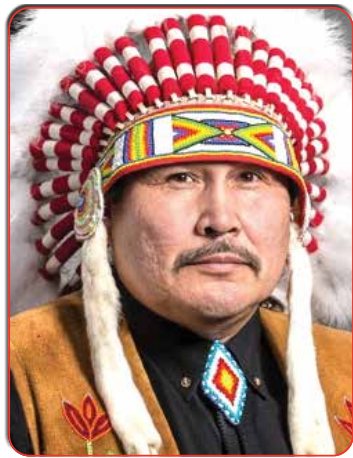


Message from Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte



Governments of Canada, Saskatchewan and Prince Albert Grand Council announce Feasibility Study

On May 3, 2024, the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs; the Honourable Paul Merriman, Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety; and Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte, of the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC), announced they have signed a contribution agreement in support of effective and culturally-appropriate police services for PAGC member communities.

Through this agreement, the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan are providing a total of up to \$1,452,532.00 for community engagement and research that will lead to a needs assessment and implementation strategy, expected within two years.

"I am very pleased to be able to support the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) in their pursuit of community-oriented public safety and policing. This feasibility study is an important step towards effective and culturally appropriate police services for PAGC communities," the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs, said.

"The Government of Saskatchewan is proud to partner with the Prince

Albert Grand Council and invest in the future of First Nations policing and community safety. This is one of many steps the province is taking to ensure our communities are safe, secure and strong," the Honourable Paul Merriman, Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, said.

"This contribution agreement is a key milestone in our partnership with the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan, aiming to advance culturally sensitive policing across our communities. We are thankful for this support, which will allow us to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study. Our goal is to ensure that our public safety strategies are effective and truly reflective of the unique values of Prince Albert Grand Council's member First Nations," Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte, Prince Albert Grand Council, said.

The Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) represents 12 First Nations comprised of 28 communities with a total membership of about 45,000 in northern Saskatchewan. PAGC members include Athabasca Denesuline, Plains / Dakota Cree, Swampy Cree and Woodland Cree First Nations.

The First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) provides funding to support professional, dedicated and culturally responsive policing services.

The program supports tripartite policing agreements among the federal government, provincial or territorial governments, and First Nation or Inuit communities. Costs are shared with provinces and territories in accordance with a 52% federal and 48% provincial/territorial cost-share ratio.

The 2021 federal budget invested \$861 million over five years, beginning in 2021–2022, and \$145 million ongoing, to support culturally responsive policing and community safety services in Indigenous communities.

Budget 2024 proposes to invest \$267.5 million in federal money over five years, starting in 2024-2025, and \$92.5 million per year ongoing, for First Nations and Inuit-led policing.

In October 2022, PAGC and the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan announced the creation of the PAGC Public Safety Implementation Team to advance work on Indigenous-led public safety initiatives. The findings of this work helped design and determine the costs for a feasibility study under the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP). PAGC is now moving to the next step of the feasibility study by conducting community safety needs analysis through engagement sessions with all PAGC communities.



Ron Merasty Photo

The PAGC Public Safety Implementation Team met for the first time in Prince Albert on May 9, 2024 to advance work on an Indigenous-led public safety initiative. PAGC's goal is to implement an Indigenous-administered police service for its 28 communities. In the photo, front row, left to right: Caitlin Brown, MNP LLP Business Consulting Services; Michelle Naidu, Creative Fire; PAGC Vice-Chief Joseph Tsannie; PAGC Senator Noland Henderson; Audrey Dore, Public Safety Canada; Donna Campbell, PAGC Public Safety Implementation Team (PSIT), Patrik Remy, (PAGC IT). Back row, l-r: Chad Lins, MNP; Matthew Mirasty, Government of Saskatchewan; Daniel Malone, Public Safety Canada; Chris Bayda, PAGC IT; David Sanderson, PAGC PSIT; Paul Ketcham, PAGC IT. Missing are: Vince Brittain, PAGC PSIT; and Ed Mirasty, PAGC PSIT.