

Fredricton Engagement on the Proposed Elements for Federal First Nations Police Service Legislation

Date: March 14th 2024

Location: Days Inn & Conference Centre

(60 Brayson Boulevard, Oromocto, NB)

In-Attendance: 29 people people attended (6 virtual / 23 in-person) representing the following:

- Chief
- Councillor
- Justice Coordinator
- Program Coodinator
- Manager of Contract Policing
- Corporal, Indigenous Policing Section
- Communications Coordinator
- Manager of Crime Prevention
- Policing Contract Manager
- Senior Policy Analyst
- FNIPP Contract Manager
- Justice Advisor
- Assistant to Justice Department
- Executive Social Work Support
- Public Safety Lead
- Justice and Policing Coordinator
- Legal Representative

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Opening Prayer - Elder Donald Francis

Dennis Meeches shared Welcome Remarks and an honour song.

Presentation – Chris Moran, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada:

https://ildii.sharepoint.com/sites/ILDIIArchive/Shared%20Documents/EXECUTIVE%20TRAINING/2024/APPROVED%20Proposals/FN%20Policing%20Legislation/FN%20Policing%20Leg%20-%20Documents/IAB_IPTF_PS%20Presentation%20ILDI%20Engagement.pdf

Elements to Inform the Legislation

1. Context

Discussion Question

The context emphasizes that the federal legislation should recognize and support First Nations police services with funding and foster effective partnerships between First Nations, the Government of Canada and the province/territory. Are there other concepts that you feel need to be included in the context to properly set the tone of this envisioned legislation?

Participant Responses

- Consider what makes us feel safe, training needs to advance, it needs to happen in a good way. Timing needs to be better.
- Make sure that people start doing the reconciliation.
- 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. No way. Building, pay, supplies, all of that stuff, was never enough. Sometimes it feels like we are a joke. To have that significant low-balled amount given to us - it sets us up for failure - and that's what happened to us.
- Get rid of the word project, because then they can't say oh they failed in a year or two, that's it, we're cancelling the "project".
- To have the same amount of funding today, that we had 40 years ago - is an insult.
- When you look at being a first nation individual, you have to look at our safety. 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.
- Why when we ask for something are we put down and told we're asking for too much?
- The other thing is it's hard to get training. It is like a needle in a haystack. They would only maybe have an hour training on first nations issues. They have Inuit, Metis and First Nations as three levels in the training.

- Our traditions are different from someone maybe an hour down the road from us.
- We have to be a part of the discussions and decisions.
- 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'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.
- We are stuck with projects and not sustainable funding.
- You'll get no argument coming from anyone within the federal government for things that need to be sustained.
- It's not that it's there for 12 months and drops off. What the legislation is seeking to do, in an environment where you're going to have safe communities, there's all kinds of things that need to be improved on - education, economic development, sports and activities, etc. What the legislation is trying to do is carve out a piece of this overall puzzle and make sure the federal rule is clear and structured. We are all trying to make sure that there is more funding available and its delivered in a stable way across the country to first nations.
- Is the money right? Is it delivering on what we need? It's a long-term financial relationship.
- The challenge is retention and training.
- 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. Nowadays, everyone is making sure they lock their doors, there is a lot of property crime within our communities.
- I am hoping the legislation will succeed in at least bringing the funding up to par.
- There has been a lot of damage done. The legislation that took away our cultural practices and our traditions, it was against the law to gather and speak our own language and so we have a lot of work to build and transfer that knowledge to our young people. That work I believe is being undertaken and I think more people are beginning to understand how we view things.
- We have to continue the push for our sovereignty. We are never going to separate from Canada. We have diverse things happening across the provinces.
- *Are we going to get the same commitment and stable funding for years, not months?*
- FNPS on and off reserve, there is nothing to specialize that those people are included. We need to modernize the PS to include indigenous policing off-reserve to be inclusive for our people. We had indigenous policing be partners with RCMP to be more inclusive for our people off and on reserve.
- 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. So that needs to be included. Not just banishment, but all community bylaws such as noise levels, etc.
- RCMP - We just had a meeting to change this, so that there are more things that are enforceable by the RCMP to make those steps towards what you are discussing. RCMP will be able to enforce those band bylaws now. I will be reaching out to more reserves to see what bylaws you would like us to start to enforce, this is already taking place in Manitoba.
- That is good to hear. The other step to this First Nation bylaw enforcement is creating our own court system because a lot of this is not punishable under provincial law. Some type of body to govern to issue these charges.
- RCMP - Some communities are actually implementing their own crown out west, so perhaps that is an option.
- *How much input has the province of Newfoundland had?*
 - We have been working with all the provinces for several years and they have all seen drafts and many elements. In terms of First Nation engagement, we have had meetings to hear feedback from the First

Nation Police Chiefs Association to represent First Nation Police Services across the country and they have also seen these elements and provided feedback.

