



## Use of Force Advisory Committee 2014 Annual Report

Co-Chairs: Michael Federico, Deputy Chief, Toronto Police Service  
Hugh Stevenson, Superintendent, Ontario Provincial Police

Members: Nathalie Barbeau, Capitaine, Surete De Quebec  
Byron Boucher, Assistant Commissioner, RCMP  
Steeve Carrier, Capitaine, Ville de Quebec Service de police  
Gary Conn, Deputy Chief of Police, Chatham-Kent Police Service  
Chris Lawrence, Ontario Police College  
Troy Lightfoot, Superintendent, RCMP National Headquarters  
Lisa Sabourin, Standards Development Officer, Ontario Ministry of  
Community Safety and Correctional Services  
Les Sylvan, Deputy Chief Constable, Central Saanich Police Service  
Laval Villeneuve, Service de police de la Ville de Montréal

Advisors: Ron Hoffman, Instructor, Ontario Police College  
Vesna Knezevic, Manager, Public Safety Canada  
Glen Weimer, Defence Research and Development Canada

### Former Members:

Jay Judin, Staff Sergeant, Force Review Officer, Calgary Police  
Pierre Savard, Commandant, Montreal Police  
Mike Tillotson, Staff Sergeant, Calgary Police Service  
Dave Walsh, Superintendent, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

### Introduction

The CACP Use of Force Advisory Committee (UFAC, the Committee) focuses on providing advice and counsel to the CACP on matters related to police use-of-force. Its mandate includes the consideration of use-of-force technology and use-of-force modalities (i.e. policies, procedures, practices, training, and techniques).

### Meetings

The Committee continues to meet twice a year. In 2014 it met in April in Toronto ON and in August, in Victoria BC at the CACP 2014 annual conference.

## Membership

The members of the committee consist of members of the CACP and technical advisors. They represent police services and agencies that support policing such as police trainers, use of force specialists, and federal and provincial government departments. During 2014 membership changed because of reassignment and separations. The committee wants to thank the selfless work of our former members on behalf of the CACP.

## Accomplishments

### *Use-of-Force Reporting*

Since its establishment, the committee has acknowledged the benefits of comprehensive police use-of-force reporting on a provincial and national basis. This subject remains topical across Canada. In Ontario, a coroner's inquest in October 2013 (known as the JKE Inquest), and the shooting death of youth by Toronto Police in November 2013 (S. Yatim) meant that police use-of-force reporting was further scrutinized. In response to the Yatim shooting the Toronto Police Service commissioned an independent review by retired Supreme Court of Canada Justice, the Honourable Frank Iacobucci. Both the JKE Inquest and the Iacobucci review made several recommendations suggesting that police collect more information about encounters with the public when deciding to use force.

The Committee also contributed to research commissioned by Public Safety Canada to help develop a national approach to collecting and analyzing police use of force data. This review conducted by consultant John Kiedrowski looked to:

- a) develop a list of the most frequently asked and significant research questions regarding the use of force by, and against, police;
- b) identify what data needs to be collected to enable valid and reliable analysis at an aggregate level across agencies and jurisdictions, and
- c) develop a methodology to reliably and systematically analyze data on interactions between officers and subjects in use of force encounters and present such data in a manner that can be used by trainers and operational policy makers.

The committee contributed to the research by participating in focus groups and individual interviews, and by offering comments when the draft report was circulated. Members noted that a number of the questions identified as potentially relevant or helpful to use of force reporting might be difficult to answer because police would not have access to the information sought (e.g detailed subject characteristics, personal and medical background). Another challenge concerned the ability to analyze the data given the two distinct types of analytical methods discussed (maximum use of force scale vs force factor analysis) and the conceptual differences between the National Use of Force Framework versus the Use of Force Continuum. Other concerns included the potential

cost and resource implications given that any use of force report is to be completed by front line officers before they complete their shift.

At the same time Public Safety Canada received positive feedback on contribution the report makes in helping to fill the gaps in the knowledge base in Canada with respect to the collection and analysis of police use of force data.

Members noted that they had previously agreed that in order to help the CACP develop consistent use-of-force reporting the committee would review and identify common traits or distinguishing features that are present in police use of force reports across Canada. To do so the Committee has made this subject a standing agenda item. Work that has been done by the RCMP in developing their Subject Behaviour and Officer Response reports, and work being done in Ontario by Use of Force working groups will help form the basis of further discussions. This item remains ongoing.

### *Training*

In 2014, following four fatal police shootings by Toronto Police, the results of a major coroner's inquest (Jardain-Douglas, Klibingaitis, Eligon) and a review of Toronto Police (F. Iacobucci) were released. Combined, over 158 recommendations were tabled spanning a spectrum of police and community responsibilities; however, police training emerged as a dominant theme.

The committee acknowledged that police use of force training, particularly de-escalation training will continue to be a priority for police services. Recognizing that individual member agencies are watching and reacting to information and developments in police training, the Committee agreed to dedicate a future meeting to assess the general applicability of these developments.

### Committee Next Steps in 2015

The committee committed to focus on its established agenda, specifically:

- Police encounters with persons who are emotionally disturbed or suffering from mental illness and its intersection with police training.
- Use of force training - in particular the emphasis on de-escalation training In this regard the Committee is exploring the benefit of holding a symposium for chiefs of police to assess the latest training approaches to police use of force, especially de-escalation training.

Submitted by:

Co-Chairs

Superintendent Hugh Stevenson and Deputy Chief Mike Federico