

**The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary  
Public Complaints Commission**

**Activity Plan**


**2017-20**

***Message from the Commissioner:***


The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission is pleased to submit its activity plan for the period 2017-20.

I have prepared this plan in accordance with the provisions of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* which classifies the Commission as a Category 3 Government Entity and requires the preparation of performance-based plans every three years.

The enclosed plan has been prepared following consideration of the strategic directions of the Provincial Government as communicated by the Minister of Justice and Public Safety. My signature below is indicative of the Commission's accountability for this Plan, as well as for the achievement of the objective contained therein.



***John Rorke,***  
Commissioner



## ***Overview***

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission operates pursuant to Part III of the *Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Act, 1992*. The sole Commissioner is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and serves on a part-time basis, supported by a team consisting of a full-time manager, a half-time secretary, and investigators and adjudicators. The Commission functions as an independent, quasi-judicial body. The Commissioner and the adjudicators make considered and reasoned decisions at arms-length from Government, and the Commission is required by Section 39 of the *Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Act, 1992* to report at least annually to the House of Assembly.

According to the *Estimates of the Program Expenditure and Revenue of the Consolidated Revenue Fund 2017-18*, the Commission operates with a budget of approximately \$286,100. The Commission is located at 689 Topsail Road, St. John's and is open to the public. The location is visibly removed from the precincts of Government and the forts of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC). The suite includes a large room furnished and equipped for the conduct of public hearings.

The Commission provides civilian oversight to public complaints made against the conduct of members of the Provincial police force, and offers redress by appeal to members of the public or police officers who are dissatisfied with the disciplinary decisions of the Chief of Police.

The process made available by the Commission is designed to be a user-friendly avenue for the public expression of dissatisfaction with the conduct of police officers employed by the Province. The Commission is normally reactive, acting on written and signed complaints from persons claiming to be adversely affected by police actions. Occasionally the Commission may independently make recommendations to the RNC respecting matters of concern or interest to the public relating to police services.

### ***Issue: Complaints as per Part III of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Act, 1992***

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission has considered the strategic directions of the Department of Justice in the development of this plan.

As required by its enabling legislation, the Commission serves as an avenue of redress for members of the public wishing to complain about the conduct of an RNC officer or the operational policies or procedures governing the manner in which a police officer discharges his or her duties.

**Objective:** By March 31, each year, the RNC Public Complaints Commission will have responded to complaints from the public as per Part III of the *Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Act, 1992*.

**Indicators:** Complaints reviewed to ensure compliance with Part III of the *Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Act, 1992*;  
Number of compliant complaints registered;  
Registered complaints investigated or delegated, as required;  
All appeals investigated; and  
Decisions on appeals rendered.

The focus of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission will be consistent over the three years of this Activity Plan. This objective and the associated indicators will be utilized for the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscal years. Each year, the Commission will report on the results of its objective in its annual report.