



Policy Name:	INDIGENOUS RELATIONS		
Policy #:	OP 6.1.2	Last Updated:	2023-07-26
Issued By:	COMMUNITY POLICING BUREAU	Approved By:	SURREY POLICE BOARD
		Review Frequency:	AS REQUIRED

RELATED POLICIES

OP 1.3 Indigenous Territories and Policing on Reserve Lands

OP 4.52.1 Trauma-Informed Practices

OP 6.1 Community Engagement

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The work of Surrey Police Service (SPS) takes place on traditional Indigenous territories which are within the City of Surrey. SPS has designated Members to support, collaborate with, and enhance trust with Indigenous communities in Surrey.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This policy applies to all SPS Employees.

3. POLICY

3.1. SPS acknowledges that their work takes place on the traditional, unceded and ancestral territories of the Tsawwassen, Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Semiahmoo, Qayqayt and other Coast Salish Peoples.

3.2. SPS acknowledges the distinct languages, histories, traditions, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples residing within the City of Surrey.

3.3. Through collaborative approaches, SPS will provide culturally safe and trauma-informed policing services to First Nations, consistent with the terms of agreements between the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia, the City of Surrey, and the Surrey Police Board.

- 3.4. Through collaborative practices, SPS will provide equitable, unbiased, culturally safe, and trauma-informed policing services to the Urban Indigenous population within the City of Surrey which meets the needs and expectations of the Urban Indigenous population.
- 3.5. SPS supports the principles of Indigenous justice in the *Criminal Code* and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. SPS will collaborate with Indigenous agencies, Indigenous communities, and justice system partners to develop culturally-based strategies to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous people within the criminal justice system.

4. PROCEDURE

Indigenous Relations Unit – Guiding Principles

- 4.1. The Indigenous Relations Unit (IRU) follows these guiding principles when collaborating and supporting Indigenous individuals, families, and communities:
 - i. incorporation of culturally-safe and culturally-sensitive practices;
 - ii. use a distinctions-based approach which recognizes the different needs of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities;
 - iii. recognition and inclusion of Indigenous harm-reduction practices; and
 - iv. use of trauma-informed practices.
- 4.2. IRU Members will, when possible and appropriate, include the applicable recommendations from these documents in their work:
 - i. the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s *Final Report*;
 - ii. the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*; and
 - iii. the Calls for Justice from *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.

Duties of the Indigenous Relations Unit Members

- 4.3. IRU Members will serve as an accessible point of contact between Indigenous communities and SPS.
- 4.4. Through collaborative practices, IRU Members will liaise with local First Nations to learn and to educate Members on police authorities related to the enforcement of provincial statutes, community by-laws and band council resolutions within the Nation.
- 4.5. IRU Members will champion initiatives to promote the recruitment of Indigenous people to SPS as Members, Community Safety Officers, or civilian staff, to better reflect the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis diversity within the City of Surrey.

- 4.6. When practical, IRU Members will support and/or participate in various annual or ongoing community or family-based initiatives that will improve the connection and communication between Indigenous individuals, families, and communities, and SPS.
- 4.7. When practical, IRU Members will attend Band Council meetings at the request of local First Nations, and other meetings at the request of local Indigenous organizations or leadership committees.
- 4.8. IRU will collaborate with the SPS Leadership Development Unit to provide knowledge of the IRU's Guiding Principles in this policy.
- 4.9. IRU will collaborate with Indigenous organizations and the Leadership Development Unit to educate SPS Members about local Indigenous cultures and local concerns, which will help build the cultural competency of Members and meet the requirements of the *BC Provincial Policing Standard 3.2.6 – Training to enhance service delivery to vulnerable communities*.
- 4.10. When required, under the agreements between the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia, the City of Surrey, and the Surrey Police Board, IRU will collaborate with the local First Nations to develop and implement "Letters of Expectations" (LOE).
- 4.11. IRU will perform all duties assigned by the Chief Constable or their designate, as well as other duties in the IRU Mandate.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

“Band Council” means the council of the band as defined in the *Indian Act*. That is, the elected government of a First Nations Band, consisting of a chief and councillors.

“Band Council Resolution” means a written resolution or authorizing document of Chief and Council adopted at a duly convened meeting of the elected council for the First Nation under the *Indian Band Council Procedure Regulations*, C.R.C., c. 950.

“Harm reduction” means evidence-based laws, policies, programs, and practices that aim primarily to reduce adverse health, social and economic harms which are the result of the actions of an individual. Harm reduction is grounded in human rights and focuses on positive change and on working with people without judgement, coercion, discrimination, or other preconditions prior to receiving support.

“Indigenous People” means all individuals who self-identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.

“Member” means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“SPS” means Surrey Police Service.

“Trauma-Informed Practice” means understanding the prevalence and effects of trauma in all aspects of service delivery and prioritizing the individual’s sense of safety, choice, empowerment, and connection. It is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma and emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety. Trauma-Informed Practice means making sure that people feel safe around police and are not re-traumatized by their contact with police.

“Urban Indigenous Population” means all self-identified Indigenous people who are not living within the defined lands of local First Nations.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES

BC Provincial Policing Standard 3.2.6 – Training to enhance service delivery to vulnerable communities.

Criminal Code, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46

Indian Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-5

Indian Band Council Procedure Regulations, C.R.C., c. 950

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019). Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Police Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 367

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015). *Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report.*

United Nations (2008). *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

Youth Criminal Justice Act, S.C. 2002, c. 1