



2013

Lacombe Police Commission  
Annual Report to the Community

# Message from the Lacombe Police Commission

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February 17, 2014

On behalf of my colleagues on the Lacombe Police Commission, I am pleased to provide you with our Annual Report.

The Lacombe Police Commission serves a very important role in policing, representing the residents of Lacombe to make sure that the police are operating efficiently and effectively. This past year we have seen a few changes. In June of 2013 we said goodbye to Chief Gary Leslie. After serving for 5 years as Chief, Gary decided to retire, so we as a commission thanked Gary for his exemplary service to the community and along with the Lacombe Police Service hosted a regimental ball to celebrate his dedication to policing over the past 35 years. With the retirement of Gary, came the appointment of a new Chief – Steve Murray. Steve signed a 3 year contract with the City and brings with him great leadership and knowledge.

In an effort to get a broader perspective from the community we also added 2 more commissioners to our organization. We all work together as a team, respecting the views of all members and the demographic they represent.

The Lacombe Police Commission is a volunteer organization, representing the citizens of Lacombe with respect to policing issues in our community. I would like to thank each of my fellow Commissioners for their time, dedication and effort during this past year. I would also like to say thank you to Colleen Robinson, our outgoing member and past chair, for all of her knowledge and her dedication to the Lacombe Police Commission.

The Commission is proud of the police officers who work so tirelessly to make Lacombe a safe place to live, work and play. We look forward to working together with LPS, the citizens of Lacombe and Lacombe City Council in helping to keep Lacombe a safe and vibrant community in 2014.

Tammy Gagnon  
Commission Chair

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# Lacombe Police Commission – Overview

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## Mission Statement

To work in partnership with the citizens of Lacombe and ensure transparent, effective and responsive policing throughout the municipality.

## Vision Statement

To become a model for municipal stakeholders in the civilian oversight of policing.

## Values

<b>Respect:</b>	We respect our people and the community we serve.
<b>Accountability:</b>	We are accountable to each other and those we serve.
<b>Honesty:</b>	We are forthright, direct and honest with our community and ourselves
<b>Integrity:</b>	We conduct ourselves in an ethical manner – maintaining confidentiality, trust and objectivity.

## Our Role

Our mandate is to balance the requirements of public accountability with that of police independence and to provide an interface between the LPS and our elected officials. The Commission is made up of seven at-large citizens, including one member of City Council, who are appointed by Lacombe City Council. The Lacombe Police Commission (LPC) is an independent oversight body and link between the community and the Lacombe Police Service.

## Our Responsibilities

The Lacombe Police Commission is an independent organization created under the *Alberta Police Act* to oversee the Lacombe Police Service. We have the following legislated responsibilities:

- To allocate funds provided by City Council, done in consultation with the Chief of Police
- To establish policies providing for efficient and effective policing
- To issue instructions as necessary to the Chief in regards to those policies
- To ensure sufficient persons are employed by the Service to carry out the functions of the Service
- In consultation with the Chief, establish the priorities in policing and participate in strategic planning for the police service
- To appoint a Chief of Police and to evaluate his or her performance
- To receive complaints against the Chief of police
- To consider appeals of the Chief's decision in complaints against the police service or police service policy
- To conduct inquiries into matters respecting the police services, the actions of any police officer or any other person employed by the police service

The Lacombe Police Commission is accountable to the Alberta Solicitor General and the Minister of Public Security.

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# Lacombe Police Commission – Members

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The Lacombe Police Commission consists of 7 members; 6 public members and 1 council member. Commissioners are appointed by council for a term of 3 years and cannot serve for longer than 6 consecutive years. Staggered appointment by council is desired for succession planning.

Members of the commission must perform their official duties and functions and arrange their private affairs in such a manner that public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of the commission are maintained and enhanced. All members will abide by their oath of office.

## **Commissioner Tammy Gagnon – Chair**

Appointed January 2011

Appointed January 2014

## **Commissioner Donna Korpess – Vice Chair**

Appointed January 2012

## **Commissioner Casey Kooyman**

Appointed February 2009

Appointed January 2012

## **Commissioner Tom Tack**

Appointed October 2012

## **Commissioner Robert Huff**

Appointed January 2013

## Commissioner Jonathan Jacobson

Appointed January 2014

## Councillor Peter Bouwsema

Appointed October 2013

Appointed October 2012

Appointed October 2011

Appointed October 2010

## Outgoing Commissioner Colleen Robinson

Appointed January 2011

Retired December 2013

# Attendance at Commission Meetings

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In 2013, we had 10 regular meetings. There were no meetings held in the month of August or December.

