



Do-right Alberta: Keep the RCMP

July 2025

SYNDICAT DES EMPLOYÉ·E·S DE LA SÉCURITÉ ET DE LA JUSTICE
USJE  **SESJ**
UNION OF SAFETY AND JUSTICE EMPLOYEES



PSAC · Prairies
Public Service Alliance of Canada





In the winter of 2022, USJE partnered with PSAC to counter the Government of Alberta's proposal to replace the RCMP with a provincial police force.

Our joint campaign was successful and enabled USJE to build relationships with key stakeholders such as the National Police Federation and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta.

Unfortunately, on April 7, 2025, Alberta's Public Safety and Emergency Services Minister Mike Ellis tabled Bill 49, the Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, which established the framework for the creation of a new provincial police force. This force would, if municipalities choose to use it, potentially replace the role that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) plays in many communities across the province. The Bill received Royal Assent on May 15 of this year.

USJE has once again partnered with PSAC and rebooted its campaign: [AlbertansForRCMP.ca](https://albertansforrcmp.ca).

USJE members are strongly encouraged to participate in the call to action and send a letter to Minister Ellis and their MLA.

USJE represents approximately 8000 federal public service employees (public safety personnel) in the RCMP. 875 of them proudly work in small and large communities in Alberta. Public service employees who work for the RCMP include individuals who support complex criminal investigations, data analysts who maintain Canada's sex offender registries and monitor illegal child pornography activity, professionals working in forensic labs, cybercrime units, as well as Detachment Service Assistants, human resource administrators, among a myriad of other roles.

Telecommunications operators represented by USJE are responsible for emergency communications, officer safety, and real-time coordination of resources in critical incidents, disasters, and national security threats. Additionally, Intercept Monitor Analysts provide intelligence gathering and surveillance support related to organized crime, counterterrorism, and threats to public safety.

Jeopardy and duplicity

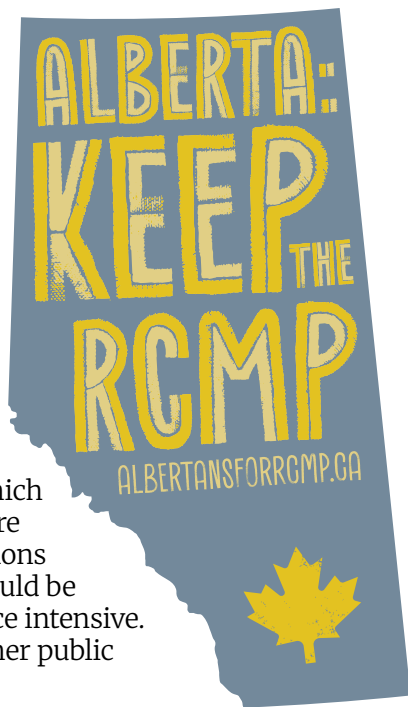
The government's main argument is that a new provincial police force would be more efficient and cost effective. However, a key report by PricewaterhouseCoopers undertaken in 2022 concluded that Alberta would have fewer trained officers at a higher cost under the proposed provincial police service!

USJE, among other stakeholders, fully anticipates that the recruitment and retention of experienced officers would prove very challenging. This would undoubtedly compromise the efficacy of policing in communities across Alberta.

In fact, it is not clear that Albertans want to sever their ties with the RCMP. The National Police Federation has reported that in previous public opinion surveys, **over 75 percent of residents in communities served by the RCMP are satisfied with the policing services provided by the RCMP.**

Further, the annual subsidy from the federal government to every province that contracts with the RCMP for local policing would likely be jeopardized. In Alberta, **this represents \$170 million that would no longer be available to help offset some of the costs of utilizing the RCMP within the province.**

Ultimately, the establishment of a new provincial police force would require massive investments in training, recruitment, infrastructure, equipment, IT systems, and operational logistics. The transition away from the RCMP, which has a very well established infrastructure and systems to support policing operations at the provincial and national levels, would be extremely time-consuming and resource intensive. It would likely divert resources from other public priorities.



The alternative

The mechanisms to enact change inside the RCMP to ensure that it has the resources and the personnel necessary to be a highly functioning police agency for the 21st century are already there. It is a question of priorities and the degree of collaboration between the federal and provincial governments.

Also, the reality is that, in many different sectors currently, **Canada is facing significant labour shortages**. It is in everyone's best interest to streamline recruitment and retention efforts and minimize intense competition between and among agencies.

A brand new provincial police force would need years, if not decades, of experience to ensure they could meet the needs of Albertans.

The regional, national and international responsibilities of the RCMP allow them to tackle the most complex problems that threaten the security of Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

We recognize that the RCMP has been underfunded for years. Only serious investments in the RCMP will create safer communities.



About Bill 49

The Alberta government adopted Bill 49 in May 2025, also known as “*The Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025*”.

Bill 49 proposes significant changes to emergency management and policing. It includes provisions for a new provincial police service and updates the definition of “emergency” under the Emergency Management Act. The bill allows the government to establish an independent agency police service (IAPS).

On July 2, the Government of Alberta formally launched its service, the Alberta Sheriffs Police Service, and announced its first chief, Calgary’s former deputy police chief, Sat Parhar.

The Province hasn’t explained how the force will work, how much it will cost, or how it will improve public safety.

What we do know is that **it has the potential to duplicate existing services, creates major uncertainty, and comes with a hefty price tag for taxpayers.**

Premier Danielle Smith also said that by creating the force, Alberta is preparing for the potential **termination of policing contracts** by the federal government in 2032. The Premier and Minister of Public safety have indicated that they would like Alberta’s new force to be a viable option for municipalities to replace the RCMP in 2032.



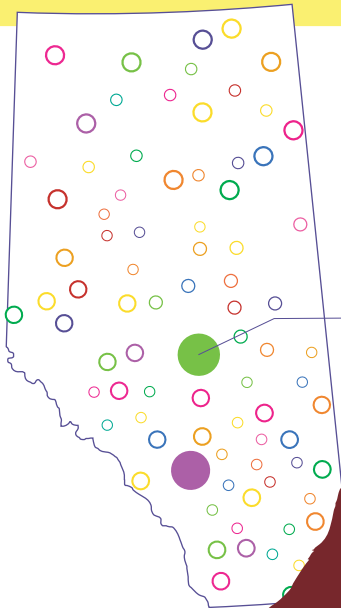
WE DON'T NEED TO IDENTIFY
A NEW POLICE FORCE

KEEP THE RCMP

ALBERTANSFORRCMP.CA

RCMP Alberta in numbers

USJE represents over **875** non-uniformed public safety personnel employed by the RCMP.



117
RCMP detachments
across the province

*1 RCMP Headquarters
located in Edmonton*



The RCMP operates
a **Police Dog Service
Training Centre**
(PDSTC) in Innisfail.

Do-right Alberta: Keep the RCMP

Bill 49, the Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, establishes the framework for a new provincial police force which would replace the role that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) plays in many communities across the province. With its adoption, **USJE is deeply concerned that it will jeopardize the safety and security of Albertans.**

Creating a new provincial police force would require massive investments in training, recruitment, infrastructure, equipment, IT systems, and operational logistics. The transition would be extremely time-consuming and resource intensive, and would likely divert resources from other public priorities.

We know that the RCMP has been underfunded for years.

- ▶ **Invest in the RCMP to create safer communities**
- ▶ **Repeal the Police Act of Bill C-49**
- ▶ **Enter into contract negotiations with the RCMP to improve services**