

# Regina Board of Police Commissioners

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The Regina Board of Police Commissioners would like to nominate Ron Rasmussen as the recipient of the 2017 Emil Kolb Award for Excellence in Police Governance. Ron was a member of the Regina Board for 16 years, from 1998 to 2014, and throughout his time on the Board he was a valued member who was committed to providing the best possible police governance for the Regina Police Service.

Ron had worked with three Chiefs of Police and was involved in the recruitment and hiring of two of them. It should be noted that the Chiefs of Police for Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Weyburn are all former Regina Police Service members who developed through the ranks while Ron was on the Board.

As a long-time businessman in Regina, Ron understood that although the Regina Police Service (RPS) was a public service, it still had the pressures of operating like a business, with the accompanying economic and budgetary considerations. His strong engagement and commitment to understanding the role of police officers helped him contribute to the informed decisions the Board needed to make through the yearly budget cycle and during collective bargaining.

An important accomplishment during his time on the Board was the development and adoption of a new Police Pension Plan. This was in response to a pension plan that was no longer sustainable or affordable in its current state. The new Plan was developed with the features of both defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans, which was new and innovative for Canada.

When critical decisions were needed by the Board, he contributed in a respectful and positive way with a view to maintaining a valued and strong relationship with the police association. At the same time, Ron was passionate about preserving the good reputation of the Regina Police Service with the citizens of Regina. However supportive he was, he was still dedicated to never allowing the Regina Police Service to be put in a compromising position, whether it was by the Board, the Chief, the senior police executive or the front-line members.

Throughout his tenure, of special interest to Ron was the serious issue of impaired driving. He was resolute in ensuring that this was consistently being addressed and kept under control. He strongly supported and championed the various initiatives by Regina Police Service, and its partners, to reduce this dangerous problem.

In addition to Ron's continued work on the Board of Police Commissioners, he has been a dedicated volunteer in Regina, having served on a wide variety of organizations such as the Saskatchewan Film and Video Classification Board, the Regina United Way Board of Governors, the Social Development Grants Board for the City of Regina, and as Chair of the Saskatchewan Autobody Association.

Another important part of Ron's time on the Regina Board of Police Commissioners was as a member of the Canadian Association of Police Boards/Governance. He never missed the annual CAPB/CAPG Conferences and was an integral part of the planning committee for the highly successful CAPB Conference hosted by the Regina Board of Police Commissioners in 2011. Through his engagement at yearly conferences, he gained a wealth of knowledge of policing across Canada and valued the numerous opportunities for discussion and information sharing with colleagues and members from other provinces. The information, views and dialogue that he garnered from these conferences helped him to promote improved and enhanced governance of the Regina Police Service. Ron's participation at the conferences and at the yearly golf tournaments have resulted in longstanding and strong friendships that will continue to endure, even though he is no longer a Board member.

Most importantly, as a Board member, he was always approachable, open minded and genuinely interested in the men and women of the Regina Police Service. His interaction with RPS members was always respectful and he remained fair and just in his opinions, managing his distance if he had opposing views. Through his continued interaction with members, he challenged them to create ways to make things more efficient. Members viewed him as always having the best interest of the RPS at heart and this helped with the continual growth and improvement of the Regina Police Service. His knowledge and perspective was a welcome addition to any discussion and his openness to feedback was always appreciated.

Hearing from front-line officers during numerous ride-alongs, both in Regina and in various other cities in Saskatchewan and across Canada, provided valuable insight and knowledge about equipment needs, service delivery challenges and other issues that members face every day—the true dynamics of the police profession. On a lighter note, he was always ready to ease any pressure or tension with a sense of humour that was always appropriate, yet disarming at just the right time.

Many people misunderstand and misjudge Police and sometimes Police misunderstand and misjudge the governance provided by the Board. In Regina, we are fortunate to have a Board, Chief and Police Service that are respectful of each other and work well together. Through his work on the Board, Ron has played an important role in promoting effective communication and efficiencies in service. This collaboration has led to consistently high ratings in bi-yearly Community Perception Surveys which have helped the Board and Chief guide and affirm the Mission (Public Service First), Vision (Working together to keep Regina safe) and Values (Respectful Professional Service) of the Regina Police Service.

The President of the Regina Police Association said, "From Ron's passion for what we do in policing, he gave any member the message that we should be inspired with pride and motivation to be working for the Regina Police Service." That statement is confirmation of successful police governance and Ron has been a valuable part of that success in Regina.