



# DAKOTA OJIBWAY POLICE SERVICE 2008/09 ANNUAL REPORT

## DAKOTA OJIBWAY POLICE SERVICE

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*"Strive to ensure the safety, security, trust and protection of the First Nation Communities: Bird-tail Sioux, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, Roseau River, Sandy Bay and Sioux Valley. Uphold the highest standards of professionalism and to honor the cultures, beliefs and traditions of the First Nations families and communities of which the Department services."*

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## Message From The Chief of Police

2008/2009 has been an outstanding year for the Dakota Ojibway Police Service marked by a series of changes and significant accomplishments. I am pleased to report that the Service received funding approval for the first two years of a three year DOPS Strategic Plan 2008—2011. Also, planning is in place to manage the upcoming negotiations necessary to establish a new Policing Agreement Collective Bargaining Agreement with both contracts requiring renewal prior to this year end.

A most notable change came with the retirement of Chief Dennis Bercier in October 2008. Chief Bercier worked hard to advance the Service and I will continue with steadfast commitment and ensure that the projects he started are completed. Among these are the crime prevention and school resource initiative, enhancement of the dispatch service, improvements in information communication technology and the records management system. The Centralized Dispatch Service has recently been expanded to the Eastern Division, servicing Sandy Bay and Roseau River Detachments. We continue to work with members to ensure the records management system is utilized in the most effective manner.

Since my appointment in November, 2008, a number of new initiatives have been initiated or are in progress including:

- Development of the DOPS Youth Corps;
- Establishment of the Police Service Dog Unit;
- Implementation of crime prevention initiatives;
- Renewed focus on By-Law Enforcement;
- Enhanced staff training; and
- Re-establishment of the Local Police Boards.

Human resource development continues as a priority area for DOPS. This year, the staff-



ing situation was relatively stable. The new hires graduating from recruit training in June 2008 are showing good progress. In May 2008, DOPS promoted three members to the rank of Corporal assigned to the Roseau River, Sandy Bay and West Division Detachments. These three new front line supervisors attended the introduction to Police Management course at Assiniboine Community College (ACC) and we secured two seats on the Field Trainers Course also delivered by ACC.

The Service is committed to training, growth and development. This year the annual certification activities such as firearm qualification and CPR/First Aid were completed. In future, this annual training will be enhanced to include a one day in-service that all members must attend. The Service will continue to provide members with opportunities such as Command Force Record Management training and the Impaired Driving Seminar. In 2008/2009, individual members participated in the following professional development activities.

- Senior Police Administrator's Course
- Basic Firearms Instructor Course
- SOCCO Course
- Emotional Survival Seminar
- Youth Conference
- K9 Handler Course
- K9 Administrator Course
- Professional Standards Conference
- Major Crimes Investigation Course



**2008/09 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Chief's Message (cont'd)**

Operationally, the Service responded to a total of 5,490 calls for service in the five communities. This represented a significant increase over the past years. Major events include the execution of CDSA search warrant early in 2008 at Sandy Bay, where a significant amount of cash was seized and eventually forfeited as proceeds of crime. Preparation for spring flooding in Roseau River placed additional demands on the Service. And, sadly, Sandy Bay First Nation also experienced several tragic house fires that involved fatalities.

In closing, I take this opportunity to commend all of our communities for their unflagging support during this year of leadership transition and change. The Dakota Ojibway Police Service is committed to continuous improvement and our ongoing pledge to uphold the Dakota Ojibway Police Service **MISSION STATEMENT** in 2009/10 and beyond.

**BIOGRAPHY — D.A. (Douglas) Palson, Chief of Police**

Doug was appointed Chief of the Dakota Ojibway Police Service in November, 2008. Born and raised in the Interlake Region of Manitoba, he has spent the past twenty years in Southern Manitoba serving as a Member of the Brandon Police Service.

