



2015

Lacombe Police Commission  
Annual Report to the Community

# Message from the Lacombe Police Commission

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April 4, 2016

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 as the civilian oversight and governance body of the Lacombe Police Service. In 2015, the Commission had a very productive year, resulting in the approval from the City of Lacombe of an administrative assistant, an increase in the training budget for the Police Service, and an additional officer hired. Most significantly, the Commission successfully lobbied for the return of local dispatch for the Police Service. The infrastructure will be put into place in 2016 with the system going live in 2017. This will have a tangible impact on the citizens of Lacombe, with response times anticipated to be reduced by eight minutes.

The Commission also formalized communication protocols with the City of Lacombe and laid the groundwork for a positive working relationship moving forward. It was a true spirit of co-operation with the City of Lacombe that allowed so many positive objectives to be achieved in 2015.

The Lacombe Police Commission is a volunteer organization, representing the citizens of Lacombe with respect to policing issues in our community. I am extremely proud of all the Commissioners, and the very hard work that was done in 2015 to make so many achievements possible. I would like to make a special mention of Donna Korpess and Tom Tack, who are retiring at the end of 2015. Their contributions were substantial, and they will be missed.

It is an honour to provide governance and civilian oversight for the Lacombe Police Service. The Commission looks forward to our partnership in making Lacombe a safe and vibrant city in 2016

Jonathan Jacobson  
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 Jonathan Jacobson – Chair**

Appointed January 2014

## **Commissioner Tammy Gagnon – Vice Chair**

Appointed January 2011

## **Commissioner Donna Korpess**

Appointed January 2012

## **Commissioner Tom Tack**

Appointed November 2012

## **Commissioner John Walker**

Appointed January 2015

## **Commissioner Robert Huff**

Appointed January 2013

## Councillor Peter Bouwsema

Appointed October 2014

Appointed October 2013

Appointed October 2012

Appointed October 2011

Appointed October 2010

Outgoing Commissioners Tom Tack, Donna Korpess

# Attendance at Commission Meetings

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In 2015, we had 12 regular meetings. Below is a record of meetings attended by commission member.

<b>Commissioner/Councillor</b>	<b>#meetings attended/#meetings held</b>
Tammy Gagnon	10/12
Donna Korpess	10/12
Jonathan Jacobson	10/12
Tom Tack	10/12
Robert Huff	12/12
John Walker	11/12
Peter Bouwsema	11/12

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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.

One of the most important duties of the Commission is the monthly review of the annual budget. All revenues – fine revenue, grant revenue, joint program revenue, and expense revenue – and expenses are scrupulously monitored. If an expense or revenue is trending contrary to what has been budgeted, it is the Commission's job to hold the Chief accountable for the cause. Because of this, the monthly budget report is one of the most important tools at the Commission's disposal to determine whether or not strategic objectives for the Police Service are being met.

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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 2015, Commissioner Jonathan Jacobson and Commissioner John Walker attended the 2 day conference in Calgary, 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.

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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 2015

Complaints Outstanding from 2014	0
New Complaints	
By Chief of Police	0
By Public Complaints Director	0
Complaints Resolved / Disposed	0
Complaints Outstanding at end of 2015	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 2015 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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Lacombe, Alberta  
T4L 1E9  
Email: [policecommission@lacombe.ca](mailto:policecommission@lacombe.ca)