

The Community Safety Officer Program



Program Background

Two Saskatchewan municipalities applied to the Ministry of Justice in 2008 requesting restricted provincial statute enforcement for their bylaw officers. The communities identified that the expanded enforcement could help meet their needs by supplementing existing services, significantly benefitting the public safety of their communities. Their requests were approved as pilot projects. The bylaw officers were given provincial statute authority under the "Appointment of Special Constables" in the *Police Act, 1990*. The project developed into the Community Safety Officer Program (CSOP), and has since expanded to other municipalities in the province.

Benefits of the CSOP

Employing a Community Safety Officer (CSO) will provide your community with a uniformed officer who is tasked with providing high priority, but low risk to harm community safety services. Special Constable appointments can be tailored to meet the needs of your community.

Special Constable Appointments

Special Constable appointments can provide for the enforcement of the following Acts:

The Traffic Safety Act;
The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997;
The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010;
The All-Terrain Vehicles Act;
The Snowmobile Act;
The Mental Health Services Act; and
The Trespass to Properties Act.

Additional Options:

Offender Transport;
Criminal Code - only sections 334 (b) & 430 (1);
Court Security;
Search and Rescue; and
The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997
(for weights and measures).

Hiring a CSO

Municipalities (or First Nations) interested in hiring a CSO for their community must go through a two stage approval process.

First, a municipality wishing to employ a CSO must receive ministry approval. The municipality then must submit a number of documents to the ministry to demonstrate that they are prepared to employ a CSO.

Second, the municipality must obtain a Special Constable appointment for their CSO. All Special Constable appointments are issued under the signature of the Minister as authorized under the *Interpretation Act, 1995*.

For further information about the steps necessary to acquire a CSO please refer to the accompanying FAQ document, or contact the ministry official cited here.

Ministry Oversight

CSO employers must be aware that they are responsible for and subject to the accountability requirements, pursuant to the CSO policy manual. These requirements are necessary to ensure that employers are held accountable for their own actions and the actions of their CSOs.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

In the late Fall of 2016, there will be an opportunity for municipalities interested in the CSOP model to send candidates to the mandatory training that is required to become a CSO.

The training is delivered in partnership with Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The cost will be \$3,900 - \$4,700, depending on enrollment numbers. The training is six weeks long and will be held at the Prince Albert campus from November 7th-December 16th, 2016.

* Municipalities do *not* need to have their CSO appointment granted to send a candidate to training.

Contact Information

Before you begin the process. Please contact:

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