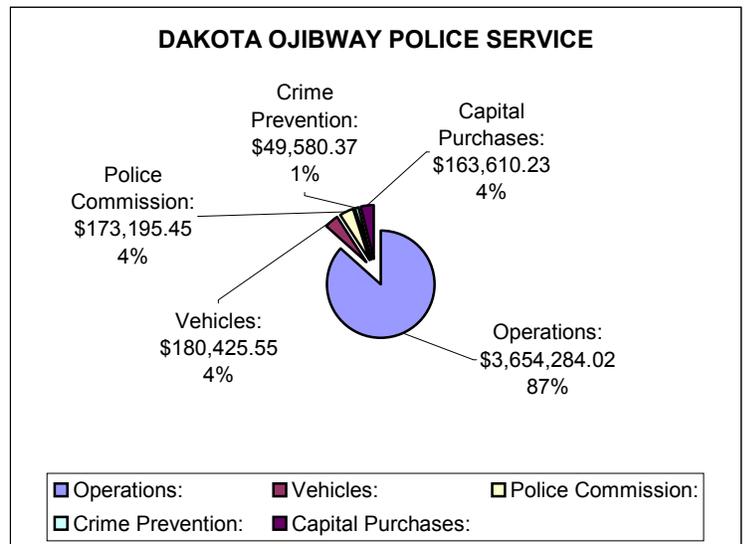
Doug Palson is a graduate of the University of Manitoba and Assiniboine Community College holding a B.A. degree, with a major in Criminal Psychology, and a Certificate in Adult Education. Currently, he is completing a Master's program in Educational Administration at Brandon University. Married with teen-aged daughters, he enjoys spending time with his family, athletics and fishing.

Doug worked with the RCMP at The Pas Detachment, working with First Nation communities in the north, prior to moving to the Brandon Police Service in 1988. He advanced quickly through the ranks being appointed to the senior level position of Staff Sergeant in 2005. His career has been marked by a series of achievements from working as patrol, to expert trainer for firearms and use of force, as team leader for the tactical response unit, criminal investigations, vice/intelligence operations and in carrying out senior level functions involving supervision, fiscal and human resource management, as well as, operational and strategic planning.

Chief Palson's leadership is characterized by honesty, open communications and willingness to collaborate on a shared vision and common goals. He embraces the opportunity to work with the First Nation Communities served by the Dakota Ojibway Police Service bringing trust, respect and energy to his position.

**DAKOTA OJIBWAY POLICE SERVICE**  
2008-09 Financial Report

<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$4,255,688.30</b>	
Operations:	\$3,654,284.02	87%
Vehicles:	\$ 180,425.55	4%
Police Commission:	\$ 173,195.45	4%
Crime Prevention:	\$ 49,580.37	1%
Capital Purchases:	\$ 163,610.23	4%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$4,221,095.62</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SURPLUS:</b>	<b>\$ 34,592.68</b>	



**Dakota Ojibway Police Commission**

**The Dakota Ojibway Police Commission** consists of one appointed representative from each DOTC Communities and additional incoming First Nation communities. The Commission is governed by rules, policies, and procedures as set out in the **DOPS Police Commission Policy Manual**. The Commission is subject to the provisions of the Provincial Police Act (Manitoba) and any regulations made thereunder.



Back Row: Gus Higheagle, Gwen Wasicuna, Laverne Benn;  
Front Row: Henry Roulette, Martha Larocque

Mr. Laverne Benn is the representative from the Birdtail Sioux First Nation who is the Chairperson of the Commission; Mr. Gus Higheagle from Canupawakpa Dakota Nation; Ms. Gwen Wasicuna from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation; Mr. Henry Roulette from the Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation; and Mrs. Martha Larocque from Roseau River Anishinabé First Nation.

## 2008/09 ANNUAL REPORT



### CRIME PREVENTION ACTIVITY REPORT

Over the last fiscal year of 2008/09 the Crime Prevention Unit has continued to offer the services that have come to be expected of our Police Service. In addition we have been working towards some new initiatives while concluding some others.

