



Bonita Thornton, Interim Chairperson

- Effective October 5, 2021

MANDATE

- **Investigate**
 - Monitors and investigates complaints
 - Public Interest Investigations / Hearings
 - Reports findings / makes recommendations
- **Promote**
 - Military Police independence and professionalism
 - Best practices in policing

KEY FACTS

Independent, quasi-judicial, neutral oversight body

Reports directly to Parliament

Administrative tribunal - Not criminal / not disciplinary

Total Employees: 29

Budget: 4.7M

Primary location(s): 270 Albert Street, Ottawa

KEY PARTNERS

Internal:

Canadian Forces Provost Marshal (CFPM)
Judge Advocate General (JAG)
Chief of Defence Staff

External:

Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (CACOLE)

TOP THREE TO FIVE CHALLENGES IN THE FIRST 180 DAYS

Chairperson Selection Process

- Term of the former Chairperson ended on October 4, 2021;
- A process to identify a replacement started in January 2021 and is currently under way;
- The current Interim Chairperson is only able to act as the Chairperson on a part time basis.
- This could cause continuity issues in the Leadership of complaint investigations.

NDA Review

- 3rd Independent *National Defence Act* Review (by former Supreme Court Justice Fish) completed in June 2021.
- Previous reviews were 2011 and 2003.
- Justice Fish validated many concerns raised by the MPCC over the years, and called for action to strengthen Military Police oversight.
- Government accepted all recommendations in principle.
- MPCC is already working closely with the Department of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces stakeholders to implement the Review recommendations.

2015-005 Anonymous

- Involves alleged mistreatment of Afghan detainees by MP members during training, and the ensuing Canadian Forces National Investigation Service (CFNIS) investigation, which resulted in no charges being laid.
- After an extensive investigation, the MPCC determined that the CFNIS investigation was adequate and the decision not to lay charges was reasonable.
- In addition to various recommendations for the CFPM, the MPCC made a special recommendation to the MND which called on the Minister to assist the MPCC in gaining legislative changes necessary to improve our access to relevant information.
- Final Report issued 2 Sept 2021. Will be reissued once we receive the MND's response to the MPCC's recommendation.

2016-040 Beamish

- Involved historical allegations of torture and abuse of Canadian Forces trainees during battle school training in 1984.
- Mr. Beamish complained about the handling of the 2016 CFNIS investigation into these events.
- MPCC investigation determined that the abuse of the trainees did occur, but the decision to end the investigation without charges was reasonable, given the low probability of a conviction.
- MPCC's Final Report of 31 Aug 2021 included recommendation to MND to facilitate enhanced MPCC access to solicitor-client privileged, and personal, information.
- Report will be reissued after MND's response to the MPCC's recommendation is received.