

ON K
THE WEST

Provincial police force recommended for Alberta

Report says local cops would be more cost-effective than RCMP

EDMONTON (CP) — Albertans would get more bang for their buck if the RCMP were replaced by a police force similar to the Ontario Provincial Police, says a new report.

An Alberta force would also better reflect the province's values on issues such as the federal gun registry, said Barry Cooper, a University of Calgary political scientist who helped write the report for the conservative Fraser Institute.

"A comparison with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) clearly indicates that a provincially administered police force delivers services at a lower cost than the federal police," Cooper said Monday.

"Local police are more responsive to the wishes of the community in terms of public policy choices. That is certainly true with some fairly controversial things such as the gun registry."

The report says if Premier Ralph Klein's Tory government isn't happy with the status quo, it should consider either scrapping the RCMP or replacing the

Mounties in communities with a population of more than 15,000.

Another option would be to replace the RCMP in rural areas with a regional police force based in Alberta's cities.

The Mounties currently provide police services to more than 60 Alberta communities outside of Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Camrose, Coaldale, Taber and Lacombe.

The contract, which expires in 2012, costs the province and municipalities more than \$100 million a year. The federal government also provides about \$40 million to cover RCMP policing costs in Alberta.

RCMP took exception to the report's "unsubstantiated criticism", and chided the Fraser Institute for not consulting the Mounties when preparing the study.

"If the RCMP had been consulted, we would have pointed out that the OPP does their costing in a different manner than we do," assistant Commissioner Bill Sweeney, commanding officer of K Division, said in a release.

The report comes at a time when Alberta's governing Tories are preparing to

debate the idea of a provincial police force at their annual party policy conference in Edmonton on Saturday.

"It will be up for discussion," said Marilyn Haley, executive director of the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta.

"People will come to the session with their own ideas on the pros and cons."

More than 30 small cash-strapped Alberta municipalities have been lobbying the province for a less expensive funding formula for RCMP services, including having counties pay more for police.

Mayor Bill Nimmo of the town of Gibbons north of Edmonton said replacing the Mounties in his community with an Alberta provincial police force is not the answer.

"I think the RCMP is a good police force," Nimmo said. Alberta once had its own police force but dissolved it in favour of the RCMP in 1932 during the Great Depression.

The Klein government has reviewed the idea of re-establishing a provincial police force in the past but decided not to proceed, said spokesman David Bray.

Rodeo queen off to EuroDisney

CALGARY (CP) — Miss Rodeo Canada for 2003 has just finished her reign, but there will be little down time for the woman who as a child first climbed into the saddle on one of her dad's pigs.

Shannon McCarthy, 24, is preparing to go to EuroDisney south of Paris where she has landed the role of legendary marksman Annie Oakley in a show that is one of the most popular attractions at the theme park.

Oakley, the woman Sioux Chief Sitting Bull christened Little Sure Shot, headlined Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

McCarthy put in a three-week stint with the show last summer.

"I phoned them up and offered my services, thinking that not only would it be a great opportunity to travel, but a chance to promote rodeo, the western way and Canada," she said.

She wowed 'em all, so she is returning to EuroDisney next spring as the great American show woman.



Shannon McCarthy

Honouring Those Who Served

The following veterans have been published as a follow to our special 16-page Remembrance section, published last week in the Herald. These submissions were made correctly, as prescribed in our ads for this edition, but failed to appear correctly. The Herald felt today was a fitting day to pay tribute to these men and the thousands of others who served their country.



Sapper Robert Brown

Sapper Robert Brown of Lethbridge fought in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953. He was attached to 57 Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers.



Lt.-Col. R. Donald Livingstone

Lethbridge, W W II 1941-45 Fourth Canadian Division Headquarters, Royal Canadian Engineers, European Campaign, Caen, immediately following D-Day. Nine medals, including Belgian Croix de Guerre, Belgian Order of the Leopold. Also Commanding Officer of local Reserve Army R.C.E., 16 years.



Sergeant Joseph Hoare

Sargeant Joseph Hoare served with the 75th Battery in England and France during the First World War.



Private Joe A. Nicholas

Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. Service in Britain, France, the Netherlands and Germany. Attached to Calgary Highlanders on the continent. Awarded five Canadian Active Service Medals. Deceased.



Gunner Bert Nicholas

Royal Canadian Artillery. Wounded in the ferocious battle for Ortona, Italy then contracted malaria. Later returned to duty serving in France, the Netherlands and Germany. Awarded Canadian medals plus the Italy Star. Is now deceased.



LAC Johnny Nicholas

RCAF. Served at No. 8 Bombing and Gunnery School, Lethbridge, then overseas to Britain, France, Netherlands and Germany. Served with a Typhoon unit on the continent. He and others had gone into Eindhoven, Netherlands, on New Years Day 1945 for a church service to give thanks for having survived so far when the Luftwaffe attacked their aerodrome, causing many casualties. They witnessed the whole episode from the church. Awarded five Canadian service medals. Deceased.



Corporal Patrick Nicholas

RCAF. Served 15 years. Stationed at 105 Air Rescue Unit at Nanaimo, Alberta then the 121 Air-Sea Rescue Unit in Sea Island, B.C. also served four years at No. 1 Fighter Wing, Marville, France (NATO Forces). Awarded Canadian Forces Medal and NATO Medal. Still plodding onward... "gingerly".

In Flanders Fields

By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918) Canadian Army

*IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

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