

BULLETIN

07-2018

June 28, 2018

To all Authorized Employers:

Re: Peace Officer Program Changes Resulting From Lazenby Fatality Inquiry

In June 2017, a Public Fatality Inquiry was held into the on-duty death of Community Peace Officer (Level 2) Rod Lazenby. Following receipt of the report, the Director of Law Enforcement undertook a review of the recommendations and put forward considerations to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. The response from the Deputy Minister, on behalf of the Minister, was recently released by the Fatality Inquiry Office and addresses three key changes to the Peace Officer Program:

- 1) The Peace Officer Program will amend policy to clarify the community peace officer (CPO) classifications and implement one standard of training for all community peace officers. While job functions and authorities may stay the same, all CPOs will be required to meet the standards for current CPO Level 1 training.

The only exceptions will be those peace officers whose role is strictly administrative and are employed within a law enforcement facility as well as automated traffic enforcement operators.

- 2) The Peace Officer Program will require all authorized employers to draft policy that prohibits a CPO from attending a location alone where this is a known threat. In addition, all authorized employers will be required to maintain a list of known local threats for reference by dispatchers and CPOs. Appropriate policy must be submitted to the Program.
- 3) The Peace Officer Program will require all authorized employers to institute a manned central communication system to track and communicate with CPOs and will include the requirements to check the list identified in bullet 2 for known threats. Appropriate policy must be submitted to the Program.

To view the full report and response to the Fatality Inquiry, please visit:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/fatality-inquiry-lazenby-2018-01-09>.

Implementation Timelines:

Timelines for implementation of these changes are still being considered and more information will be released following the upcoming information sessions tentatively scheduled for fall 2018 as well as identification of a training schedule for the Community Peace Officer Induction Program.

Notification to Authorized Employers:

The Director of Law Enforcement will be sending letters to the primary contacts for all authorized employers regarding the content of this bulletin.

Information Sessions and General Information:***Information Sessions:***

In order to assist authorized employers with the implementation of these changes and to gather input and feedback, information sessions will be held in three locations throughout Alberta in the fall 2018. The Program is currently in the process of setting the schedule for these meetings and will post a bulletin on the Program's website when the details have been finalized.

Who should attend?

Through letters to the primary contacts for all authorized employers, chief administrative officers and key decision-makers for their respective authorized employers will be encouraged to attend.

These information sessions will focus on identifying training needs and pinpointing considerations that may impact implementation timelines, determining key requirements for all CPOs going forward and any other considerations identified through this process.

CPOs and their affiliated associations are also welcome to attend.

Next Steps and Final Timelines:

A bulletin will be released following the information sessions outlining the specific requirements for authorized employers and the final timelines for implementation. Training schedules will be posted as the information becomes available.

Issuing of CPO Level 1 and Level 2 Appointments during Transition:

Level 1 appointments will continue to be issued throughout this process.

Level 2 appointments will continue to be issued until such time as a reasonable end date can be determined. Authorized employers hiring during the transition period should consider hiring to the Level 1 requirements as outlined in section 6.2 of the Peace Officer Program Policy and Procedures Manual starting immediately. The manual can be found at

www.peaceofficerprogram.alberta.ca.

While there is work to be done to prepare for the changes to the Program, our office will be working with authorized employers to support the process and provide guidance and direction where required. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me or the staff for assistance.

Sincerely,

Tammy Spink
Manager
Peace Officer Program