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# **The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Implications for the EPS**

Presented to the Edmonton Police Commission  
18 February 2016



# Purpose

- To present an overview of the implications of the Final Report of the TRC for the EPS



# Background

- In 2015, the TRC issued its final report: *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*
- The report contains 94 Calls to Action
- The Calls to Action do not directly address municipal police, but 11 have implications for the justice system



# Background

- The Calls to Action addressing justice fall under the following themes:
  - Reducing criminal victimization of Aboriginal people
  - Reducing over-representation of Aboriginal people in custody
  - Providing culturally competent services across the justice system



# Implications for the EPS

- Aboriginal people in Edmonton are over-represented among victims and offenders and among vulnerable populations
- Current EPS initiatives are responding to community needs and addressing TRC priorities (see Attachment One for detailed overview)
- Major activities fall under the Aboriginal Strategy and Violence Reduction Strategy
  - Alignment with City of Edmonton First Nations, Métis, Inuit (FNMI) Framework (under development)



# EPS Aboriginal Strategy

- Adopted in 2014 with four goals:
  - 1) Develop Strategic Community Partnerships**

Key activities: Aboriginal Community Liaison Committee; operational partnerships with community agencies
  - 2) Increase Education and Cultural Awareness**

Key activities: Recruit and in-service training; specialized Victim Services; Aboriginal Police Academy
  - 3) Increase Recruiting in the Aboriginal Community**

Key activities: enhanced community outreach
  - 4) Provide Support to Police Operations**

Key activities: national knowledge-sharing; proactive protest management



# Violence Reduction Strategy

- VRS priorities and initiatives address Aboriginal community needs and victimization:
- **Vulnerable Persons:**
  - Reducing vulnerability of those at greatest risk (disproportionately Aboriginal)
  - Heavy Users of Service (HUoS): 16-agency partnership to improve collaboration and supports for the most vulnerable
  - Assessment, Sobering, and Care Collaboration: proposal to provide alternatives to incarceration for severe intoxication



# Violence Reduction Strategy

- **Victim Supports and Offender Management:**
  - Young Offender Management: Y-50 program targets youth for comprehensive support and oversight
  - Domestic Violence Intervention: multi-disciplinary approach to supporting victims and managing risk
- **Community-Focused Approaches:**
  - Community Action Team (CAT): works with community partners to provide focused deterrence, suppression, and prevention (including supporting vulnerable people to access housing and services)





# Conclusion

- See Attachment One for a detailed overview of activities relevant to TRC Calls to Action
- Through these and other initiatives, the EPS is contributing to addressing the TRC themes by:
  - Reducing victimization among vulnerable groups
  - Preventing crime and disorder
  - Providing culturally competent policing
- The Aboriginal Strategy and Violence Reduction Strategy remain major priorities for the EPS



# Discussion