

Review of Yukon's Police Force
The Views of Clients of The Salvation Army in Whitehorse, Yukon

Author: Rhonda MacDonald, BSW
Data Collection Period: June 7–17, 2010

The views and opinions presented are those of The Salvation Army clients and are not reflective of the views of the author.

Table of Contents

Introduction/Purpose.....3

Approach.....3

Executive Summary.....4

Statistics.....4

What concerns do you have with the policing service you receive?.....4

How has the RCMP contributed to public safety in your community?.....6

What is the community’s role in interacting with the police to improve public safety?....7

What is the RCMP’s role in interacting with the community to improve public safety?....7

What changes would you recommend to improve the policing service in the Yukon?.....8

If you wanted to make a complaint, how would you go about doing that?..... 10

Conclusion.....10

Appendix.....12

Introduction/Purpose

The RCMP is the police force of choice in Yukon. In order to be effective, they must have accountability and the confidence of the public. From time to time, that confidence of the public waivers and steps must be taken to restore that confidence. The Government of Yukon and the RCMP are committed to working together to ensure that Yukoner's are receiving the police services they expect. Currently the policing services in Yukon are being reviewed. As a process of this review, Yukoner's are being given the opportunity to participate in facilitated sessions. The purpose of these sessions is to:

- promote sharing of concerns, experiences and perceptions related to policing in Yukon;
- invite feedback regarding the respective contributions of the community and the police force to public safety and their roles in working to improve it; and
- seek recommendations for improvements to policing and public safety.

In compiling the information for this report, I entered into an engagement process with clients of The Salvation Army in order to put forward their views. This client group was given the opportunity to tell of their experiences with the police and to offer recommendations for change. All participation was completely voluntary and anonymous. Those participating told of their personal experiences with the police. Their stories were in no way verified. Any previous involvement with the police was not checked. The clients chosen for this submission, are those that may not normally have the chance to contribute. They are the homeless, near homeless and incarcerated. Those who participated are now living in Whitehorse, but are not all originally from here. They are mostly from other areas of Yukon and The Northwest Territories. Some are from other places in Canada. All views, whether positive or negative, are considered relevant and important and are included in this report.

The Salvation Army was very supportive of this process and encouraged their clients to participate. They willingly provided the space used for meeting with the clients.

Approach

The approach employed was straightforward and involved two distinct and significant groups of Salvation Army clients that together represent a majority of its community involvement. The work plan involved meeting with 26 clients at The Salvation Army's shelter and soup kitchen, 15 clients at The Salvation Army's Adult Resource Centre (ARC) and 7 staff from these locations. At the shelter I had originally planned to meet with the clients in a private room, however, they all felt more comfortable meeting in the main room. In this environment it was not possible to set up appointment times and I had to rely on word of mouth from client to client to come and talk to me. Getting the clients to discuss this topic involved sitting with them and listening to their stories. It was important to them that they get to know me before they wanted to discuss the topic at hand. Some of the clients would only offer a few comments in passing and others would sit for an hour or more. At the ARC it was easier to book appointments with the clients. I found that it was better to meet with the clients at ARC later in the evening, as they were working during the day. The staff were very accommodating and agreed to talk with me when none of the clients were available. All sessions were guided by the five questions listed in the *Engagement Strategy* and also included some discussions about how to make a complaint about the police.

Executive Summary

A total of 48 people participated in this review. 71% of participants had concerns about the policing services they had personally received. These concerns were based on personal experience of physical and verbal abuse and a lack of service as perceived by the participants. 60% believed that the police are doing a good job in keeping the public safe. 70% believed that the community should be working with the police to maintain public safety by letting the police know when something concerning is going on. 73% of participants believed that the police should be interacting with the community to provide public safety. This should be achieved by getting to know the community and the people and getting involved in community groups and activities. Those that did not believe the police could be interacting with the community, based their beliefs on personal experiences of the police not being helpful to them. All participants made recommendation for changes with the RCMP. 31% recommended that the police should have cultural sensitivity training. 25% made recommendations for the police to have drug testing and other methods to provide accountability. The surprising finding was that very few of the participants were aware of how to make a complaint against the police and would fear retaliation if they did make a complaint.

Statistics

A total of 48 facilitated sessions were completed. 54% were clients of the shelter, 31% were clients of the ARC and 15% were staff from each of the locations. 83% of those who participated were male and 17% were female. 71% were of First Nations descent and 29% were of other descents. The breakdown of age is as follows; teen = 2%, 20-29 years = 16.5%, 30-39 years = 19%, 40-49 years = 39.5%, 50-59 years = 21%, 60-69 years = 2%.

What concerns do you have with the policing service you receive?

71% of those who responded to this question had only negative things to say about the police and the services they have received. The negative responses were varied, but focused on not wanting the police involved on their lives, being physically and verbally assaulted, being kept in the drunk tank and the lack of response by the police to their problems.

There were some comments about not wanting the police involved in their lives and that Native people should have their own policing services.

- "We would be better off to have native police. Today I was driving and the police followed me for no reason. I stopped at a store and they waited on the road until I came out and then followed me again. I wasn't doing anything wrong and they should not be following me."
- "All the cops should be fired. The ones that are prejudiced should not be on the police force. When they get you by yourself, you better watch out. They get mean and do not care if they hurt you. A friend told me just yesterday that the cops used a billy club on him for no reason. I don't trust them and would not call them if my life was on the line. We should have our own police."

According to 33% of respondents, the police are physically abusive when picking people up and when they are being held.

- "They broke my ribs and hurt my foot by slamming the cell door on it. When I said I would complain they said "go ahead" and laughed. I lost my job because of the police and they took my children away."
- "They beat me up. They used billy clubs on my ribs and it took me 4 months to heal. After that they started treating me a little better, but they still do it. When the police get us in the drunk tank they throw us on the floor like dirt just because we are First Nations. They ask me my name and I tell them, then I say "you already know me." It just hurts. My people are around me and they hurt too. I once ended up in a coma for 4 hours because of the beating they gave me. They made me stand on my tip toes with my hands tied up high and then they hit me. They made me shit my pants and then blamed me and said it was all my fault."
- "Cops investigate cops and therefore, are not held responsible for their actions. The police had my hands cuffed behind my back and they broke seven of my ribs and punctured my lung. They said I was being violent. How could I be violent when my hand were cuffed?"

Three people responded with definite concerns about the verbal abuse of the police.

- "The police are verbally abusive to people. They are always being degrading to native people. I've been shoved around, yelled at and called nasty names. I've seen the police in the cells trying to antagonize people so they can have an excuse to rough them up."
- "The police tazered me 9 times and could not take me down. They ended up taking me to the drunk tank. They told me I was a piece of shit and I'm not, I'm human."

Discussions about being put in the drunk tank were prominent. 29% of those I talked with had complaints about being put in the drunk tank and the treatment they received while there.