We continue to participate in a variety of community events such as Career and Health Fairs, School presentations, Public information sessions with crime prevention resources and safety information being distributed. We strive to provide current, relevant and culturally appropriate materials to our community members.

As part of the Gang Disempowerment and Reduction Committee of DOTC we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference in January of 2009 at the Keeshkeemaquah Centre in Portage La Prairie. Our intent was to provide a forum to facilitate discussion and share information based on best practices and community based solutions for those that care for and work with youth in gangs and in conflict with the law. The GDRC of DOTC will now act as a resource and liaison for any further initiatives that might be directly undertaken by the communities as we agree the need for awareness, education and prevention remains a priority.

Our 2008 summer safety campaign was "SAFE ROADS = SAFE KIDS". Our Crime Prevention Unit/Summer Student Program in partnership with Safe Kids Canada, Manitoba Public Insurance, Assiniboine Regional Health Authority EMS and the Citizens on Patrol were able to provide pedestrian safety information, voluntary car seat inspections, community speed-watch and the rollover simulator which demonstrates effectiveness of seatbelt use in a rollover accident, the dangers of traveling at high speeds, and the importance of safe driving habits. The Water/Boat safety events were again



Water/Boat Safety Event in Sandy Bay with instruction from DOPS Members.

held in Sandy Bay with instruction from our members and summer student. The kids always enjoy themselves and learn valuable lessons in water safety.

The Dakota Ojibway Police Service is planning to pilot a new initiative in 2009. The DOPS Youth Corps will provide opportunities for more youth to participate in a youth development program that will include activities that are specifically tailored to the needs and concerns of our youth with emphasis on culture, education, sports and healthy living. The initiative will be facilitated by our police officers to engage youth interests in providing desirable positive activities in a structured format model.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Amaranth RCMP, Gladstone & Kinosota Trail EMS and Sandy Bay DOPS Golf Tournament is set to go on June 22, 2009. This year the tournament is in memory of one of the EMS workers with all proceeds to be split and donated to Palliative Care in his name and the other half to be set up in a scholarship for graduates that are looking to start a career in Emergency Services. The last 3 years the tournament has raised \$4000.00.

This year Progressive Agriculture sponsored a fun, interactive and educational safety day at the Birdtail Sioux Community School. This one day event focused on a variety of safety topics for grades 4 – 8 with interactive stations and demonstrations. Participating organizations included MANFF, OFC/SARMAN, MPI, Water Rescue & EMS, Cancer Society and of course DOPS Crime Prevention with a demonstration from our canine unit "Mason" and Cst. Steve McArthur.

Our priority over the years has been in developing and maintaining partnerships. Safe and healthy communities don't just happen – they are the product of partnerships. As our communities grow and needs change it is our desire that the Crime Prevention Unit will adapt to meet any new challenges we face in the communities we serve.

### POLICE SERVICE DOG / USAR-K9

In early part of 2009, Dakota Ojibway Police entered into a partnership with the Province, Urban Search and Rescue Unit operating out of the Office of Fire Commissioner. DOPS would supply a Member to work with the USAR team as a K9 handler and the USAR team would supply the dog, cover any related expenses, such as training, etc.

The Primary function is Search & Rescue. The USAR-K9 Coordinator realized our unique situation and was able to locate a fully trained Police Dog "Mason". Mason is trained in most P.S.D. functions and we hope to utilize him in various capacities to help keep our communities safe.



Constable S.E. (Steven) McArthur with Mason celebrating "Safety Day" at Birdtail Sioux First Nation School.

# DAKOTA OJIBWAY POLICE SERVICE

## AWARDS — 2008

**Corporal C.R. (Cindy) Prince #47**, Detachment Commander, Roseau River Detachment, was selected to receive the Manitoba Excellence in Law Enforcement Award. The Manitoba Attorney General Safer Communities Awards ceremony was held at the Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg on November 21, 2008 hosted by the Minister of Justice. Cindy was the first member from Dakota Ojibway Police Service to be nominated and selected to receive this prestigious award. Corporal Prince was nominated for her outstanding performance in the implementation of a police and procedures manual while seconded to Headquarters. Congratulations, Cindy!