<b>Commissioner/Councillor</b>	<b>#meetings attended/#meetings held</b>
Tammy Gagnon	9/10
Donna Korpess	8/10
Casey Kooyman	8/10
Tom Tack	9/10
Robert Huff	9/10
Colleen Robinson	10/10
Peter Bouwsema	9/10

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# Meetings

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At the first meeting of the year, the Chair shall schedule all meetings occurring in that year. Meetings generally occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9am in Council Chambers at City Hall. Public notice will be given at least one (1) week in advance if there is a change of venue, date or time. Meeting dates are posted on the Commission webpage, with current month agendas as well previous meeting minutes and agendas.

In an effort to improve accessibility to police governance, as well as improve openness and transparency, each of our monthly meetings are open to the public. The public is asked to leave during our "in camera" portion, which generally occurs at the end of our meetings. This is done only when dealing with items that fall under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIP). Members of the public (delegation) who wish to address the commission must request permission from the Chair seven (7) working days prior to the meeting. The delegation must detail the names of those attending and the subject to be discussed.

During our monthly meetings, the Chief provides reports to the Commission on activities within the police service including current events, projects underway, awards received, compliments and complaints, and internal and criminal proceedings.

Another area for which the Commission receives monthly reports is traffic fine revenue. It is prudent for the Commission to review revenue data because of its impact on the overall Police Service budget. Traffic fines are paid to the province and a portion of those dollars are returned to the city to be included in its operating budget. In Lacombe, City Council includes traffic fines as one of the Police Service's sources of revenue. Therefore, the Service and the Commission must estimate annual fine revenue as part of its budgeting process. However, the purpose of traffic ticketing is making roadways safer for both pedestrians and drivers, rather than to generate revenue. Although traffic fines are easy to avoid by obeying the rules of the road and driving safely, fine revenue tends to remain consistent on a yearly basis.

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# Associated Organizations

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## Alberta Association of Police Governance

The Lacombe Police commission is a member of the Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG). The AAPG is an association of Police Commissions and Committees from across Alberta. The objectives of the organization are to support excellence in and be a forum for the exchange of ideas concerning civilian governance of Police Services in Alberta.

The Lacombe Police Commission sends two (2) commissioners per year to the annual AAPG conference. In April of 2013, Commissioner Tammy Gagnon and Councillor Peter Bouwsema attended the 2 day conference in Edmonton, Alberta.

## Education and Development

The Lacombe Police Commission also works hand in hand with the Solicitor General's office and takes advantage of refresher training when it is available to us. In 2013, we held a session in Council Chambers and all members were able to attend.

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# Complaint Oversight

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## Overview

One of the most important roles of the Lacombe Police Commission is civilian oversight of public complaints against members of the Lacombe Police Service. Under Alberta's Police Act, **Police Services** are responsible for addressing concerns about their officers, policies and services. The **Police Commission** is responsible for reviewing the Police Services work in relation to these complaints.

## Public Complaints Summary – Year 2013

Complaints Outstanding from 2012	1
New Complaints	
By Chief of Police	1
By Public Complaints Director	0
Complaints Resolved / Disposed	2
Complaints Outstanding at end of 2013	0

## Complaints against the Chief

Complaints against the Chief of Police should also be submitted to the Chair of the Commission for action, as per **Section 43(2)** of the *Police Act*. The Chair must then refer the matter to the full commission which must decide whether the actions of the Chief may constitute an offence or a contravention of the Police Service Regulation. If, after reviewing the complaint, the commission is of the opinion that the Chief may have committed an offence the Chair must request the Solicitor General to direct another police agency to investigate the complaint. In 2013 there were zero (0) complaints against the Chief.

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# Concluding Comments

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The Lacombe Police Commission plays an important role in ensuring that the citizens of Lacombe have a vital and effective Police Service. Commissioners bring the highest commitment to their responsibilities and to working as a team to represent citizens in setting priorities and holding the Police Service accountable.

If you would like to know more about the Lacombe Police Commission, or would like to provide input into policing in Lacombe, please write or email the commission at:

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Email: [policecommission@lacombe.ca](mailto:policecommission@lacombe.ca)