- "I once ended up in a coma for 4 hours because of the beating they gave me. They made me stand on my tip toes with my hands tied up high and then they hit me. They made me shit my pants and then blamed me and said it was all my fault."
- "...the police stopped me as I was walking home. I was drunk. I was only a block from home and told them that I was going there. They could see my house, but they insisted on taking me to the drunk tank."
- "The cops need to stop beating the shit out of me. They usually just pick up the natives. Once there was a white guy stumbling down the street in front of me. He could hardly stand up, he was so drunk. I had a few drinks in me, but I was walking fine. The police picked me up and ignored the other guy. I sat in the drunk tank all night – sober."

29% of those involved in the sessions had no concerns about the police services and think they are doing a good job.

- "I think the police do a great job."
- "The police help me out. If I am sick and can't get around, they take me to the hospital or sometimes help me get home."
- "I have no complaints about the police. They are doing what needs to be done."

One person was only concerned about the safety of the police. She was very concerned that they would not be protected when responding to calls out in the bush. "I'm concerned about the safety of the police when they go out in the bush where there are wild animals."

How has the RCMP contributed to public safety in your community?

Of the 45 people that provided a response to this question, a surprising 60% thought that the police were doing a good job in some way in the community.

- "I was being threatened and harassed by a neighbour and I called the police. They were quite responsive and helped me resolve my situation. The police go to schools to help educate our children. When I am out around town, I see the police, so I know they are out patrolling, trying to keep us safe."

Most of these people were very positive and thought that the police were doing a great job in keeping the community safe.

- "On a scale of 1:10 I would give them a solid 8. There is so much going on that they can't cover all the bases as once. The police are doing their best to maintain peaceful co-existence."
- "We need the police to maintain safety. They do all the normal policing matters."
- "The police are doing as good a job as they can. They are out on the streets in our communities and are laying charges, but the courts are then letting those people go."

For 24% of people, their good feelings about the police are totally personal. They feel that the police are doing a good job if they have done something for them personally.

- "They bring me to the hospital when I need to go there. They try to keep drunk people off the streets when they are passed out."
- "The police help find people that kill our family and friends. They respond to call. Even though they do some good, they do a lot of bad as well."
- "The good thing that the police do is that they bring people home when they have been drinking. They don't let them pass out on the streets."

Most of the 40% who thought that the police were not contributing to public safety in the community felt very strongly about this.

- "I can't think of anything good that they do."
- "The police don't do anything good in the community. They should all be shot."
- "They should fucking leave us alone. Worry about people out there doing drugs, not us homeless people who are drinking."
- "Fuck all. I've seen them terrorize people. The police do nothing good."

Whether people thought positive or negative things about police contribution to public safety, it was extremely personal. Most people did not seem to look broader to the community in general, but considered personal experiences that they had with the police. If they had positive experiences in which the police helped, then they thought the police were keeping the public safe. If they had a negative experience with the police, they were more likely to disagree that the police were contributing to public safety.

What is the community's role in interacting with the police to improve public safety?

33 people provided responses for this question. 30% of those people believed that the community and the police could not work together. This was either because they did not trust the police or simply did not want the police involved in their community. Still others thought the police were not responsive enough to their needs so they should have their own policing service. Those that did not think the community had a role in interacting with the police could not be convinced that there was a way. They thought that anyone who works with the police is a traitor.

- "I think the band should have their own police. That way they would be available 24/7."
- "There is no way for the community to work with the police. We don't trust them and don't want them involved in our lives."
- "The police don't care about us and we don't care about them."
- "The police need to leave us alone and we'll leave them alone."

70% of the responses were positive and thought that the community does have a role in interacting with the police. All respondents believed that the community should be helping to keep the community safe and that they should not expect the police to do so on their own.

- "The community needs to work with the police and let them know when something is concerning in the community. The police cannot do it all on their own."
- "The community should be more willing to meet with the police and tell them what they need to know."

Groups such as neighbourhood watch and citizens on patrol are seen as positives in the community. "Neighbourhood watch is a good thing. The community should watch out for each other to make sure they are safe.

What is the RCMP's role in interacting with the community to improve public safety?

37 people provided comments to this question. 73% of respondents provided feedback on how the police should be working with the community to improve public safety. A lot of the responses focused on the police getting to know the people of the community and building a mutual respect.

- "The police should be a presence in the community. They should be getting involved and getting to know the people."

- “The police should be more trustworthy. They should treat all people with respect and have some compassion. If they did not think the worst of people, the people would have more respect for them.”

Many people also thought that the police should be getting more involved in community activities and groups. This would help them get to know them people and would also help the people get to know the police.

- “The police should be involved in community programs. That would make them more noticeable in a public way in the community. Some of the police are involved in kids sports programs and they should be doing more of that.”
- “The police should get more involved in the community. They should make their presence felt in community activities so that people can get to know them socially. This would help people want to help them. It would make them more human.”

The overall feeling is that the police need to be doing more to get involved in the community. The people need to see them neighbours and not just the police.

27% of the respondents thought that there was no way for the police to work with the community to increase public safety. These people had the general feeling that the police could do nothing good and that they were not needed in the community.

- “They should all just leave. We don’t need them.”
- “The police don’t seem to want to work with the community. They just seem concerned with acting tough and in control.”

There was a strong feeling that the police are there to be tough and that they do not really care about the people. “The police don’t really care about us. They just want to strut their stuff and act like they are the big guys in town.”

What changes would you recommend to improve the policing service in the Yukon?

All 48 of the people who participated in these discussions made recommendations for changes to the policing services here in the Yukon. Cultural sensitivity training was recommended by 31% of respondents. Throughout all the sessions many people spoke of the police not treating First Nations people the same as white people and that this is the biggest problem. When making recommendations for change a large number of people thought that police services would improve if the police knew more about the people and their culture.

- “Police need to learn native traditions. They need to learn to respect and know the culture of other people. If the police and us understand each other, we can work together.”
- “The police need cultural sensitivity training. They need to learn honest and stop covering their own asses.”
- “The police need to have a change of attitude about race. They always pick on natives. We are people too and deserve respect.”

25% of the respondents thought that the police were criminals themselves and there needs to be some accountability or they should just get out of town.

- "They need to get some balls. They all join because they're afraid to live without their gang behind them."
- "There needs to be more accountability for the police. They get away with whatever they want right now because they are hiding behind the badge. The police should be held accountable for their actions."

There were some suggestions made that could assist with making the police more accountable and those that made them were convinced that implementing these changes would improve police services in the Yukon.

- "There should be someone there to witness when the police are writing up their notes and to witness what goes on behind closed door to make the police accountable."
- "They should hire an investigative team to follow the police around and see what they are doing in their spare time. Some of them do things that are way worse than anything we do."
- "The police should have to random drug screenings and lie detector tests. That would fix the problem because all the crooked ones would be gone."

