

COMMUNITY-DRIVE SOLUTIONS AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT POLICING

- Community-driven solutions and culturally relevant policing approaches are essential in addressing the unique needs of Indigenous communities.
- Advocacy is needed for increased recognition of Indigenous sovereignty and self-governance within legislative processes.
- People know what they need for their own safety, the government should have no part.
- The complexities surrounding the definition of "essential services" should be examined within the legislative framework, with a focus on the need to incorporate Indigenous perspectives in shaping this definition.
- We also need to set up our own police force. Whatever engagement is happening, there is nothing for us if it is without us.
- The budget should be based on priorities established by the First Nations.
- The significance of culturally appropriate services recognizes that Indigenous communities may have distinct cultural norms and values that need to be respected and integrated into the resolution process. This approach ensures that solutions are contextually relevant and sensitive to the needs of Indigenous peoples.
- The process requires careful navigation and ongoing consultation with Indigenous communities to ensure that their voices are heard and their rights are protected within the legal framework.
- Maintain focus on continuous engagement and feedback from Indigenous stakeholders. This iterative approach allows for adjustments and refinements to be made based on the evolving needs and priorities of Indigenous communities, ensuring that the resulting legislation is responsive and inclusive.
- There is a need to address the requisite personnel and resources necessary to ensure meaningful First Nations involvement in the implementation process.
- Cree Nation laws must be upheld, despite existing legal frameworks that may encroach upon our jurisdiction.
- Decolonization of our processes is imperative, ensuring that our interests are authentically represented.
- There is a lack of consultation with Indigenous communities and skepticism regarding the legislative process.
- It is essential to ensure that legislative changes uphold Indigenous rights, promote self-determination, and support the holistic well-being of Indigenous communities.
- Transparency and inclusivity are highlighted with a commitment to ensuring that Indigenous voices are adequately represented and that their concerns are addressed.
- Transparent communication, meaningful engagement, and a willingness to adapt and incorporate feedback into the legislative process is necessary.

EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

- Goal is to achieve parity with the RCMP and create sustainable funding models.
- There needs to be a proper funding agreement where we can expect predictable funding that protects communities. Funding budget needs to be equitable, and clear.
- Indigenous police services have historically faced funding inadequacies, leading to significant disparities in resources compared to mainstream, non-Indigenous law enforcement agencies.
- Limited funding often results in a constrained capacity for Indigenous police services to adequately address the complex and diverse safety needs of their communities.
- Adequate funding is essential for implementing culturally relevant policing approaches that align with the values, traditions, and priorities of Indigenous communities.

KEY POINTS/TOPICS – Tsuut’ina Engagement, February 20th, 2024

- Addressing funding disparities is crucial for promoting equity in policing services across Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- The long-term sustainability of Indigenous police services relies on securing stable and sufficient funding to meet operational needs and uphold community safety priorities.
- One of the toughest aspects is the need for strategic, long-term planning amidst partnerships forged in Canada and beyond.
- Overview of Challenges: pay inequities, pension disparities, and limitations on specialized units. Also the inability of First Nations police officers to buy into equitable pension payments and the inability to create specialized units to adequately serve community needs.
- The customary two-year planning or funding cycle may not suffice for the envisioned five-year period.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- Training and capacity-building initiatives enhance the effectiveness of justice systems and dispute resolution mechanisms, tailoring them to Indigenous contexts.
- Investing in training programs can empower Indigenous communities to play a more active role in shaping and implementing solutions that are culturally relevant and responsive to their needs.
- Officers need to be trained more properly in order to effectively protect our communities.

COLLABORATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

- Building relationships with elders, engaging with youth, and incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing into everyday policing practices are crucial for building trust within the community.
- There is an importance of nation-to-nation consultation and elder involvement.
- Partnerships and collaborative initiatives are instrumental in strengthening Indigenous policing services and enhancing community safety outcomes.
- Open to exploring the potential benefits of a tripartite agreement involving federal, provincial, and Indigenous stakeholders in shaping policing policies and practices.
- Establishing clear relationships with service providers and vendors is pivotal.
- Fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders is essential to harness collective insights and expertise.
- If we embrace an ethos of collaboration and continuous improvement, stakeholders are poised to navigate the complexities inherent in this endeavour and forge a path toward sustainable progress.
- This legislation is essential for fostering nation-to-nation discussions.
- There is a great importance of treaty partnerships.
- Mistrusting partners take us backward. We need to renew partnerships and develop new physical relationships. This will help in implementation.
- It is important to foster positive relationships with law enforcement agencies.
- There is an on-going evolution of relationship building and a need for continued dialogue and collaboration to address community concerns effectively.
- Collaborative efforts among First Nations police services can collectively improve outcomes.
- Collaborative advocacy can raise awareness of funding disparities, mobilize support for increased funding allocations, and drive policy changes to enhance financial support for Indigenous policing.

EDUCATION AND HISTORY

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- Reflecting on the historical context and unique realities of First Nations communities, there emerges a consensus on the significance of building trust and fostering partnerships.
- Engage in educational initiatives to enhance understanding, particularly regarding treaty obligations and the broader implications of legislative developments.
- Treaty knowledge is crucial, not just for us but for all stakeholders involved. Everyone needs to understand the why behind our actions.
- Bridge the gap between those who may not grasp our perspectives and what drives us. There's always room for more education and understanding. It's about deepening our comprehension and sharing information transparently.

RECOGNITION

- Recognize the unique approaches and successes of First Nations policing.
- Emphasize the importance of formal recognition and support to ensure the continued success and improvement of First Nations policing.
- Despite limited support and resources, notice the success of self-administered First Nations policing.

GBA+ REFERENCE POINTS

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