
Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit



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Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit

In 1989 the Metropolitan Toronto Police recognized the need to enhance its relationship with Aboriginal people and assigned an Aboriginal Police Officer to the Chiefs Community Liaison Unit.

Although success was achieved in opening the lines of communication with Aboriginal people in Toronto, historical and cultural factors continued to prevent Aboriginal people from utilizing the full range of available police services.

The Metropolitan Toronto Police is the first urban Police Service in Canada to establish a distinct unit to respond to the emerging needs of Aboriginal people. In 1992, the Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit was established and staffed by Aboriginal Police Officers. The unit bridges the gap between police and Aboriginal people and ensures access to police services which are sensitive to their cultural background and specific needs.

The role of a Peacekeeper is to be aware of issues in the community and to act as a mediator, reducing misunderstandings and resolving problems before they escalate. The Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit combines traditional peacekeeping with community policing.

Today, an estimated 70,000 Aboriginal people reside in Metropolitan Toronto,

which constitutes the largest population of Aboriginal people in the country.

The unit provides a focus for police and Aboriginal people to continue their work together, in a partnership based on mutual understanding and respect.

The Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit has been involved in various community-based projects and continues to promote programs which foster positive police-community relations and improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people. Some of these projects include:

Police Clinics - As part of an ongoing outreach program, officers are available for consultation at Aboriginal social agencies.

Project Warmth - Along with corporate and community partners, sleeping bags, blankets, and clothing are distributed to the homeless during the winter season.

Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program - Youth are exposed to officers as positive role models and officers become aware of the challenges and obstacles facing today's Aboriginal youth.

Kids and Cops, Fishing Buddies - Officers and youth from inner city schools, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, meet and participate in fishing related activities with one another.

Services Provided by Aboriginal Peacekeeping

- Ensure open lines of communication are well established and maintained
- Represent the Chief of Police on various councils and committees
- Liaise with Aboriginal social services agencies and organizations
- Attend meetings, seminars and workshops to provide consultation and education on local police procedures, role of police, individual rights and other legal issues
- Act as a referral agent to connect individuals to community organizations and agencies
- Exchange information on Aboriginal issues with other Police Services
- Deliver educational presentations on the Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit, Aboriginal people and their culture to members of the Police Service
- Assist with the recruitment and induction of Aboriginal people into the Police Service
- Facilitate access to services available from the Metropolitan Toronto Police



Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit Crest

The crest of the Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit was designed to reflect the distinct Aboriginal culture, within the context of the Police Service.

The **eagle** which proudly takes its place at the top of the design, is one of the most highly respected Aboriginal symbols.

The **eye of the eagle** keeps watch over all that is beneath it.

The **powerful wings of the eagle** surround the insignia of the Metropolitan Toronto Police and the depiction of the Aboriginal person, in a protective gesture.

The **three feathers of the eagle** represent strength of **mind, body and spirit**.

Metropolitan Toronto Police

**To Serve and Protect
Working with the Community**



**Emergency
9-1-1**

**Police Non-Emergency
808-2222**

For further information on police services, an Aboriginal Police Officer may be contacted at (416) 808-7046 or by fax at (416) 808-7052.