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	<p>and how strong relationships between services directly support successful enforcement and safer communities.</p> <p>Leadership Takeaways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding how joint forces drug enforcement operates across Indigenous and municipal policing environments • Identifying challenges related to jurisdiction, intelligence sharing, and operational authority • Learning from successful enforcement strategies that removed drugs and traffickers from communities • Strengthening inter-agency relationships to support effective, coordinated operations • Applying lessons learned to enhance community safety through focused enforcement efforts
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)
<p>SESSION 12 13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p>Redefining Operational Readiness: How Indigenous-led training and curriculum development is shaping policing excellence in Canada</p> <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constable Shaina Lynden, Saskatoon Police Service; Doctoral Student • Chief Jason Colon, Manitoba First Nations Police Service <p>Description</p> <p>What does operational readiness look like when Indigenous people and communities co-construct the design and delivery of police education? This panel explores how Indigenous-led curriculum development, cultural competency frameworks, and training models are redefining the Police-Indigenous relationship in Canada. Panelists will share how centering Indigenous knowledge and lived experience is strengthening recruit readiness, enhancing accountability, and setting new standards for policing excellence.</p>
14:00 – 14:15	Network Break (<i>Tsuut'ina Ballroom Foyer</i>)
<p>SESSION 13 14:15 – 15:15</p>	<p>Building Police-Indigenous Relationships Through Inquiry-Informed Change</p> <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Cameron McBride, M.O.M., Saskatoon Police Service <p>Description</p> <p>This session presents the Saskatoon Police Service perspective on building and repairing relationships with Indigenous communities through leadership accountability and inquiry-informed change. Drawing on lessons learned from public</p>

inquiries and reviews, including those stemming from the Stonechild case, the session examines how police services can acknowledge harm, learn from systemic failures, and translate findings into sustained organizational change.

The focus is not on revisiting inquiry findings, but on what police leaders did with them. Presenters will discuss practical steps taken to rebuild trust, improve internal culture, strengthen supervision and accountability, and reshape how officers engage with Indigenous community members in everyday policing. The session highlights the leadership decisions required to move from compliance to credibility.

Designed for municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous police leaders, this session emphasizes that relationship building is not separate from operational effectiveness, but foundational to it. Participants will gain insight into how inquiry-driven reforms can improve legitimacy, officer decision-making, and long-term public confidence when they are embedded into training, supervision, policy, and leadership expectations.

Leadership Takeaways

- Understanding the leadership responsibilities that follow major inquiries and public reviews
- Learning how inquiry findings can be translated into meaningful organizational and cultural change
- Identifying practical steps to strengthen police relationships with Indigenous communities
- Improving accountability and supervision to support respectful, effective frontline practice
- Applying Saskatoon's lessons learned to other policing environments and jurisdictions

SESSION 14 15:15 – 15:30

Shared Responsibility, Shared Opportunity: The Future of Indigenous Policing

Presenters

- Superintendent Marcel Beaudin, M.O.M., Ontario Provincial Police; Co-Chair, CACP Policing with Indigenous Peoples Committee
- Inspector Dawn Blake, Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service; Co-Chair, CACP Policing with Indigenous Peoples Committee

Description

This closing session features Inspector Dawn Blake and Superintendent Marcel Beaudin reflecting on the leadership required to advance Indigenous policing and community safety in Canada.

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Drawing on their respective experiences in community led Indigenous policing and province wide Indigenous policing partnerships, the speakers explore how day to day leadership decisions shape trust, safety outcomes, and legitimacy.

The discussion reinforces the Summit's theme of braiding traditions, respect, rights, responsibilities, relationships, and opportunity, emphasizing that effective policing demands cultural understanding, accountability, and clarity of purpose. Speakers address the importance of collaboration across jurisdictions, innovation, and principled enforcement in responding to today's public safety challenges.

As the Summit closes, participants are left with a clear message: reconciliation, and community safety are shared responsibilities, requiring consistent, values-based leadership across all levels of policing.

15:30**Closing Remarks**