

Justice and Public Safety Council (JPSC) Regular Meeting

April 22, 2020
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Teleconference only

Attendees:

Richard Fyfe, QC (Chair), Mark Sieben (Vice-Chair), Peter Juk, QC, Kurt Sandstrom, Lynda Cavanaugh, Taryn Walsh, Elenore Arend

Regrets:

Lisa Anderson, Allison Bond, Brenda Butterworth-Carr

Secretariat Support:

Tami Currie, Mark Fassina, Ashley Halicki

Guests:

Al-Nashir Charania, Salman Azam

Meeting Minutes

Agenda and Meeting Minutes:

- The agenda for the April 22, 2020 meeting and the minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting were adopted by consensus.

Review of Justice Summit guidance provided in lieu of March 16, 2020 meeting

- Further to the guidance provided by Justice and Public Safety Council (the Council) members via email in March 2020, the spring in-person Justice Summit, which was scheduled for June 5-6, 2020 has been cancelled as a precautionary measure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The existing topic of *Diversion and Alternatives to Short-Term Incarceration* has been tentatively brought forward to the next regularly scheduled Justice Summit occurring on November 20-21, 2020.
- Communications have been distributed to existing invitees informing them of the cancellation and requesting updated calendar holds for November.
- The Attorney General and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General were advised of the above actions via an Information Briefing Note.
- The Steering Committee and Working Group have been temporarily disbanded until late summer or early fall, when planning activities for the November Justice Summit will be reinitiated.
- As required, ad hoc communications may be disseminated to the Steering Committee and Working Group throughout the summer to address specific issues pertaining to ongoing Justice Summit planning.
- The Secretariat to the Council confirmed that the participants list and agenda for the existing Justice Summit topic are in a near-final state, which will help to promote a smooth planning re-initiation in the fall.
- The possibility of shifting (or merging) the existing topic to focus on the sector's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated transformational opportunities was expressed. The Council determined that this discussion should be paused until late summer to ensure greater accessibility to current information and timelier decision. The Council requested the Secretariat return with a decision note on this topic in August 2020.

- The possibility of exploring a virtual Justice Summit delivery approach was also expressed. The Secretariat to the Council confirmed this issue was already being explored and that a virtual Justice Summit appeared achievable.
- In addition to a virtual Justice Summit delivery approach, the Secretariat to the Council is also exploring a more streamlined in-person Justice Summit option, or a combination of both alternatives.
- The Council requested the Secretariat to engage the Attorney General and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General on this issue as soon as possible.

Action – The Secretariat to the Council will develop a Briefing Note on the Justice Summit Delivery Approach for Council review and Ministers’ decision as soon as possible.

Action – The Secretariat to the Council will develop a Briefing Note on the Justice Summit topic for Council review and Ministers’ decision in late August.

Justice and Public Safety Council 2020-2023 Strategic Plan

- The Secretariat to the Council provided an overview of the draft JPSC 2020-2023 Strategic Plan and requested feedback from the Council on the content to the current point.
- The Council expressed appreciation with respect to the Secretariat’s efforts to streamline the overall length of the document and eliminate redundancies, while encouraging the retention of foundational narrative to maintain engagement value for readers.
- The Council also encouraged retaining the existing performance indicators as well as the narrative interpretations of current figures.
- In addition to overarching impressions provided by the Council, select members provided detailed feedback on specific sections of the Strategic Plan that will be incorporated by the Secretariat into the final version of the document.

Action – The Secretariat to the Council will complete the remaining sections of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, incorporate the suggested changes provided by the Council at the April 22, 2020 meeting, and redistribute an updated version of the document to the Council as soon as possible.

Action – The Council will review the updated 2020-2023 Strategic Plan draft provided by the Secretariat and provide any final feedback by April 29, 2020.

Summary of discussion and next steps

- Upon consensus, the May 6, 2020 meeting will be cancelled. The Council will reconvene on June 3, 2020.