- So there is not much input from Newfoundland itself? We only have one reserve but we have a great amount of First Nation peoples. It seems like that is what is missing, there are certain issues and I want to know that these plans include our members and our people and we are not forgotten. I would like for us to be engaged. We are recognized by many associations, so look to engage other groups as well, as we would be happy to give out input. I feel like there are things that are missing and that is us.
- When you think about context I think about how we had our own force back in 70s-80 we were out in the boonies with no access; the difficult part was that to be a part of the force you couldn't be connected to family's. You weren't allowed to be a family of the people. It dissolved in early 2000. So how to provide service safely and be unbiased. The reason why it ended was the community did not feel safe anymore, and officers were picking and choosing who they attended too. Times change so fast, can't update training and there is not enough funding. Even basic training like CPR, and negotiations. The training should have evolved but hasn't. The influx of medications / drugs has now made it very hard, with no funding. How much support will they be able to give? Our service got cut because of this.
- Consider what makes us feel safe.
- Update agreements when they are due or before.
- We need to be included; we need to be at that table to speak. We are tired of the fight, that nobody's listening. It's nice to have a big office in Ottawa, but come live where we live, and see how it all works for us. We live this 24/7. We are stuck with projects and non-acceptable funding.
- RCMP shot someone in my community that has mental health problems. I don't know if they get mental health training.
- I'm a retired police officer. Spent time working in First Nations communities. We need to watch how the "pay rate" amounts. We live in NB that has unstable funding (2 years) . We want funding, long and sustainable.
- As a First Nation person, we have been having meetings with all captains and grand chiefs. There's a lot of arguments on reserves. We used to be humble people but that doesn't mean anything anymore. The younger people are losing our heritage. We were the first ones to need our people to be together, now we see things that are horrible. I know these people are trying to help us, but like we've been saying things are getting worse. It's hard to be humble. This meeting should have invited all the captains from the Maritimes. As a Captain I don't get paid, and I try to help; but we have too many problems. Every time we ask for help it goes in one ear and out the other and I feel the Government looks down on us.
- Always under funded. We used to have our own police stations. We started off with a constable we had to put him on welfare to help pay him. We asked the RCMP and they didn't have enough support. Now we are working with city police. Negotiations should be done earlier so that we are on time, and extended as we are only 2 years.

2. Purpose and Funding Arrangements

Discussion Question 1

What are your views of the roles and responsibilities of the Government of Canada, First Nations and the provinces/ territories as articulated in the Elements?

Discussion Question 2

Do you have any suggestions for how to increase the likelihood that funding arrangements will be successfully concluded?

Participant Responses

- For what I witnessed for my community, we created our own public safety team and watched them monitor issues. I was able to see that this - a person who knows all the community members will know all the points.
- It would be a lot easier if they only dealt with public safety problems. Other issues arise, like all of a sudden they're there before the first responders, and they catch themselves in situations, and sometimes it's life and death. Imagine how much training is needed. We need to find a system that works. Somehow in some

way we need to fund these different programs. I don't want addiction workers to chase people in the community, they already have a job.