There were some other very good suggestions that people thought would help improve the police services. These are changes that would be beneficial anywhere and not just the Yukon;

- "There should be a substance free person from every community that is there to listen to the people's concerns about the RCMP. These people could then get together once a year to discuss concerns that may have come up in the community. That way if there was a problem with one or more of the officers, they could be removed and the community would not have to put up with it. The representative should be someone who is well known and respected in the community. They would be a safe person for the community to go to with their complaints. Some people live out in the bush and are not used to being in town and how to conduct themselves. They may not know what the police should or should not do. They could go to this person if they have any concerns and maybe get some answers through this process. At the meeting there should be a representative from the RCMP who is not from the Yukon. They should take all the concerns seriously and have the power and authority to make the necessary changes."
- "I think the police should have some mental health training so that they know how to deal with someone who has mental health issues. It would be even more helpful if there was a medically trained person on staff who could go on call with officers when there is a person with mental health issues known to be involved. The police should also have training on how to be a positive motivator to people instead of being so negative all the time. They seem to always focus on the negative in a persons life and not on the positive. They would be more effective if they focused on the good stuff."
- "There should be a police liaison person in each community that the police call when a native person is taken into custody. That person should personally see the detained person when they are brought into custody and again when they are released. The cops should also have a camera on their shirts that would

record everything. The video should go directly where the officers have no access. This would record what goes on behind closed doors and would provide proof when a complaint is made. The chief and council should have a say in having a cop removed if he is harassing too many people.”

- “The police should have an emotional and physical evaluation every 6-12 months. They have to deal with a lot of stuff every day and there is no way that you can shut that down when your shift ends. Having an evaluation would make sure that they are dealing OK with all the stuff that is going on. The RCMP seems to be more of a business now that an organization that is there to serve and protect. They need to get back to their roots and remember that they should be an important part of the community.”

If you wanted to make a complaint, how would you go about doing that?

This topic came up often when discussing experiences with the police. Many people have complaints about treatment they had received, but are not sure what to do about it.

- “I have no idea how to make a complaint.”
- “I don’t know, I would talk to a lawyer, the RCMP commissioner, the chief. I don’t know.”

There was a strong fear amongst the respondents that any complaint against the police would come back to get them. They do not believe that there is a safe and anonymous way to make a complaint, especially here in Yukon.

- “I don’t know who to call. I would fear that the police would try and get you in some way. There is no way that the police would let you get away with making a complaint.”
- “I don’t know how to make a complaint. I wouldn’t dare anyway because my mom lives across the street from an officer and I would fear that they might do something to her.”
- “I made a complaint once, but nothing came of it. All that happened was that the police picked me up even more. There should be some way to keep the complaints anonymous.”

The overall thought was that there should be an anonymous way for people to make a complaint against the police so that the person does not have to fear retaliation. The best way to do this is to have an independent person who is not from here do the investigations. They all thought that by doing this anonymity could be preserved.

Conclusion

The population for this study were those that had mostly had some contact with the police. Most of them reported having negative contacts. This personal experience has affected the way the police are viewed. Many of the concerns were centered on the way First Nations people believe they are treated by the police. There is a strong feeling among them that the police are prejudiced against First Nations people and are only too happy to rough them up at any opportunity.

Despite these concerns the majority of those involved believe that the police are doing a good job in keeping the community safe. They also believe that the community needs to be there to work together with the police to increase public safety. The overall feeling is that if the police were more involved in getting to know the community, the community would be more receptive to the police.

Many recommendations were made about ways to improve the police service, but they were mostly consistent with the concerns of the group. They believe that the police should have more cultural sensitivity training. They should learn more about the people and the culture in which they live and work so that all people are treated equally.

Most surprising from this study was learning that most people did not know how to make a complaint about the RCMP. All felt that there should be more public awareness about this process so that people can easily access the avenue for complaints. All agreed that the process does need to be anonymous so that there is no chance of retaliation by the police as this is a real fear.

The main concern of this group seems to be the way the police treat people of First Nations descent. A strong recommendation coming from this is that the police should receive cultural sensitivity training. They should also be encouraged to get more involved in the community and get to know the people and the culture in which they are working. This is not something that one can be made to do, but the importance of it can be emphasized. A big need arising from this group is for there to be more public awareness on how to make a complaint against the police.

This group was concerned that their responses would not be taken seriously and that nothing would come of the review process. It will be important to make sure that this population has access to the final report and recommendations.

Appendix:

A breakdown of the respondents and their individual responses to the main questions.

Location: Shelter> 26 , Adult Resource Centre> 15 , Staff> 7

Age: teen> 1 , 20-29> 8 , 30-39>9 , 40-49> 19 , 50-59> 10 , 60-69>1

Gender: Male> 40 , Female>8

First Nations: Yes> 34 , No> 14

1.What concerns do you have with the policing service you receive?

>The police do not show respect and often discriminate against First Nations people. They do what they can to cover their own ass.

>All the cops should be fired. The ones that are prejudiced should not be on the police force. When they get you by yourself, you better watch out. They get mean and do not care if they hurt you. A friend told me just yesterday that the cops used a billy club on him for no reason. I don't trust them and would not call them if my life was on the line. We should have our own police.

>I think the police do a great job.

>The police help me out. If I am sick and can't get around, they take me to the hospital or sometimes help me get home.

>I have no complaints about the police. They are doing what needs to be done.

>We don't need to talk. We believe in our own law – an eye for an eye. We knew what we needed yesterday and we know now – we don't need to wait until September to find out. You guys killed Silverfox and we believe in our own justice. A bunch of talking won't change anything.

>They broke my ribs and hurt my foot by slamming the cell door on it. When I said I would complain they said "go ahead" and laughed. I lost my job because of the police and they took my children away.

>They should all be sent to Afghanistan so that they can learn some respect. That way when they kick the shit out of someone in a back alley, they will know what it is all about. The police abuse people and stick their face where it don't belong. There is too much injustice applied where there should be justice applied. The police don't care about justice they are like a gang and do what they want. The RCMP is just like the mafia. The junior cops come up here and are learning to be pricks just like the older ones. I can't even walk down the streets without the cops driving up beside me and trying to pick a fight. It's a good thing I am a black belt and I can take care of my own. This person went off on a tangent talking about probation officers and sees them as all being the same as the police.

>I have no concerns about the police services. They are concerned about our safety.

>I have no concerns about the police. They always seem to be there where I need them.

>They beat me up. They used billy clubs on my ribs and it took me 4 months to heal. After that they started treating me a little better, but they still do it. When the police get us in the drunk tank they throw us on the floor like dirt just because we are First Nations. They ask me my name and I tell them, then I say "you already know me." It just hurts. My people are around me and they hurt too. I once ended up in a coma for 4 hours because of the beating they gave me. They made me stand on my tip toes with my hands tied up high and then they hit me. They made me shit my pants and then blamed me and said it was all my fault.

