

## Recommendations



- 1. That the Minister of Justice undertake a thorough review of *The Coroner's Act,* mindful of suggestions made by Drs. Lew, Matshes, Dowling, and Emson.
- 2. That the Province of Saskatchewan establish an introductory program for Aboriginal candidates and candidates from minority communities for Municipal Police Services in Saskatchewan. The program could be established at the Saskatchewan Police College and be patterned after that established at the Native Law Centre. The Native Law Centre is an introductory legal studies program offered at the University of Saskatchewan since 1973 to Aboriginal students. The Centre has contributed to a significant increase in the number of Aboriginal professionals in the legal community.
- 3. That the Minister of Justice establish an advisory board composed of Police Service members charged with recruitment, representatives of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and representatives from the private and public sectors who are knowledgeable about employee recruitment. The purpose of the board will be to recommend programs to encourage First Nations persons to enter Municipal Police Service.
- 4. That the Minister of Justice review and improve procedures established to deal with complaints from members of the public about inappropriate police conduct. Informational pamphlets should be provided in the waiting and interview rooms of all police stations in Saskatchewan explaining the complaint process. The forms should contain a section that can be removed from the pamphlet and used as a complaint form. It should contain directions as to where the form may be sent, either to a particular office in the Police Service, the Board of Police Commissioners, the Saskatchewan Police Commission, or to the Provincial Complaints Investigator charged with dealing with complaints against police.
- 5. That Municipal Police Services in larger centres should designate an Aboriginal peace officer with the rank of Sergeant, where possible, to act as a liaison person for First Nation persons and as an informal ombudsman to deal with complaints and concerns from Aboriginal and persons from minority communities.
- 6. That each Municipal Police Force provide to the Minister of Justice an annual report as to complaints about police officers in its service and the disposition of the complaints.
- 7. That municipal peace officers receive in-depth training in race relations. The training should include information about Aboriginal culture, history, societal and family structures. A refresher course should be provided every three years. It is important that course leaders include Aboriginal peace officers, including members of the RCMP.
- 8. That a review be undertaken of the courses that police candidates take in anger management and dispute resolution. Given the sometimes highly emotional and stressful conditions officers face in their work, it is important that the first responders be specially trained to react professionally and appropriately.