- Nobody trusts the RCMP or the process.
- Adequate funding - we want these people to stay here - right now public safety isn't funded.
- Mental health support and being able to work closely with someone who has expertise.
- 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?
- The legislation being proposed is an incremental stab at addressing these issues. First nations take a step towards its own police service, it doesn't suffer from the project based funding and equity. Its an essential service budget. It may be that first nations are collaborating with existing police services, how could we make that better? You need community safety officers making sure your checking in on people, you need crisis specialist, and then you need police to do the critical stuff - everyone has their own roles.
- 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. Again back to more money again.
- The problem is that they are understaffed. What does this mean for communities?
- Public Safety response - The answer is no. The legislation impacts only first nation led police services. If you imagine it's a circle of all these things we need to do better on, this is just tackling the federal role for how we properly and sustainably fund it. In the immediate term, it doesn't make an impact. But right now, there's lots of meat on the ground to make a difference. We are funding community safety officers. There are all kinds of things we could do a lot better on. I know the CTAs are appointed in frustration because the agreement gives the impression there will be a 24/7 police presence, but that is not the case.
- We have to talk about getting the right kinds of policing for what the needs are. It doesn't help when we have someone stay for a year, and then leave. We need long term policing. That is what is most immediately relevant.
- Our team is trying to put together a team of community safety officers. Would that be something this legislation does? *Who's benefiting from this legislation? Is it the RCMP or us?*
- Public Safety response - It has no impact on the RCMP. My job is to get more money for that program. We are using this conversation to figure out your feedback. This is the kind of stuff we need to talk about. Community safety officers, that we need to scale up or we need better funding for, this is the stuff we need to know.
- We are tired of these "pillars". There's a lot of hoops we have to jump through, we are tired of being researched, we're tired of things being written up about us and left there. Yes you may be only worried about the policing right now, but it's a weave. 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. You have to realize it's all together and right now, Canada is not getting it. We're always the last on the list. Treat everyone fairly.
- Go visit one of the communities. That's the only way you are going to see it. By laws aren't even enforceable in our communities because the police won't come in. We have people hiding out in our communities because no one will do anything about it.
- Public Safety Response - I know exactly what you are saying. The federal government is working with the province. We are trying to address the whole need.
- We need a willingness from the province to share the cost.
- *How many communities in the Atlantic provinces would be affected by this legislation?*
 - Right now there are no FNPS in the Atlantic provinces. Other than the potential to implement one in Nova Scotia. The reason why we are still engaging with Atlantic provinces is there is a possibility that these provinces could amend their policing to establish a First Nations Police Service so if that happens this funding would kick in.

- *So if they do not change to start the process of implementing their own police force they will not qualify for this funding?*
- RCMP - It reminds me of CTAs, in some of our communities we have peacekeepers, who won't be able to apply for this funding because they are not a police force.
- This kind of excludes them from this. So I guess there will have to be some lobbying done so that we can enter this police initiative.
- *Does this funding include training as well if we were to implement a police service?*
 - Yes. The vision is the costs associated with the establishment, maintenance is all included.
- Is there a possibility that this legislation also includes public safety officers not just police officers because in New Brunswick we are evolving to have these programs so this could benefit if the legislation was written in a way to include public safety officers as well such as peacekeepers. Because there are peacekeepers and public safety officers in NB currently but as you said there are no police officers, that will take a while to come into fruition, it won't just happen tomorrow. *So can the legislation be written in such a way to include these people that already exist?*
 - This is focused on First Nation Police Services, if the responsibilities are under the umbrella of what they would be doing the answer is yes. If it is a stand-alone separate public safety issue, the answer is no.
- How many First Nation Police Services are in Canada now?
 - 35 in Canada, mainly in Ontario and Quebec but there are 6 in the west. 2 more are anticipated to be created in the next 6 years.
- *So the majority of funding will go to Quebec and Ontario?*
 - The funding goes to all First Nation Police services that exist currently
- Which are all in Quebec and Ontario.
 - Provinces that have not decided to go through this process of having policing officers and gone the route of public safety will not be able to access this funding.
- This is adding to the possibilities, not taking away. This isn't stopping public safety work, this just adds the option of having a police force.
- *But the public safety we have now already works, why are we changing it?*
- Good point, we have a good relationship with the RCMP that works and respects the inclusivity of our people so this would eliminate that. 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 Force already. We are left out and there is no funding there for us.
- There have been steps to reconciliation and collaboration between the RCMP and reserves, and this form is not that.
- 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. That is a barrier in our community, we have no support in turn. If we did want to create police in our community there would be, but we have none now so we wouldn't have access to any.
- It would be interesting if the provincial government tapped into this legislative funding to help fund what we currently have in place.
- *Are you going by the stats from RCMP if First Nation Police Services were to be created? If there's no need for policing in these areas why do we need to create First Nation Police Services? Does the RCMP impact the amount of money being allocated to the First Nation Police Services?*
 - The government will not compare the two, the vision is that a First Nation Police Service is a stand-alone entity and needs to be funded to provide the services they are required to do under the law. It is about considering the policing ecosystem.