>They fucking hate Indians. They are ignorant.

>The police force is corrupt from the top. When someone tries to do the right thing they are picked on by the other police because the general rule is that you do as you are told and follow the pack, not do your own thing even if that thing is right.

>The police beat people up and just throw them in the drunk tank. They don't care about anyone.

>I'm concerned about the safety of the police when they go out in the bush where there are wild animals.

>The police treat us bad. They put us in the drunk tank and leave us there longer than they are supposed to.

>The police keep us in the drunk tank longer than they should, They kept me in there for 24 hours one time. I don't associate with them and I avoid them as much as possible.

>The police are verbally abusive to people. They are always being degrading to native people. I've been shoved around, yelled at and called nasty names. I've seen the police in the cells trying to antagonize people so they can have an excuse to rough them up.

>It seems reasonable that they're there to obtain justice and keep reasonable peace. It would be unreasonable that we not have them. They provide an essential service. It is indisputable that we need some sort of governing between people that are not able to get along with each other. This service is essential to maintain relations between people. We should not try to strive against each other. Working together is more important than race, colour, etc. We are one people.

>I know that their job is to protect, but when they see "crazy Indians" they don't give a shit about their job. If something happens and I am around, they just pick me right out of the crowd even if I didn't do anything. I just try to stay out of their way.

>The police don't treat people fairly. They give native people more hassles than anyone else. It seems like they are racist. I don't know if it's the way they're trained, but they all act the same. They are rough with natives. They have never personally been rough with me, but I have heard about it a lot.

>The cops need to stop beating the shit out of me. They usually just pick up the natives. Once there was a white guy stumbling down the street in front of me. He could hardly stand up, he was so drunk. I had a few drinks in me, but I was walking fine. The police picked me up and ignored the other guy. I sat in the drunk tank all night – sober.

>The police don't follow up on 911 calls. What's the use of having it if they don't follow up when a call comes in? A person came to my house once and he was drunk. He is really unpredictable when drunk so I called the police to come pick him up. They told me that there was nothing they could do because it was a family matter and the guy had not done anything. When I told them that he is unpredictable when drunk, they asked if there was anywhere that the rest of us could go. Like we are supposed to leave our home because someone drunk comes there. Another time i had a complaint that some of my stuff was stolen. The police told me to take it up with my drug dealer, they were not getting involved. They know I was a drug addict to they ignore my calls and don't follow up. The police need to leave First Nations people alone. The majority of the people in jail are First Nations. Usually people get picked up when they have had too much to drink, but natives always get picked up when they are drunk. One night some friends saw me getting picked up. The next day when they saw me I had bruised on my face, my tooth was broken and I was sore. They asked what happened and I said I could not remember. They told me that when I was picked up I looked fine, the police must have done it. I don't remember anything about what happened. Another time the police stopped me as I was walking home. I was drunk. I was only a block from home and told them that I was going there. They could see my house, but they insisted on taking me to the drunk tank.

>I think the police are doing a great job.

>They bother harmless little winos instead of worrying about real criminals. We try hard to get money and then the police dump out our booze. The police should not be picking on us.

>I have no problems with the police. Why do they have to treat people (natives) the way they do? People should all be treated the same no matter who they are.

>I have no concerns with the police. I figure that when the police picked me up, I deserved it.

>The police tasered me 9 times and could not take me down. They ended up taking me to the drunk tank. They told me I was a piece of shit and I'm not, I'm human.

>I don't like the police. They left me in the drunk tank for 14 hours. I had to sleep on the concrete floor and only had one cup of water. The cops do not like Indians.

>The police don't really help people.

Example: Recently in Riverdale a woman and her kids were terrorized for hours in her home and the police did not do anything. The woman barricade herself and the kids in a room and the guy was in the house yelling and screaming at them. The police would not go in and get the guy and waited until several hours later when he decided to leave before arresting him. The woman was still shaking 24 hours later and no counselling was provided for her.

The police should have taken the guy out right away so that woman would not have to go through hours of that situation.

Example: They said they would give a friend of mine a ride home to shipyards where he had a shack. They dropped him off 200 feet from his shack, but did not help him get to it. They left him outside and he collapsed in the snow and died. The police laughed about it the next day when he was dead.

If the Police really wanted to help people, they would actually help them get into their homes and not leave them outside.

>I personally have not had many dealings with the police. They seem to be a bit busy sometimes. When I call from work to report that one of the residents has missed curfew, I sometimes get the feeling that they do not think my call is important. Once I called when they were dealing with a crisis. They listened to why I was calling and then said they couldn't talk to me as they were busy. That was understandable as there could be many things more urgent than my call. I have always been treated respectfully.

>Overall I find the police to be very good. Some of the younger RCMP seem to have some arrogance that will hopefully wear off with age. For some of them, wearing the uniform seems to go to their heads. They do unjust things to First Nations people that really is not called for, but maybe they felt it was necessary. I have witnessed undue force being exerted toward First Nations people. Personally, I have not had any problems with the police.

>The average man does not make enough money to stay out of trouble. I was charged with a crime that I did not commit. Now as a result of all that has gone on, I am on medications that are causing me some severe health issues.

>You can not trust them because they put in things that seem not to be true and twist things around. The police say I am a drunk, but that is not true because I am a binge drinker and only drink every 3-4 months. As soon as the police charge you they consider you guilty until proven innocent. Why else is the remand always full? When you are found not guilty, there should be compensation for the time you spent in remand. I have lost work and employment insurance while in remand and then when I was found not guilty, I was not compensated. A person should be compensated when they are held in jail when they have not been proven guilty.

People should not be harassing people. They should not get involved unless they are called. The police should not just go up to people and ask where are you from and ask for ID. If intoxicated a person should be able to go to a family house and stay there and not have to go to the drunk tank. A person should only be taken to the drunk tank if they are causing trouble and/or have nowhere else to go.

The police pick on native people. I was coming out of a bar once and saw 2 drunk people head to their cars. The police went to the white guy and told him he could not drive and would need to find another way home. The police went to the native guy and put cuffs on him. He was not given the chance to find another way home.

>I've used drugs in the past. The police go to other people and ask them where they got the drugs and then let them go. When they question me, I do not have anymore on me than the others, but they hold me. The police should not use other people to do their work for them, especially not drug users to get drug users. This has happened to

me twice. Others have lied to get themselves off and I took the fall for something I did not do because the police did not believe me.

There are crooked cops in town. I know of cases where drug money was never included in the evidence presented. I believe this is because the cops took it. Those charged will never say anything about it because it would only add to the case against them so they keep quiet and the police get off with it. The last time I was charged, I actually turned myself in. I had some cocaine on me, but the police added to the disclosure to make the case. They said that I told them I had a certain amount that I was selling. What I really told them was that I was using that amount. The legal aid lawyers, the police and the prosecution are all in on it. They make up their minds about what is going to happen and then set about making it so.

