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Community Notification Advisory Committee (CNAC)

Government Appointed Member

Denis Lemoine ^

Committee membership is made of representatives from Manitoba Integrated High Risk Sex Offender Unit - (Winnipeg Police Service and RCMP), Brandon Police Service, Adult Corrections, MB Justice, Correctional Services Canada, Manitoba Health, Prosecutions, MB Justice, Member agencies and a Government Appointment (appointed by the Minister of Justice).

Mandate:

The Community Notification Advisory Committee reviews cases of sex offenders that are referred to it by police agencies and makes recommendations to the referring police agencies as to whether some form of community notification is warranted with respect to each sex offender.

Three features of CNAC's mandate should be highlighted:

- CNAC is not controlled or administered by the Province of Manitoba. Rather, CNAC is a partnership of independent agencies. The partnership is made up of Correctional Service of Canada, Brandon Police Service, Winnipeg Police Service, RCMP, Manitoba Health and Manitoba Justice.
- The operation of CNAC is not governed by legislation. The partners have agreed on a Protocol and it is the Protocol that governs CNAC's operations.
- The recommendation made by CNAC is not binding on the police agency that referred the case; it is advice only. The police agency is free to make its own decision as to whether to notify the public and, if notification is made, the form that that notification will take.

Authority:

[The Safer Communities and Neighborhoods Act](#)

Responsibilities:

In arriving at a recommendation to police, CNAC is required to balance an offender's right to privacy against citizens' needs to have sufficient information to keep themselves, their families and their children safe. This is a delicate task requiring the expertise of individuals from a wide range of disciplines.

Membership:

The following agencies are represented:

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Winnipeg Police Service Brandon Police Service
- Correctional Services of Canada
- Corrections Division, Manitoba Justice
- Prosecutions Division, Manitoba Justice

- Manitoba Health

Each agency in the partnership delegates officials from within its agency to sit on CNAC. The police agencies normally delegate two or three individuals to attend meetings. Correctional Service Canada, Manitoba Health, Manitoba Justice (Corrections) and Manitoba Justice (Prosecutions) have historically each had one delegate attend meetings.

In addition to the delegates from the member agencies, Manitoba's Minister of Justice appoints two individuals to CNAC:

- Chairperson
- General Member (community representative)

Length of Terms:

Members of CNAC, whether delegated by their employing agency or appointed by the Minister of Justice, do not serve fixed terms. Members delegated to serve on CNAC by their employers tend to remain members until they are reassigned to other duties by their employer. Members appointed by the Minister have, in the past, remained members until they resign from CNAC. There is no term expiry date for the members because CNAC is not an ordinary Manitoba Government agency, board or committee, but is in reality an independent expert panel for the purpose of providing public safety advice to police.

CNAC's decisions can have significant implications in terms of injury or death to a member of the public, if a mistake is made and a public notification is not recommended, or potential harm to an offender, if a recommendation to proceed with a public notification is made in error. In order to perform the committee's important public safety function CNAC members need to: understand the risk posed by sex offenders; have the ability to understand risk information prepared by police, corrections and mental health officials; and have the expertise to apply that knowledge and information in determining whether and to what extent information about the offender should be made public. Having skilled and experienced committee members is essential to the proper functioning of the committee and retention of these experts for an indefinite term enables them to further develop the skills needed to make appropriate decisions about the cases that are brought forward for their review and advice.

Desirable Expertise:

CNAC members must be able to:

- Communicate effectively in a group discussion setting;
- Interpret police reports, psychological reports and related material and apply that material to the case under consideration;
- Adhere to a high degree of confidentiality; and
- Make decisions in a fair and unbiased manner.

In addition, it is necessary that each member have knowledge and/or experience concerning high risk sex offenders. This is a requirement of both CNAC members who are delegated by their employing agency and those appointed by the Minister of Justice. CNAC is a cross-section of experts from a variety of backgrounds: law enforcement, mental health, corrections and prosecutions. This combination of depth of experience and diversity of perspectives gives CNAC great expertise in fulfilling its mandate.

Time commitment:

Meetings are held on an “as needed” basis (i.e. when a police agency refers a case for consideration). Each case takes about a half a day to consider.

Meetings:

Frequency: 4 – 6 times per year scheduled ad-hoc

Location: Virtual/ in-person

Duration: Approximately a half day per case

Remuneration:

Chair: \$132.74 per meeting up to 3 ½ hours

Member: \$76.00 per meeting up to 3 ½ hours

Other CNAC members are unpaid.