- We have spoken with the RCMP and they come to our community a lot. 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. This is going to be not good for us.
 - The legislation is not taking away, it is about providing funding for First Nation Police Services that exist now or will exist in the future. I know that there are funding gaps in other areas but this is not intended to take away from that.
- The gap for us is that we have worked very hard to achieve this and now this funding may be in jeopardy if this legislature were to pass. We were looking at training peacekeepers but now this would cause funding for that to be gone unless this legislature could be more inclusive to people off reserve.
- For what I witnessed in my community we created our own public safety team, watching them develop almost instantly, I see a pattern. We need tasks delegated in the community, one mental health support, two enforcement etc. I was able to see this as it could be separate things in one. 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. We need to find a way to fund these programs. These people know our people, they are our people. Community members don't trust the justice system, but they will trust our safety people. This program is not funded and not secured right now. The amounts are going to be quite a bit because there's different levels of roles and responders. Context Approx. 3600 registered members with 1900 on reserve.
- Former band officer & RCMP - I had the opportunity to see from both sides. Band constable's response time is great, but yes very underfunded. Who are the First Nation Police Services? Is this to enhance RCMP or for first nations to create their own.

3. Dispute Resolution

Discussion Question

How successful do you think the proposed dispute resolution processes will be in supporting the resolution of disputes? Do you have any suggestions that may help the Government of Canada, First Nations and provinces/territories work together to respectfully resolve disputes?

Participant Responses

- The intention is to make the language more committal. There may also be times when it's quicker to resolve the issue on a bilateral basis.
- Why do we have to pay someone to help us talk? Why don't we just talk it out? A long time ago people got together and they had to figure it out by a certain time and they were able to pull it off. The way the ceremony worked was they stayed together until they resolved the issue. Sit together until you're black and blue. Why can't we just do that?
- 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. It's reality. It's a roadblock when trying to engage in these discussions.
- Public Safety Response - It's important we work together. I am aware of the conversations you are referring to. The challenge is having to properly fund all the things that need to be funded. We are getting into conversations where the numbers needed to put forward based on the need and most colonial ways of government don't react to that without additional discussion. This is what we know the base equity looks like. This is how we are going to work together to achieve. If you have this conversation, there's always going to be willingness to keep that conversation going. We all know we need to do better. We just need to make sure we are funding something with some structure.
- Colonial ways has a time frame. We don't. Circles can be hours, even days.
- Public Safety Response - What we have right now are a lot of disputes about funding and when we establish this legislation we want to make sure we can work it through.
- What is the bottom line for funding?

- Public Safety Response - The province of jurisdiction sets the base requirements for police service. We then know what those things cost. Going forward we want to make sure that we have a regular level of dialogue. Ensuring we are having regular check-ins - where can we improve, what are the priorities, etc. You always have more need than you have budget, so it's important for us to understand and be able to represent accordingly.
- *Is there room for negotiation in these 5 year agreements?*
- It's in everybody's interest that we have relatively long term agreements. We always want to be talking in the context of those agreements. Over the 5 years, under FNIPP, we have 52% / 48% funding, and allocating that what is coming forward fits. This system at present is a little slow and cumbersome, it takes some time for us to get all of the funding lined up and then we come and talk. We want a better conversation about needs generally.
- *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 stats, but there aren't stats without funding. I hate to see that if there is a program that will for sure work but there aren't stats yet so they won't get funding. Federal government needs one thing and proves it needs something else.
 - The way it is envisioned is that provinces are the regulators of FNPS and are held to their own laws. I do take the point you make that there are different kinds of funding. This is an interesting catch-22 of establishing a First Nation Police Service.
- In 1995 Tobique First Nation had their own police source, it was supported by the federal government but the provincial component was never there. We had over 10 officers and they were only making \$300 a week because there was no support from the province. That is my fear, the provincial response. Especially in New Brunswick where the provincial government is not as supportive of any First Nations period.
- I agree, the government changes from year to year. They may agree this year and then they may change based on what they want. I have heard this happen too. A First Nations Police service was established on a reserve and they had no provincial support.
- 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. Every 4 years will there be enough funding?
- For our community right now we have been signing year-to-year agreements, this might be an opportunity to extend that.
- Has there been a discussion with individual provinces on their commitment to implementing First Nation Police services? You said Nova Scotia has a framework but they haven't committed to anything. It has been very slow. Not a lot of communities in Nova Scotia are very happy about the choices being made, more people are interested in peacekeepers for public safety so that is why it has been so slow. *How is the commitment from other provinces? Have there been discussions and are they receptive to this legislation?*
- In New Brunswick by 2027 I know the plan is to switch to a hybrid police department, which they have already started working on, based on guidance from the federal government. From the provincial view, they are supportive but I don't know their thoughts on a specific First Nations Police Department.
 - Provinces have been involved every step of the way and are all very aware. Ontario and Quebec are very involved because most First Nation Police Departments that already exist are in those provinces but this is well known to all the provinces.
- *Has there been any commitment from other provinces that if this is passed they will move to creating their own First Nations Police Service?*
 - The provinces are aware of the legislature. What we are trying to achieve is eliminating barriers so that they are able to meet the standards of creating a First Nations Police Service. There is a general conformity with these elements.
- *Per year what is the estimated amount of funding?*
 - We only have estimates of what it may cost, but there is no box we want to cap it at. We want you to tell us what you need.

