

### **SUSTAINABLE FUNDING**

- We are severely underfunded. There was no way a deferral police force would have been able to operate based on the funding that was provided.
- We are stuck with projects and no sustainable funding.
- To have the same amount of funding today, that we had 40 years ago - is an insult.
- Is the money right? Is it delivering on what we need? It's a long term financial relationship that is needed.
- I am hoping the legislation will succeed in at least bringing the funding up to par.
- We live in NB that has unstable funding. We want funding, long and sustainable.
- We are in this now with a peacekeeping program. The funding is only enough to train 4 per 8 communities, only two full time for a year or two. The other two will be part-time on call.
- I am on a policing committee in my community and I know that we have wanted collaboration for bylaw enforcement but this goes back to the funding issues, there is no provincial or federal funding to support our services in our community.
- How long will the contracts be signed for? Sometimes funding is a 4 year contract but there are election years, etc. Is there potential to make them 10-year contracts? Especially for policing, there should be a substantial time period.

### **SAFETY ISSUES & DRUG USE**

- We're scared, we're terrified. We used to leave our doors open, now we're scared, we double check they are locked. I have family all across the country, and we're all scared.
- Nowadays, everyone is making sure they lock their doors, there is a lot of property crime within our communities.
- The influx of medications / drugs has now made it very hard, with no funding.
- The crisis is real when it comes to drug addiction. The drug crisis is really taking a toll. The amount of young people succumbing to the drugs - we are in a real crisis.

### **EQUALITY**

- Why when we ask for something are we put down and told we're asking for too much?
- Every time we ask for help it goes in one ear and out the other and I feel the Government looks down on us.
- Like a basket. In order to hold a lot of stuff, we need each weave just as strong as the other. Being equal. One part is linked and responsible for the other.

### **HOPELESSNESS**

- We want to make sure we are doing the right thing. It's frustrating. It's to a point where people almost don't want to do it anymore. We're tired of being tired of no one's listening.
- I know these people are trying to help us, but like we've been saying things are getting worse.
- All due respect, in our community they're developing our own childcare law, they're currently in the negotiating phase, and this kind of reminds me of that and what the community is asking for... they aren't listening to the needs of the community. I kind of see this following the same path, so I can't help but be a bit doubtful.

## **TRUST**

- Nobody trusts the RCMP or the process.
- The federal legislation I'm hoping is not an envelope to enhance more money for more RCMP officers or is this program going to be developed for specific funding for first nations?
- Who's benefiting from this legislation? Is it the RCMP or us?
- Community members don't trust the justice system, but they will trust our safety people.

## **TRAINING & SUPPORT SERVICES**

- It is hard to get training. Maybe have an hour of training on first nations issues.
- The challenge is retention and training. Can't update training and there is not enough funding.
- We need experts or training, in different fields so that we can do this. Our public safety ends up showing up before ambulances and RCMP, but they do not have the same training as them
- Mental health support and being able to work closely with someone who has expertise in needed areas would be beneficial.
- Legislation should be written to include public safety officers as well as peacekeepers.
- Prevention work and collaborative responses are needed.

## **SOVERIGNTY AND TRADITIONAL WAYS**

- There has been a lot of damage done. The legislation took away our cultural practices. I think more people are beginning to understand how we view things.
- We have to continue the push for our sovereignty.
- Colonial ways have a time frame. We don't. Circles can be hours, even days.
- We need RCMP to do their job, people say - yes I get it - but the other part is we need a different form of policing.

## **INCLUSION**

- One main key to have first nation support in the legislation is to have first nations involved right from the start. Right from grassroots people, Elders and Chief and Council to support.
- If you want communities to participate, you have to include them, so providing their feedback, and having their involvement is key here.

## **BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- One of the barriers that we have in terms of RCMP, is that there are several bylaws such as banishment. When there is a non-native it usually is not an issue because they are not a part of the community but when they are a band member the question is who serves them? Who has the authority? The RCMP does not recognize them as violating the criminal codes so this creates a frustrating barrier because they are being funded from our budget to protect our community and they cannot enforce the community bylaws. This needs to be included. Not just banishment, but all community bylaws such as noise levels, etc.
- By laws aren't even enforceable in our communities because the police won't come in.
- The other step to this is First Nation bylaw enforcement and creating our own court system because a lot of this is not punishable under provincial law. Some type of body to issue these charges.

**OFF-RESERVE ISSUES FOR SUPPORT**

- We are not on reserve, so the idea to get policing up and running for us would be difficult and we have been working very hard towards our own system that is not a First Nations Police service.
- This legislature would eliminate all of our work that we have done to work side by side with the RCMP.
- We need to modernize the Police Service to include indigenous policing off-reserve to be inclusive for our people.

**CONCERNS THAT THE PROVINCE WON'T SUPPORT**

- If the federal government has the funds but the province doesn't have 48% does that mean the FN can't be funded? Is there something that could be written that could deal with that?
- Until things are proven I know the government does not always have the funding if there aren't statistics, but there aren't statistics without funding.
- In 1995 Tobique First Nation had their own police service, it was supported by the federal government but the provincial component was never there.
- The government changes from year to year. They may agree this year and then they may change based on what they want.
- A First Nations Police service was established on a reserve and they had no provincial support.

**LACK OF COMMUNICATION**

- There is a very strong lack of communication. There's programs out there, but no one hears about them. The chiefs don't even know about them.

**CONCERNS ABOUT BEING LEFT OUT OF FUNDING**

- There should be something in the legislature that includes our people and our policies as we are now, not just Ontario and Quebec because they happen to have a First Nation Police Service already. We are left out and there is no funding there for us.

**GBA+ REFERENCE POINTS**

- "We want to make sure we are doing the right thing. It's frustrating. It's to a point where people almost don't want to do it anymore. We're tired of no one listening. I'm a sister, a grandmother, a mother, an aunt, and today I am preparing to go sit by my sister who is dying, but I chose to be here today because this is such an important issue; to make sure I can help her children and her grandchildren and their future."