The police that they seem to send here are right out of the academy and are very immature. I have seen police in parking lots doing donuts late at night.

The police are there to serve and protect, but they do not serve.

>The police are a nuisance. They harass me just because they know me. They are pretty unfair about their ways. A police officer twisted my hand and when I asked him not to do that he said he could do whatever he wanted. The police have beat me. I have scars from being beaten. I was tasered and held at gun point when I didn't even have a weapon.

>I don't like the way the police investigate. They take statements from people who are drunk and then use it as evidence in court. They should not be allowed to do this. A person who is drunk is not a reliable witness. The police held back evidence from my lawyer and because of that I had to sit in remand for 9 months. With the evidence I would have been released on bail.

Cops investigate cops and therefore, are not held responsible for their actions. The police had my hands cuffed behind my back and they broke seven of my ribs and punctured my lung. They said I was being violent. How could I be violent when my hands were cuffed?

The RCMP is like the mafia. They rape our women in the cells and get away with it. This has been going on for years.

I hate all RCMP. They ruined my life and my family's life.

>When I first moved here, the police seemed to think that because of the lifestyle I used to live, I had nothing to offer to society here and I should go back home. Since then my dealings with the police have been very positive. I believe they are doing a good job.

>I have no concerns about the services that the police are providing.

>My concern is the way they treat First Nations people when they put them in the drunk tank. I have seen the police come in here (shelter) and they treat white people better than they treat First Nations people. They should all be treated the same.

>I find the police to be racist. They are very radical. They are getting out of hand. I don't trust them. I'm gonna do my best to stay out of their way. One time they were roughing me up outside a bar and a guy came up and asked them what they were doing. They started roughing him up too and took us both in. They have no reason to be

rough on me and they definitely had no call to be roughing up the other guy just because he was concerned about me.

>The cops treated me like I was shit. I got picked up for being drunk and they roughed me up. There was no reason to pick me up because I wasn't doing anything wrong and there was no reason to rough me up the way they did. I told them that I wanted a drug test to prove that someone put something in my beer and they wouldn't listen to me. The cops are not big on communication. They like to do all the talking and none of the listening.

The cops treat First Nations people way worse than they do white people. One time when I was in custody a white man was there and I told him he would get off because he was white. He did not believe me and sure enough when he went to court he did not come back. It was crazy because his charges were worse than mine and I did not get off. We should all be treated equal. The police are abusing their power.

>We would be better off to have native police. Today I was driving and the police followed me for no reason. I stopped at a store and they waited on the road until I came out and then followed me again. I wasn't doing anything wrong and they should not be following me.

>The police are not fair. They think that all Indians are street people. The police are very belittling and rude. They harass people and come to our rescue when they are not needed.

>I think we should all be treated equal. The police make up charges when there is nothing going on. The police picked me up one time when I was drunk. I wanted them to just let me go home, but they insisted on taking me to the drunk tank. They should let people go home if they can. It serves no purpose to go to the drunk tank. That should only be used if they have no where else to go or if they are creating a public nuisance.

>The police should check a person's medical history when they take them into custody. They picked me up once because they thought I was drunk. I knew I wasn't. I was like I was drunk because I am diabetic and my sugars were low. I tried to tell them that and that I needed to have some juice. Eventually they did listen to me and when I got my sugars up I was fine.

>There is a lack of police services. The majority of my encounters have been bad. The police are aggressive, but they tend to be more aggressive with native people. I have been assaulted by the police. They woke me up once with a gun to my head. There was no need of that. I was already asleep and it would have been easy for them to put cuffs on me. The only good experiences I have had with the police was when I was a witness and telling them what they wanted to hear.

>I hate cops. They are all racist pigs.

2. How has the RCMP contributed to public safety in your community?

>I was being threatened and harassed by a neighbour and I called the police. They were quite responsive and helped me resolve my situation. The police go to schools to help educate our children. When I am out around town, I see the police, so I know they are out patrolling trying to keep us safe.

>On a scale of 1:10 I would give them a solid 8. There is so much going on that they can't cover all the bases as once. The police are doing their best to maintain peaceful co-existence.

>They keep half the citizens half afraid enough to not do anything by locking up the other half.

>They are there to protect the public, but as soon as you get a criminal record, they are not there to protect you. If you have a previous charge of assault and then you get another complaint, they only listen to one side.

>Just their police presence seems to help some people from doing things.

>I can't think of anything good that they do.

>The police are taking down crack houses. They give the ultimatum to shut it down or go to jail. The police respond to accidents and they respond when they are called. In the case of domestic disputes, it is whoever calls first that they believe.

>They help keep drunks off the streets, but people still die. They serve no good. They have done nothing good for me. It's like they got bullied in high school and want to take it out on people now so they join the police.

>"Fuck all". I've seen them terrorize people. The police do nothing good.

>We need the police to maintain safety. They do all the normal policing matters.

>The police are doing as good a job as they can. They are out on the streets in our communities and are laying charges, but the courts are then letting those people go.

>There are good cops out there. They care about justice and about the community. They are trying to do the right thing and make sure that others are as well.

>The police have a strong presence. They do a great job. I see them out doing police checks on drivers.

>The police help sometimes. They respond to calls and they patrol. They are not there all the time when you need them. Maybe they are too busy, maybe they don't care.

>I think they do a great job. It is not an easy job. People complain no matter what they do. They complain if drunks are left outside and they freeze to death and they complain if the cops pick them up and put them in the drunk tank. What are the police supposed to do?

>They do what needs to be done. They respond to call and patrol the streets.

- >The police don't do anything good in the community. They should all be shot.
- >The police are there when you need them. They respond quickly when called and their response is more than adequate. They are very patient with people – it's incredible. They try to be diplomatic. They are put in unsavoury positions and are as diplomatic as possible. I would not want to do their job. Sometimes they might make mistakes, but everyone does.
- >They help you get home and they respond to calls.
- >They should fucking leave us alone. Worry about people out there doing drugs, not us homeless people who are drinking.
- >Some of the cops help people. If they see people who are passed out drunk, they take them to the drunk tank to keep them safe. They give the people water and juice. We need more cops that help people.
- >The only good think I know about is the woman guard that gave me some juice once. I don't like cops.
- >They take people who are passed out to the drunk tank. Sometimes they will give you a lift home. Most of the time they stick their noses where they don't belong.
- >They bring me to the hospital when I need to go there. They try to keep drunk people off the streets when they are passed out.
- >The police help find people that kill our family and friends. They respond to call. Even though they do some good, they do a lot of bad as well.
- >The good thing that the police do is that they bring people home when they have been drinking. They don't let them pass out on the streets.
- >They do some good education programs with the kids – bicycle safety.
- >I have respect for the police. I am grateful that they do what they can to keep us safe. The police are trying their best to keep cocaine trafficking down and I am thankful whenever they make a bust. They have taken me to the hospital before and I might have died without their help.
- >They patrol and look out for people that can't watch out for themselves. They are in obtrusive. They don't bother you unless you are causing concern to neighbours or others. They react when reaction is required. They are not bad people. The governing service they give is an essential service. Without them (RCMP) it would be the wild wild west. We need them. Who else would stand for the person who cannot stand for themselves? We need this governing service, but apparently we need to set certain boundaries. Hey are there to protect and serve. This is something that is guaranteed from the day we are born. We have certain rights and they should not be abused because we do not know them. Sometimes the police can strong arm you into believing that you have no rights. If you are unaware of what your rights are, they can overstep your rights. Please be aware of your rights – silence, speak to lawyer, no search without consent. Essentially you are a power and you have to give them the power over you

