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RCMP Community Policing



What should I say to a Community Consultive Group?

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What Should I Say To A Community Consultative Group?

Over the past few years, members in detachments across the country have been getting involved in the creation and implementation of Community Consultative Groups (CCG's) as a community policing initiative. Although most people agree that CCG's are a good idea, they are often not sure how to run a meeting, or how to direct the group in problem identification and resolution.

There are many ways to run a successful and effective CCG meeting, and each member will have their own preferred approach and organizational style. The following material is a CCG meeting format that has been developed by Sgt. Lorne Smith of "L" Division Community Policing, and successfully used by RCMP members in the field. It can serve as a guideline for other members who are wondering what to say at a CCG meeting, and how to go about making a CCG work.

Before the meeting starts:

Post your detachment's copy of the community policing Mission Statement, or a flip chart of the community policing philosophy, at the front of the room. Encourage the group to sit in circle as much as possible to promote effective and equal interaction between group members. Provide name tags to the group members if they are unfamiliar with each other.

- 1. Welcome and Introduction to Community Consultation.
 - · Read, Explain and Discuss the community policing RCMP Mission Statement, highlighting the ideas of: partnership, equality, shared responsibility, communication, working with the community and other agencies, sharing problem ownership, empowering the community, problem solving, etc.
- 2. Outline and discuss the definition and goals of a Community Consultative Group, as listed in Ops. Manual I.1.L.
- 3. Explain and begin the problem solving process;
 - · Brainstorm as a group to identify and discuss community problems
 - · List and prioritize the identified problems
 - Learn about the problem (start with #1):
 - · assign a group member to seek specific information and bring it to the next meeting
 - · identify and invite community "experts" to the next meeting (police, lawyers, business owners, social agencies)
 - list possible solutions, approaches to resolve the problem
 - Develop Action Plans from the alternatives:
 - · what is the problem?
 - · what are the alternatives?
 - · what steps are involved?

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- · who will take each step?
- · when will it be completed?
- · who will monitor the progress?
- 4. Remember: The role of the Community Consultative Group is mainly advisory. The group is not expected to take on sole responsibility for attacking community problems. Action Plans should be developed with the aim of helping the police to target their resources and organize the involvement of other community agencies and groups. These plans can be developed into Detachment Short Term Operational Plans (STOPs).