4. Implementation

Discussion Question 1

Do you have any other ideas that could help support the implementation of a First Nations police services legislation?

Discussion Question 2

The Elements envision that First Nations would be significantly involved in the implementation of the legislation. What is needed to support First Nations participation in this implementation?

Participant Responses

- To be involved. There is a large gap when looking at trying to build. We still have all the same issues that everyone else has. So looking at how we can fill the gap, what changes can we make to this legislation to improve our people?
- Implementation is having more policing in the community. We need help, strength, leeway and support as we get there. It would be helpful if we could have systems that play roles in our community, and the police come in to support those roles - to be more competent in how we roll out those responsibilities and the RCMP would see what kind of stuff that the community needs.
- It's annoying if they don't have services, they'll kind of rush to the scene, take part and wrap it up. It's relatable to the front line work in our communities. To get first nations policing off the ground, we need to get confidence.
- We want RCMP to play a leading role and then we support them and they're conscious that they're looking out for our safety as we do it. We need to keep the RCMP accountable. We're also teaching them how to look out for evidence. It takes specialized tasks. Especially in investigations and drug units and searching in a certain way.
- We need an equal amount of support in the services that were hoping to get off the ground, and we are trying to move that dialogue.
- 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.
- For the RCMP to be more engaged in the community. Kids are watching - and they are looking for role models.
- Predicting the assets, a mental health support team, working together, are all part of it. We're exhausted.
- Additional services are definitely needed in all areas.
- The funding model - maybe we change something to be more inclusive for this legislation.
- One of the main keys to have first nations support this legislation, is to have us involved right from the get go. It goes back to - if you want communities to participate, you have to include them, so providing their feedback, and having their involvement is key here.
- *What would be considered significant involvement?* There are many places that have not been involved in the participation of creating this legislation. There is a large gap we are looking to fill. We are not on reserve. We are a landless band but we still have the same issues. *What changes can we make to this legislation to include our people and make sure that our people are taken care of?*
- We have to keep the RCMP accountable while also teaching bylaw officers and peacekeepers how to look out for evidence and how to perform specialized tasks within the community.
- I agree that additional services are needed in all areas to assist the RCMP. But in the funding model, you are giving a large percentage of the funds to Quebec and Ontario. Atlantic Canada is getting very little. We need to be more inclusive so we can all be a part of this legislature.
- We need to be involved in the process from the very beginning. It is a lot easier to follow if it is something you have put your thoughts in from the very beginning. The people who are going to be serving with the policing, need to be involved to gain more support. Not just leaders.

- Do you have any other ideas that could help support the implementation of a First Nations police services legislation?
- To have significant involvement, to be involved. There is a large gap that we are trying to fill. Looking at how we can fill the gap, what changes can we make to include our people.
- Include our people from start to finish.
- The Elements envision that First Nations would be significantly involved in the implementation of the legislation. What is needed to support First Nations participation in this implementation?
- Additional services are required to support RCMP, Atlantic Canada is getting very little funding.
- 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.