otherwise they will walk all over you. You have everything going for you, otherwise the powers that be will not give them to you. It is essential that you know who you are and what you stand for, There is no reason why you would willingly give up your personality to be constrained by the laws of the land if you did not break any law. We are entitled to live as long as we can and then peaceably rest after we've done all that we had to do. The police are governing service that is an essential service provided through our government. We should always respect them as they respect us. We do not abuse them. Sometimes this services goes beyond that and the actions of certain officers are taken unto themselves as having much power. It is unfortunate that these people take it unto themselves to be judge and jury to a person that may not me cognizant (unaware of the situation). It gives me great concern to be in a society that has shoe horned or pigeon holed people that are on the streets, etc. I repeat, it is an essential service provided free of charge and without it we would live in the wild wild west. They must have a governing service over the RCMP, someone who looks out to people not able to look out for themselves, indifferent from race, colour, creed, alcoholic, etc. This is an essential service. Not all people appreciate it. The police are looked upon as the enemy, but we would be in more trouble without them. If you keep your nose out of shit, you will not get in shit. We are all under one service and we are all created by God.

>The police ignorant and don't do any good. I wish they were all gone.

>I don't think there is anything good that the police do. They hurt me and my people and do no good at all.

>The police are doing everything good. They make themselves visible in the community. They do a good job with handling prisoners.

>The Police help me when I am sick. They don't leave drunks on the street of they are passed out and don't know what they are doing. They try and keep us safe.

>I got nothing good to say about them

>We should have our own police. We don't need the RCMP

>The police are all bad. They don't care about us and they don't do nothing to keep us safe.

>The police will send you to the hospital if you blow over a certain amount. They watch over you to make sure you are safe.

>The police try and help our Elders. They try and give them anything they want, but the Elders usually refuse. When my dad was sick and fell on the road, they came and blocked the highway until the ambulance could come. They took care of him so that I did not have to worry about him.

>The older cops are good, but the younger ones are assholes. They think they are doing a job, but all they are really doing is hiding behind their badges.

>The cops do a pretty good job. They try to help people, but a lot of people do not want their help. It would be worse if we did not have them.

>I haven't seen the police do much good.

>I don't know what good they do. I don't keep track of the police. I haven't heard of anything good that they have done. I only hear about negative things.

>The police catch drug dealers. They won't let people walk around drunk. They should leave people alone unless they are a danger to themselves or others.

>The police need to be there. They need to learn to get along better with people. Their presence needs to be felt and known in the community.

>I can't think if anything good that the police do. I guess they respond quickly if there is a threat to the community as a whole. Like, when there was a guy who was raping people, they acted quickly to stop him.

>The police don't do anything good.

3.What is the community's role in interacting with the police to improve public safety?

>We need to be supportive of the police. We need to be observant of what goes on around us and report things that are concerning. The police need our help to do a good job.

>We need to work together.

>Right now the community has no say. If someone is on probation, the probation officer will only go to the cops to get the story. They will not go to the Elders or the band council if there is a concern, but yet they will say that they went to the community for information. I think that if the Police would like the community to work with them, they have to work with the community.

>The community needs to be willing to go to the police with concerns.

>The public could be informative when information is needed. The public needs to be willing to share information with the police.

>The public had a responsibility to invite police to be involved in activities. They need to share information with the police.

>The community needs to be friendly and open to the police. They need to make the police a part of the community and not just "outsiders".

>People should call if they see suspicious activity. They should report aggressive people. This would help the police.

>I think the band should have their own police. That way they would be available 24/7

>The community needs to stop complaining about the efforts of the police unless they have some real contributions to make themselves.

>There is no way for the community to work with the police. We don't trust them and don't want them involved in our lives.

- >The community needs to work with the police and let them know when something is concerning in the community. The police cannot do it all on their own.
- >The community should be more willing to meet with the police and tell them what they need to know.
- >People need to respect the police and then they will be respected in return.
- >Get to know the police. May be able to like them a little better and have some respect if you get to know them as people, not just cops.
- >Stop thinking of the police as outsiders. They may not be from here, but we need to teach them our ways.
- >No one cares about working with the police. They should all leave us alone.
- >The community needs to help the police, tell them what's going on.
- >The community should stop thinking negative about the police. Let's welcome them and get to know them as people.
- >Neighbourhood watch is a good thing. When there is a problem, people should let the police when there is a problem.
- >Where I'm from we take care of the problem ourselves. We don't need the police.
- >I believe the community role in interacting with the RCMP or any governing service is to essentially watch out for your fellow man and look and be aware and realize what is going on around you. People need to realize that we do have a liaison (go between) and that essentially gives us the right to bring your concerns to them.
- >The police don't care about us and we don't care about them.
- >People need to watch their own communities and tell the police what is going on. We need to be their extra eyes.
- >The police need to leave us alone and we'll leave them alone.
- >The community doesn't seem to have much of a role. The community should be allowed to investigate allegations instead of waiting for the police to pretend to do their jobs. The police need to be held more accountable for what they do and do not do.
- >We don't want the police in our community.
- >People need to work with the police when asked.
- >Citizens on patrol is a good group. We need to let the police know what is going on in the community. They cannot be everywhere at once.
- >There needs to be more neighbourhood watches. People are usually are of the drug activity in their neighbourhood and they should be reporting that and all suspicious activity to the police.

>They should all work together. People need to remember the police are there to help them and they cannot do that if they do not know what is going on. People should be willing to tell police when something is going on in their community that requires police attention

>Neighbourhood watch is a good thing. The community should watch out for each other to make sure they are safe.

>We don't need the police. We want them out of our community.

4.What is the RCMP's role in interacting with the community to improve public safety?

>Create safe homes for ladies. They deserve a place where they can go and feel safe when they are homeless. Create a safe place for the men to go to instead of putting them in the drunk tank.

>The police have a job to do – respond to calls. This is the way they can help the public.

