





Effective and efficient oversight processes are critical to quality, professional policing that engenders the public's trust and support.

Opportunities and Challenges inherent in achieving that effective oversight of police in First Nation settings





The Unique Governance of First Nations Police Services

- ***Oversight includes 3 levels of Government***
- ***A Police Commission for Civilian Oversight***
- ***In Alberta exists as an Exception under the Police Act***
- ***A system of policing that has evolved quickly***
- ***Funding is by grants through a Tri-partite Agreement on Policing.***





- The Blood Tribe and the Blood Tribe Police Service as an example;
- Canada's Largest Indian Reserve (geographically) 144,300 h.
- 11,500 band members – over half live on the reserve.
- High unemployment, - approximately 80% among residents.
- Consists of the communities of
 - Standoff, - Moses Lake,
 - Levern, - Old Agency,
 - Bull Horn, - Whoop Up
 - and Fish Creek.
- Governed by elected Chief and 12 Councilors.





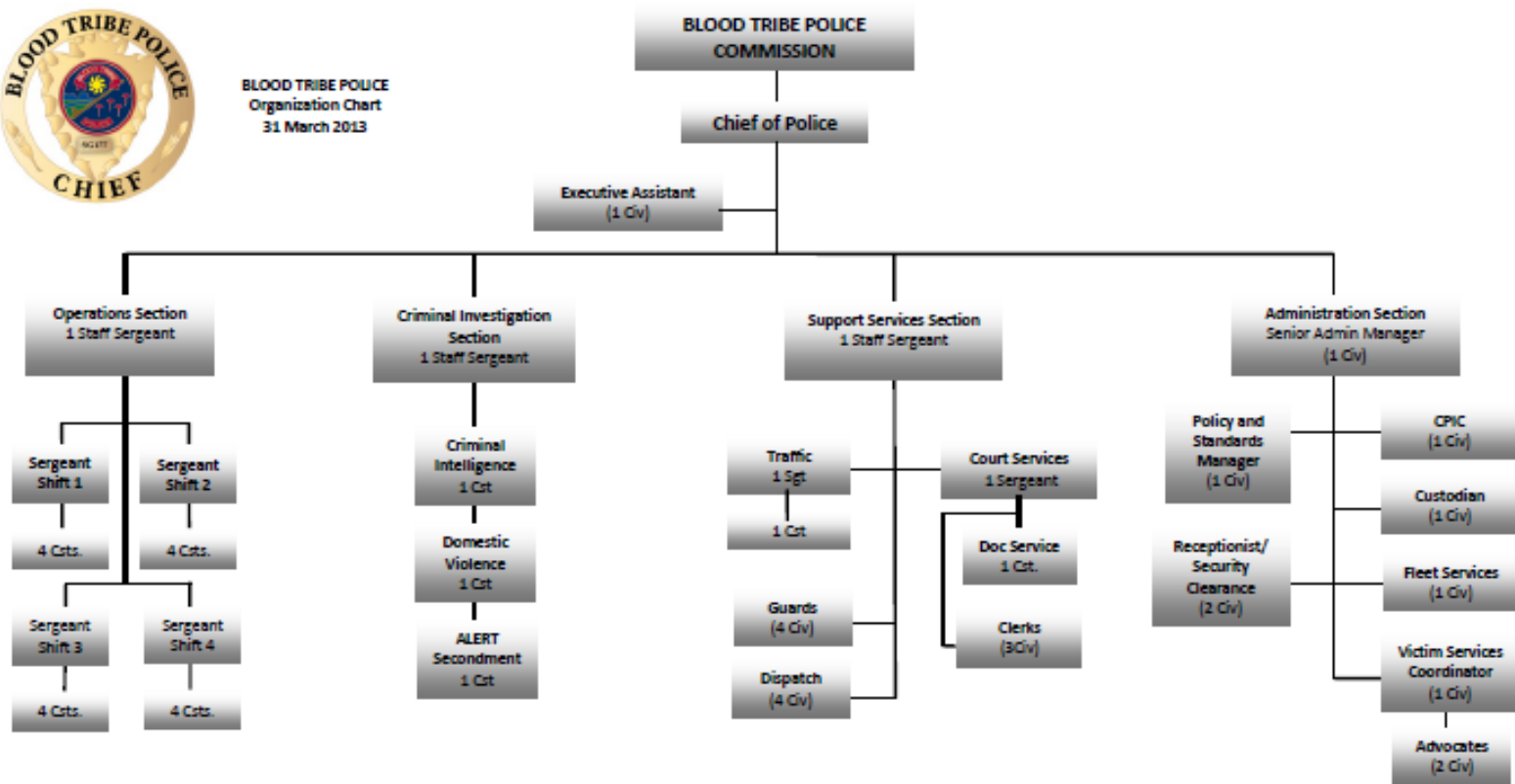
Governance and Authority

Police Service Exists through 3 separate authorities
Blood Tribe Police Bylaw
Police Act of Alberta (Section 5 Exception)
Blood Tribe Police Service Agreement (Tri-partite funding agreement stipulates other responsibilities as well)





BLOOD TRIBE POLICE
Organization Chart
31 March 2013





Opportunities for Effective Oversight

- Culturally appropriate policing part of mandate
- Allows traditional techniques for informal resolution of complaints.
 - Consensus building
 - Respectful listening
 - Use of appropriately appointed Commission members in an elder like role
 - Use of public forums during times of crises.
- Provide a bridge for inter-agency cooperation (hub model etc.)





Oversight Challenges

- The roles of oversight, management and governance overlap and are not clearly defined and become confusing
- Each level of government, the commission and the Chief of Police all share different aspects of each of these roles





Oversight Challenges

- The appointments to the commission can become politicized.
- The legislation surrounding policing and police oversight has become more technical.
- The public and council/commission may challenge the applicability of provincial or federal law.
- Disagreement among the three levels of oversight.
- Legislation changes redefining authorities.
- Commission may find it difficult to achieve quorum for meetings.
- Lack of clarity on instructions and decisions of the Commission to the police services.





Oversight Challenges

Oversight bodies are affected by policy or legislative changes at their home government that they try to implement without consultation or contrary to the agreement, (revised federal spending rules etc, and late payment of contributions or the band trying to have police report directly to them about controversial events in the community)

Commission members attempting to use the police to obtain confidential knowledge or influence the service or individual officers to report directly to them or take action that politically favors them.





Oversight Challenges

- Creating policy for the police.
- Policing standards limits the ability to alter policies.
- Procedures for implementation of policies need to be clearly defined. Few appreciate the difference between policy and procedure.
- The necessity to make decisions in consultation with the Chief of Police is often overlooked





Oversight Challenges

- Selection of an Appropriate Chief of Police
- The Chief of Police is a large part of police oversight and subject matter expert.
- Many Stand Alone First Nations Police Services have suffered without an appropriate Chief of Police.







Blood Tribe Police Service



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(403) 737-8800 Administration
(403) 737-2867 Fax
(403) 737-8814 Victim Services
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