5. Broader Indigenous Policing and Community Safety Programs

Discussion Question

How can the FNIPP and FNIPFP, as well as other Public Safety Canada programming, better respond to broader policing and community safety needs in your communities?

Participant Responses

- Public Safety Response - What we're trying to talk about today is the specific purpose of the legislation. If you think of a circle, this is a piece of the pie. The legislation is not meant to necessarily cover everything, it's just meant to cover one piece of the pie. I'm trying to figure out how we get more money and support and expand. The legislation is not going to have an immediate impact, but this particular topic is immediately relevant to all of you.
- What we found out is there is a very strong lack of communication. We're taking off on one program that public safety sponsors, and the point I'm trying to make is there's programs out there, but no one hears about them. The chiefs don't even know about them. I find what's lacking is awareness.
- It is a lack of communication. They don't care enough about what's out there for our communities. We have to be thinking of our people on and off the reserves. We need to come up with a more modern way of looking at things and put that funding together. We need to work together to come up with something that will work for our people, and we also need funds to be able to do that.
- Keep in mind that there are more than just the three nations in the Atlantic Region.
- It's difficult these days to be a front line police officer.
- Existing policing continues to serve - the question is how do we make that better and more responsive?
- What's working in terms of making sure there are conversations between leadership and chief policing?
- People that are "Band Members" from another band tend to fall through the cracks based on services. A non native can get a NB Licence moving from NS per say. But we cannot just get a new number when we move from our home community. They are displaced based on not feeling safe in their base community. How can we help them?
- A collaborative response to a situation is preventative work.
- If we could somehow start distributing some resources.
- Us First Nations, we know what to do when shit hits the fan. We're there very quickly to support each other, we just need someone to help us bring it out and improve the system. Support for communities.
- Following the previous comments, hopefully, it is clear that what we are trying to talk about today is that the specific purpose of the legislation is within a pie that represents all the things we need to do better on. The legislation is not meant to cover everything; it covers one piece of the pie and that is applicable to existing FNPS. What is really interesting in our conversation is that in what my job is, I'm trying to figure out how do we get more money and support and expand as many useful things as we can. I do this in collaboration with ISC. There are other funding pots that support First Nation-led community planning, security, officer training and other things that prevent things from needing policing as a solution.

- There are safety concerns that policing is not solving. Paraphrasing, you have preventative dollars that aim to try to make sure that before you get to a point where there is going to be negative interaction you try to manage those problems before they start. You have assets in the community that support de-escalation before you need law enforcement, but then you get to a stage where you need the RCMP or a police service. It is hard to make the call when you need to make an arrest or call on law enforcement. I'm curious to know what people are already trying to do. Do you feel your concerns are being heard? What is working in the relationships between the RCMP and your leaders? A big part of what we must work on is making sure that the existing police services are functioning at a high level that meets your needs. What can we find to help make the situation better? Dialogue and conversation are part of the mix - between the police and the people who are being policed.
- I just wanted to say that the type of stuff that we need in the community is prevention work. Sometimes things happen and the RCMP ends up escalating the situation. So a collaborative response to situations is needed. I used to work in addictions and harm reduction became crime prevention. Situations happen in so many ways that teach someone if you are going to drink, go to the gym before you drink and you won't be so angry, or walk away. So for me, if these instances were to happen like that, the RCMP would need to be on board to really look at the type of support needed in that moment.
- If we implement this funding are we losing funding for them? I want to be careful to say if we need First Nation Police Services or not. For me, do we want all policing services or do we need the RCMP to engage in these techniques? We need the patience to walk into these situations and learn instead of talking about each other. I will put it that way. If there is community support that is needed today I think it would be wise to talk about it in the future. She was mentioning that there is no funding for off-reserve natives and there is confusion about who can reach into these pockets so can we distribute some of these resources while we set up this legislation? Us First Nations we know what to do when something happens, we open Facebook and talk sh*t but we are all there to support each other. We got misconstrued somewhere with the way the world thinks we treat each other. We have systems that work already. In my mind it is all there, we just need help to bring it out. I pray the system will help us bring out the support for the communities.

Closing Comments

Thank you for coming here and sharing your opinions and viewpoints and for your patience and participation. I think we are going to wrap it up then. Thank you very much.