>The police should be involved in community programs. That would make them more noticeable in a public way in the community. Some of the police are involved in kid's sports programs and they should be doing more of that.

>The police don't work with the people. We wouldn't help them anyway because we don't trust them.

>The police should hold a meeting once a month with representatives from the neighbourhoods. They could talk about their concerns in their neighbourhoods and get possible solutions.

>The police can be less aggressive. When they approach, they should use a greeting and be nice instead of being immediately mean and threatening.

>The police should get more involved in the community. They should make their presence felt in community activities so that people can get to know them socially. This would help people want to help them. It would make them more human.

>The police need to be involved with citizen concern groups. They need to show the people that they respect their opinions. The police have a responsibility to respond when invited by the public to attend functions.

>I don't think the RCMP should be involved in my community. We should have our own police and the RCMP should leave us alone.

>The police need to get to know the community. They need to be there and be involved. The police need to not be concerned about what the brass is saying, but about justice.

>I think the police are OK. They seem to want a relationship with the public. One night the police stopped by our house when we were out in the yard and told us that we should close our curtains at night. They didn't think we should let people see in to see what we were doing and what we have. I feel more secure knowing that they are there.

>The police have a responsibility to make the people trust them. They need to get involved and get to know the people in a personal level.

>There is no way for the police and the community to work together. The police are all chicken shits. They all join the police force cause they got no where else to go. They join the RCMP gang because they go no place else to go.

>The police need to interact with the community more. They need to get involved in community and charity events. The police should hold information seminars and invite the public to attend.

>The police should get to know us.

>The police need to smarten up. We don't trust them. They need to earn our trust. They need to respect us and then we might respect them.

>The cops can stop being assholes. They need to stop being prejudiced about us.

>The police should quit picking on natives. They don't pick on white people like they pick on us and then they wonder why we don't like them. There are only natives in the drunk tank and we are not the only drunk in town. Why do they only pick on us?

>I would love it if the cops would make more of an effort to get to know who we are. They do not try to understand us and where we come from. I think that if they did that we could all get along better. They need to stop judging us and get to know us better to understand why we are the way we are.

>The police should get to know the community where they work.

>The police need to get to know the people. They should be friendly with the people and get to know their names. When people get to know each other, they can build relationships and that makes it easier to work together. The police used to buy you a coffee if they knew you and had some free time. They used to be concerned about getting to know the people.

>The police should get to know the people a little better. They are here to serve and protect and to do that they should know the community better. They are here for us and they should remember that. Sometimes the badge and the gun goes to their head and they forge the reason for their job. They seem like they are out to prove how tough they are. The police need to act more like caring people. They can still do their job while being nice. They would get more respect if they did that.

>They should all just leave. We don't need them.

>The police don't seem to want to work with the community. They just seem concerned with acting tough and in control.

>There should be 3-4 more police officers in every community. There is not enough police to respond right away all the time. When the police can't come immediately, the people don't trust them. There is a big drug problem and something needs to be done about it. More police could help get that under control and then the people would see that they are really doing something.

>The police need to do something worthwhile to prove that they are trying to help the community. The community doesn't care about the drunk on the street. They are not hurting no one. The community wants to see some real police work. Get the real criminals off the street. When they start doing that, the people will see that they are really doing something about public safety.

>They should get out of town. We would be better off without them.

>The police don't really care about us. They just want to strut their stuff and act like they are the big guys in town.

>The police should get to know the street people. We need to be able to trust them and be able to go to them with problems. Instead, we don't like them and try to stay out of their way. There is no relationship there. They don't care about us. They see us as a problem that they need to get rid of.

>The police should be asking the people "what do you need to make things better?" They are there to serve, but need to know what the people need. The police need to be interactive with the community. There shouldn't be any discussion of race when it comes to doing their job. They need to remember that.

>People don't trust the police. I don't know how they could gain trust. It would take a long time.

>They should get to know the community and get involved in the community.

>The police should be a presence in the community. They should be getting involved and getting to know the people.

>The police should be more involved in the community. They should go to the schools more to provide education to the kids.

>I don't know. I don't want nothing to do with them.

>The police should be more trustworthy. They should treat all people with respect and have some compassion. If they did not think the worst of people, the people would have more respect for them.

>They should leave us alone and get out of town.

5. What changes would you recommend to improve the policing service in the Yukon?

>Police need to learn native traditions. They need to learn to respect and know the culture of other people. If the police and us understand each other, we can work together.

>The police have to be accountable to the community, no matter what that involves. They need to be respectful and courteous. There needs to be some accountability for their actions. As far as I see the police are doing a good job.

>I couldn't really recommend anything that would improve services. The police are doing a good job with what they have to work with. The justice system is being

compromised in many ways. There needs to be definite changes in how and why justice is delivered. For example, I think that some drugs, such as cocaine, marijuana and heroine should be legalized. If they were, it could be controlled and people could get safe amounts. This would reduce other crimes because people would not need to steal to get money for drugs and there would be no drug dealers. This would therefore reduce the amount of people in jails.

>The police should have an emotional and physical evaluation every 6-12 months. They have to deal with a lot of stuff every day and there is no way that you can shut that down when your shift ends. Having an evaluation would make sure that they are dealing OK with all the stuff that is going on. The RCMP seems to be more of a business now that an organization that is there to serve and protect. They need to get back to their roots and remember that they should be an important part of the community.

>I think the police should have some mental health training so that they know how to deal with someone who has mental health issues. It would be even more helpful if there was a medically trained person on staff who could go on call with officers when there is a person with mental health issues known to be involved. The police should also have training on how to be a positive motivator to people instead of being so negative all the time. They seem to always focus on the negative in a persons life and not on the positive. They would be more effective if they focused on the good stuff.

>At the academy, police should receive their cross cultural training from a First Nations persons and each officer should have to get 100% in the course.

>The police need to stop going after the same people all the time. Just because someone was involved with the police in the past does not mean that they are always the ones causing the trouble. People can change and the police to take that into consideration.

>The police should be courteous to all people. Right now they are prejudiced against natives and they are rude to us.

>The size of the police force should be doubled so that they are able to respond to all the needs in the community. They should also be more involved in education the community about the role of the police and the role of the community in helping the police.

>The police should spend more time getting rid of gangs and drug dealers. There are too many here.

>The police should treat all people equally instead of treating First Nations people differently. We are treated rudely and they rough us up. It is not fair. All people are equal and should be treated the same.

>Nothing needs to change.

>They need to get some balls. They all join because they're afraid to live without their gang behind them.

>There needs to be more accountability for the police. They get away with whatever they want right now because they are hiding behind the badge. The police should be held accountable for their actions.

>The police should have a lower tolerance level for repeat offenders. Their hands shouldn't be so tied by the rules and they should be able to do more to the regulars so that they are deterred.

