## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

# RNC PUBLIC COMPLAINTS COMMISSION PANNEL OF ADJUDICATORS

April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

### Message from the Chief Adjudicator

I am pleased to present the Annual Activity Report for the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission Panel of Adjudicators which outlines the progress on the objective identified in the 2007/2008 Activity Plan.

As Chief Adjudicator of this Panel, my signature below is indicative of the Panel's accountability for the results reported.

Sincerely,

James Kean

Chief Adjudicator

#### Overview

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission was established by legislation in May 1993 and operates pursuant to Part III of the *Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Act*, 1992. Its purpose is to provide members of the public with an independent forum for their complaints against Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officers. Section 29 of the *Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Act*, 1992, provides for the appointment of a panel of twelve lawyers to serve the Commission as adjudicators with one being named as chief adjudicator. As per Section 28 of the *Act*, the Commissioner will forward matters to the chief adjudicator when a public hearing is deemed necessary. The chief adjudicator will hear the matter or assign it to another adjudicator. Hearings are considered public; however if the adjudicator decides that one or more reasons outlined in Section 32 of the *Act* are applicable, all or part of the hearing may be held in private.

#### **Activities**

An Adjudicator has the powers of a commissioner appointed under the *Public Inquiries Act* when holding a hearing. These powers require that hearings be held without delay giving full opportunity to all parties to present evidence and make representations in person or through counsel.

Objective: By March 31, 2008, upon referral of a matter, the Adjudicator will have adjudicated matters referred to him or her.

Measure	Matters adjudicated.
Indicators	Results
Number of Public Hearings	During this reporting period two public hearings were
held as required by the	held.
Royal Newfoundland	• The first Hearing, May 17, 2007, stemmed from a
Constabulary Act, 1992.	complaint filed in December 2006.
	The second Hearing was held over three separate days
	with the last being February 18, 2008.
Number of decisions issued.	Of the two public hearings that were held, there was
	one decision issued. This was for the May 17, 2007
	hearing. The adjudicator dismissed the complaint and
	upheld the decision of the Chief of Police.
	At the close of this reporting period, the decision
	from the Adjudicator had not been received for the
	February 18, 2008 hearing. Under legislation, an
	adjudicator has three months to render a decision.

#### **Financial Report**

Expenses of the Panel of Adjudicators are captured under the budget of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission (RNCPCC). The Panel does not have a separate line in the budget and it is not required to provide a separate audited financial statement. Audited financial statements are a requirement of the RNCPCC at the government level and are made public through the Public Accounts process.