

**“Direction to the Police Commission:
Issues and Options”
Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners
Community Consultation
October 7, 2015**



As the Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners evaluated issues to be incorporated into its planned Operations Review, as well as to continue gathering public sentiment on issues that are highly relevant to the Police Commission, the Commissioners hosted a second Public Consultation on October 7, 2015. In excess of 50 residents participated in the event that began with a presentation by Dr. Linda Duxbury of Carleton University, a highly regarded expert in the field of police service models and change management. That was followed by facilitated discussions with attendees.

The summary results of the facilitated discussions are as follows:

- It was generally agreed that the Saskatoon Police Service provides an expanded set of “core services” relative to what it once did, in response to community demand.
- There was agreement by the majority of individuals at the Consultations that it is very important that the Police Service continues to undertake proactive activities and to develop relationships with key groups in the community.
- Many participants are aware that the number of police calls for service involving people with mental health issues is increasing in frequency. It was also felt by many that it is likely to increase even more in future and therefore the Police Service and its partners will need to continue to find new ways to deal with what has become a significant element of policing activities.
- The majority of people at the Consultations favoured the same or an increased number of police officers for the Saskatoon Police Service.
- The Police Service Operations Review, being planned by the Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners, was cited by a number of participants as being of value to the public in that it is a one-time investment that can create multi-year benefits.
- Some people suggested that alternative methods of providing some services, which are currently provided by the Police Service, should be considered in the upcoming Operations Review.