>Police in the bush should carry shot guns with good bullets because you never know when you are going to meet a bear or other animal. They should also carry flashlights with night lights and bright lights. The bright light does not hypnotize the animal. Police should have their radios on their vests so that they can call for help when it is needed. They should wear good warm clothes in the winter.

>The police should be out there looking for people who are bad, not poor people. We are homeless, not criminals.

>Don't bother homeless people.

>Police should treat all people equal. They need to learn respect. Police need to learn more about native culture so they can know who we are.

>The police should have to do urine tests and breathalysers.

>The police need cultural sensitivity training. They need to learn honest and stop covering their own asses.

>The police need to have a change of attitude about race. They always pick on natives. We are people too and deserve respect.

>The police should not be so rough when they are putting on handcuffs. They shouldn't pick on us more than they do white people.

>The police have too much authority and not enough accountability. They should be held responsible for their actions and not get away with everything that they do. There should be more native RCMP here in the Yukon. The RCMP should not carry weapons.

>The need to learn more about native traditions. They need to learn to respect and know more about our culture. If they know and understand us, it will be easier to work together.

>The police needs to spend more time doing real stuff. They should be chasing coke dealers instead of chasing drunks around town. They should worry about drunk drivers, they're the ones who can cause the real trouble. The police should be more open with the public and give straight answers to questions instead of covering things up.

>There should be First Nations officers to deal with all First Nations issues. The white cops should not be involved in it at all. They don't know or understand us. It should be one of our own.

>I think the RCMP are doing a good job with what they have. They should have more training about Native people. They need to have an understanding of the culture in

which they are working. Right now it is like they are trying to do a job with blind folds on because they do not know enough about us. The police need to know us to do a real job.

>The Police can do nothing to change, except get out of town. We don't need them.

>I wish the police would make an effort to be nice to people. I would like it if they could remember my name.

>If I was in charge I would send those little farts out and I'm gonna make them do their job. I would get some Indians that I know to be on the police force. The younger cops are better than the old ones because they learn better. They seem more willing to learn.

>The police should help people more. They should give us a ride home when we need it.

>We don't need the police. We have our own justice, The natives should have their own their own police to take care of things our way.

>The police should not put the cuffs on so tight. They should have something other than a cement floor in the drunk tank. I would make it more comfortable.

>The police should not put the handcuffs on so tight. They should stop kicking us in the ribs. They should stop abusing us just because we are drinking. We deserve respect too. The police should learn this.

>The police need to learn respect. When they treat us with respect we will treat them with respect. The police need to stop hurting First Nations people just because our skin is a different colour. They don't give us a chance. They don't get to know us.

>There should be someone there to witness when the police are writing up their notes and to witness what goes on behind closed door to make the police accountable.

>The police should not make as much money. The money they get should go back to the average person.

>There's a lot. It's hard to put it in words. The police should try and be more understanding when apprehending. They should ask questions first instead of rough up a person first and ask questions later. They should learn to get along with people, start meeting the public demand and not their own demands. They are there to serve and protect and it is time that they learn this. The police need to learn more about people. They need to know that a lot of us have no education and cannot get work, but this does not make us bad. They need to understand where we have come from and where we are now. They need to be more patient.

>The police need more education about First Nations people. They need to know about the culture in which they are working.

>The police should just be their real selves. They should not hide behind a badge. When they strap on the gun it seems to go to their head and they forget to be real people. They should treat everyone equal and as they would like to be treated.

>They should hire an investigative team to follow the police around and see what they are doing in their spare time. Some of them do things that are way worse than anything we do.

>There should be a substance free person from every community that is there to listen to the people's concerns about the RCMP. These people could then get together once a year to discuss concerns that may have come up in the community. That way if there was a problem with one or more of the officers, they could be removed and the community would not have to put up with it. The representative should be someone who is well known and respected in the community. They would be a safe person for the community to go to with their complaints. Some people live out in the bush and are not used to being in town and how to conduct themselves. They may not know what the police should or should not do. They could go to this person if they have any concerns and maybe get some answers through this process. At the meeting there should be a representative from the RCMP who is not from the Yukon. They should take all the concerns seriously and have the power and authority to make the necessary changes.

>There should be a police liaison person in each community that the police call when a native person is taken into custody. That person should personally see the detained person when they are brought into custody and again when they are released. The cops should also have a camera on their shirts that would record everything. The video should go directly where the officers have no access. This would record what goes on behind closed doors and would provide proof when a complaint is made. The chief and council should have a say in having a cop removed if he is harassing too many people.

>The police should treat all people equally instead of handing First Nations people different.

>The police need more cross cultural education. They need life skills in how to treat people with dignity and respect.

>We should get rid of the police.

>The police should have to random drug screenings and lie detector tests. That would fix the problem because all the crooked ones would be gone.

6. If you wanted to make a complaint, how would you go about doing that?

>I guess I would talk to a lawyer. I don't know what the real process is.

>There is no way to make a complaint. If you do, it will come back to get you. The police would not let it rest if you complained about one of their own.

>I wouldn't make a complaint even if I knew how to do it. I would fear what they would do to me when they found out I made a complaint and they would find out. This is a small town and there's no way to keep it from them.

>I don't know, I would talk to a lawyer, the RCMP commissioner, the chief. I don't know.

>You can't make a complaint against the police. They investigate their own. You should have a totally independent person to do investigations of the police. Almost all complaints go nowhere. Probably out of 100 complaints, only 2-3 get somewhere.

>I've never personally made a complaint. I guess I would go directly to the police.

>I don't know who to call. I would fear that the police would try and get you in some way. There is no way that the police would let you get away with making a complaint.

>I would go up the ranks in the RCMP. Most people are probably too afraid to make a complaint because they fear retaliation. If you have a problem you need to deal with it.

>I don't know how to make a complaint. I wouldn't dare anyway because my mom lives across the street from an officer and I would fear that they might do something to her.

>I made a complaint once, but nothing came of it. All that happened was that the police picked me up even more. There should be some way to keep the complaints anonymous.

>I have no idea how to make a complaint.

>I made a complaint to the commanding officer. No witnesses came forward and nothing ever came of. The process should be more user friendly and there should be a way to follow up.

>Complaints need to be confidential and not get back to the police.

>There is no way to make a complaint without it getting back to the police.

>You can't make a complaint. The police just sweep it under the carpet. I guess you could go to a lawyer or maybe even the federal government. The RCMP is the biggest gang in Canada and everything gets back to them. If I really wanted to make a complaint I would go public and hopefully this would help to protect me.

>I would go to the supervisor after talking to a lawyer about my rights.

>I have no idea how to make a complaint.

>There is a 1-800 number you can call, but no one does it because they are afraid the police will find out and make their lives even worse.

>I would go to a lawyer and get some advice

>I guess I would talk to the watch commander and take it from there.