Corporal C.R. (Cindy) Prince, Detachment Commander, Roseau River Detachment

Originally established as the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council (DOTC) Police Department in 1977, the Department now operates as the Dakota Ojibway Police Service.

As one of the longest operating First National Polices Services in Canada, DOPS is a recognized policing services to the following First Nation Communities:

- Birdtail Sioux First Nation
- Canupawakpa Dakota Nation
- Roseau River First Nation
- Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation
- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

The D.O.P.S. investigates all major crimes, such as murders, aggravated and sexual assaults, in addition to enforcing all Federal and Provincial Statues, Band By-Laws, where applicable, are enforced. D.O.P.S. responds to all calls and complaints.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Through local control and accountability to its First Nation communities, the Dakota Ojibway Police Service continues to provide a quality, professional service.

The Police Service strives to employ police officers who understand, honour and respect the cultures, beliefs, traditions and history of their First Nations people.

The goals and objectives of D.O.P.S. are:

- To reduce crime and maintain crime prevention proactive policing, high visibility and community involvement;
- To maintain the community-based structure originally initiated upon the Department's incorporation in 1977;
- To attract and retain suitable First Nations people as police officers in order to provide policing services to the D.O.T.C. communities;
- To enhance and improve the quality of life within the community by providing a police service of credibility and accountability to all community members;
- To reduce the number and costs to the taxpayers of correction services and prison terms of First Nations people;
- To ensure the criminal justice system address the concerns and needs of the First Nations communities.

## LERA'S MISSION STATEMENT

The **Mission** of the Law Enforcement Review Agency is to deliver a judicious, timely, impartial, client-oriented service to the public and to the police services and police officers within its jurisdiction.

### What is LERA?

LERA is an independent, non-police agency, established under the *Law Enforcement Review Act* in 1985, to investigate public complaints about police.

LERA deals only with complaints about municipal or local police performance arising out of the performance of police duties. It does not investigate criminal matters.

The Act applies to any peace officer employed by a Manitoba municipal or local police service including police chiefs. It does not apply to members of the RCMP.

Three formal complaints were filed with LERA involving Dakota Ojibway Police Service in 2008. Two complaint files have been investigated and concluded. The third file remains outstanding with ongoing investigations carried over to 2009.

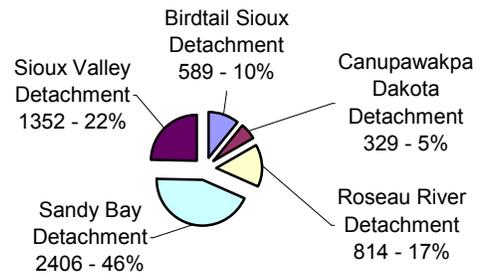
How to reach the Law Enforcement Review Agency?

420—155 Carlton Street  
 Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8  
 Phone: 1-204-945-8667 / 1-800-262-8069 (toll free)  
 Fax: 1-204-948-1013  
 LERA's Website: [www.gov.mb.ca/justice/lera](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/lera)

### DAKOTA OJIBWAY POLICE SERVICE CALLS FOR SERVICE 2008

1	Birdtail Sioux Detachment	589	10%
2	Canupawakpa Dakota Detachment	329	5%
3	Roseau River Detachment	814	17%
4	Sandy Bay Detachment	2,406	46%
5	Sioux Valley Detachment	<u>1,352</u>	<u>22%</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>5,490</b>	<b>100%</b>

### CALLS FOR SERVICE 2008



- Birdtail Sioux Detachment
- Canupawakpa Dakota Detachment
- Roseau River Detachment
- Sandy Bay Detachment
- Sioux Valley Detachment