

# Defining Policing Adequacy

## A Networked, Evidence-Based Approach

Prepared by: The New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network

Prepared for: Steve Roberge, New Brunswick Police Commission

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## OVERVIEW

The following event is part one of a three part engagement process seeking input from a number of key stakeholders (academics, municipalities, police chiefs), to obtain clarity on the definition of adequacy in policing in the context of both operational and environmental factors within a given police jurisdiction. NBSPRN will facilitate this engagement process aiming to build on the evidence-base to determine police adequacy and to innovate how policing is done in the province.

Although it falls outside the scope of this proposal, the hope is that the list of factors generated from this process and the research compiled will provide the necessary foundation to inspire the possible development of a model (such as an optimization model) or other innovations (including qualitative approaches) for determining how these factors affect the safety and the adequacy of policing within a given community.

**This first event will be held in early April**, and will bring together researchers from across the province to identify a list of factors contributing to safe New Brunswick communities. These factors will then help uncover a number of indicators that can be used as measures to evaluate the adequacy of policing within local communities. The information received from this first event will be compiled in a summary document and used to inform the second and third event. A number of academic experts at this first event will be asked to participate in a panel at both the second and third events to present to stakeholders involved in the purchase and delivery of policing services. The second and third events will therefore help mobilize knowledge used in determining police adequacy, 2) to identify any gaps in the knowledge from the point of view of the 2 key stakeholder groups.

**The second event will be held in May** and will bring together municipalities from across the province to discuss what was learned in the first event.

**The third event will also be held in May** and will bring together police chiefs from across the province to discuss what was learned in both the first and second events. The information from this event and the second event will be summarized and included along with the first summary in a final report.

The final report will include a review of the literature, a summary of expert opinion, a list of evidence-based factors (for example: demographic, geographical, crime statistics and other social/economic characteristics) validated by key stakeholders useful in determining and defining policing adequacy in a New Brunswick context and an agenda for future research.

**\*Note:** This process is subject to change once we hear from the academic group we will be consulting with.

## GOAL/DELIVERABLES

### Goal

Evidence-based empirical measurement of factors to be considered in determining adequacy in policing such as: demography, geography, crime statistics, and other social/economic characteristics of a police jurisdiction.

## **Deliverables**

- Final report that includes: a review of the literature, a summary of expert opinion, a list of evidence-based factors (ex. demographic, geographical, crime statistics and other social/economic characteristics) validated by key stakeholders useful in determining and defining policing adequacy in a New Brunswick context and an agenda for future research.

## **EVENT #1 DESCRIPTION – April, 2016**

The event will be held in April 2016 in Fredericton, NB. The formal planning will begin in January once the proposal has been reviewed by the New Brunswick Police Commission and validated by key researchers who will be involved in organizing the event. The invitation will be sent one month prior to the event and will target researchers working in a variety of backgrounds including Sociology, Demography, Criminology, Economics, Political Science, Law, Social Work and Geography. The session will accommodate a maximum of 50 participants and will be facilitated in both official languages. Simultaneous translation will also be available during the keynote presentation.

## **Format**

The event will begin with an introduction and a 30-minute keynote presentation by a leading thinker in the area of policing and crime prevention. The facilitator(s) of the event will then present the agenda and the structure for the day.

The event will be structured as a World Café. Participants will be seated at round tables (4 - 5 people per table) and will participate in three 30-minute rounds of conversation.

Each round is prefaced with a question and at the end of the 30 minutes, the groups are invited to share insights or other results from their conversations with the rest of the large group. Although the questions will be refined, examples of potential questions include: *What do you think needs to be in a police adequacy equation/determination? How would you recognize a well-policed community? How would you identify a safe community? What would be required to create such a community?*

The report-back will be reflected visually in a variety of ways, by collecting the notes taken at each table and by listing the takeaways. After the report-back, each member of the group moves to a new table to encourage networking, and cross-pollination of ideas.

Finally, the day will close with final remarks and next steps. The facilitators will explain how participants can remain engaged and contribute to refining the final stakeholder report and research agenda.

## **Draft agenda**

**9: 15am:** Arrival and networking

**9:30 - 10:30am:** Introduction and Keynote

**10:30am:** First question

**11am:** Report back

**11:15am:** Second question

**11:45am:** Report back

**12pm:** Lunch

**12:45pm:** Third question

**1:15pm:** Report back

**1:30pm:** Conclusion and next steps

## **EVENT #2 DESCRIPTION – May, 2016**

The event will be held in May 2016 in Fredericton, NB. The formal planning will begin in January once the proposal has been reviewed by the New Brunswick Police Commission and validated by key researchers who will be involved in organizing the event. The invitation will be sent one month prior to the event and will be targeted to municipalities across the province. The session will accommodate a maximum of 50 participants and will be facilitated in both official languages. Simultaneous translation will also be provided.

## **Format**

The event will begin with an introduction and a 30-minute panel presentation by researcher experts in the area of policing and adequacy. The researcher experts will speak about what was shared in the first event. Stakeholders will then be invited to comment on what was said.

The facilitator(s) of the event will then present the agenda and the structure for the day. The event will be structured as a World Café. Participants will be seated at round tables (4 - 5 people per table) and will participate in three 30-minute rounds of conversation.

Each round is prefaced with a question and at the end of the 30 minutes, the groups are invited to share insights or other results from their conversations with the rest of the large group. Although the questions will be refined, examples include: *What do you think needs to be in a police adequacy equation/determination? How would you recognize a well-policed community? How would you identify a safe community? What would be required to create such a community?*

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**1:15pm:** Report back

**1:30pm:** Conclusion and next steps

## **EVENT #3 DESCRIPTION – May, 2016**

The event will be held in May 2016 in Fredericton, NB. The formal planning will begin in January once the proposal has been reviewed by the New Brunswick Police Commission and validated by key researchers who will be involved in the organizing the event. The invitation will be sent one month prior to the event and will targeted to police chiefs across New Brunswick. The session will accommodate a maximum of 50 participants and will be facilitated in both official languages. Simultaneous translation will also be provided.

## **Format**

The event will begin with an introduction and a 30-minute panel presentation by researcher experts in the area of policing and adequacy. The researcher experts will speak about what was shared in the first event. Stakeholders will then be invited to comment on what was said.

The facilitator(s) of the event will then present the agenda and the structure for the day. The event will be structured as a World Café. Participants will be seated at round tables (4 - 5 people per table) and will participate in three 30-minute rounds of conversation.

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## **PROCESS TIMELINE**

**December 2015**            Proposal Submission

**January - March. 2016**            Process design and validation

**April 2016**            Event # 1 - Convening Expertise and Reviewing Evidence

**May 2016**            Event #2 - Convening Municipalities  
Event #3 – Convening Police Chiefs  
Translating Knowledge, Summarizing Results, Engaging Key Stakeholders

**June 2016**            Final Report and Next steps