

Community Safety Officer Program



Program Background

Two Saskatchewan municipalities applied to the Ministry of Justice in 2008 requesting restricted provincial statute enforcement for their bylaw officers. The communities identified that the expanded enforcement could help meet their needs by supplementing existing services, significantly benefitting the public safety of their communities. Their requests were approved as pilot projects. The bylaw officers were given provincial statute authority under the “Appointment of Special Constables” in *The Police Act, 1990*. The project developed into the Community Safety Officer Program (CSOP), and has since expanded to other municipalities in the province.

Benefits of the CSOP

Employing a Community Safety Officer (CSO) will provide your community with an enforcement officer who is delegated to manage high priority, but low risk to harm concerns. CSO appointments can be tailored to meet the needs of your community.

- ⇒ *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act*;
- ⇒ *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997*;
- ⇒ *The Mental Health Services Act*;
- ⇒ *The Trespass to Properties Act*; and
- ⇒ *The Tobacco Act*.

Options for CSO Appointments

CSOs appointments can provide for the enforcement of several Acts, including:

- ⇒ *The Traffic Safety Act*;
- ⇒ *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*;
- ⇒ *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*;
- ⇒ *The All-Terrain Vehicles Act*;
- ⇒ *The Snowmobile Act*;

Additional Options:

- ⇒ Attend property offence scenes (sections 334(b) and 430(1) of the *Criminal Code*) for the purpose of receiving information, evaluating and liaising with the police agency of jurisdiction as required;
- ⇒ Search and Rescue; and
- ⇒ *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997* (for weights and measures).

Step One: Obtaining Approval

Municipalities or First Nations interested in hiring a CSO for their community must go through an approval process.

This is done by submitting a business case that includes details such as the CSO's proposed duties and responsibilities; the requested enforcement authority; the geographical area; and, if the CSO will be enforcing traffic safety, the submission of a Traffic Safety Plan.

There are also a number of documents that may need to be forwarded to the Assistant Deputy Minister.

These may include, letters from the Fine Collections Branch and Provincial Prosecutions stating processes have been completed to enter and issue tickets; evidence that a records management system is in place; the name and title of the person acting in the capacity of the Chief of Police (for disciplinary purposes); the name of the person who will be responsible for the program (other than the CSO); and confirmation of adequate liability insurance.

Training Opportunities

The Saskatchewan CSO Induction Training Course is the minimum training requirement for issuance of a Special Constable Appointment for CSOs. Induction training is delivered in partnership with Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

Two Induction Training courses are offered each year. The spring and fall courses are held at the Prince Albert campus. The cost for the training is \$6,220 per candidate.

A CSO's prior learning or job-related experience may exceed the learning objectives of the CSO Induction Course. In these circumstances, exemptions from the Induction Course may be considered.

Contact Information

Before you begin this process, please contact:

Suzanne Stubbs, Program Manager

Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

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