

Frequently asked questions:

Enhanced security checks for policing committees

Enhanced security checks are now required for members of policing committees. This will lead to a more consistent approach to security checks across the province and help to keep employees and information safe.

<p>What is the rationale behind enhanced security checks?</p>	<p>A modern, robust security clearance framework will better ensure the integrity of Government of Alberta representatives, information, infrastructure, and reputation, and manage vulnerabilities to reduce the risk of compromise.</p> <p>All appointees should be properly vetted to ensure public trust in government institutions and processes, which in turn would improve public safety.</p> <p>Security incidents within Canada's public service community, including law enforcement, have demonstrated the importance of strong vetting practices reflected in the enhanced security clearance process.</p>
<p>Why are you doing this now?</p>	<p>The new Police Governance (Ministerial) Regulation requires members of municipal policing committees, regional policing committees, and joint municipal policing committees to pass an enhanced security check. The Government of Alberta (GoA) will take a standardized approach for enhanced security checks for all appointments to provincial governance bodies, including the Provincial Police Advisory Board. This ensures consistency and parity at all levels of police governance for the province. The GoA is currently updating their security clearance process/policy to reflect this change.</p>
<p>What screening processes do police governance bodies currently use?</p>	<p>Standard background checks include a 'conflict of interest' declaration and review, criminal records checks, and in some situations the verification of academic and professional credentials and a review of financial records.</p>
<p>What will the new enhanced clearance process involve?</p>	<p>Once identified by the municipality, the proposed appointee/applicant will complete the forms required for an enhanced security check. The proposed appointee/applicant will then return the completed forms to the GoA. The forms consist of a Consent and a Personal Information Declaration requiring personal identifying information for the purpose of security screening.</p> <p>The enhanced security check involves the above noted criminal records check in addition to further queries, namely a law enforcement inquiry/record check, an open-source inquiry, and in some situations a security interview. All the information provided by the applicant will be reviewed prior to determining whether they will be issued a certified security clearance.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this process may take between 30 – 90 days to complete, depending on the complexity.</p>

<p>How are the results of the checks shared?</p>	<p>A summary of findings will be provided to the applicant with a determination of whether the applicant has been cleared or not cleared. This document will not include any personal details aside from the general matters that were considered in the decision. The municipality will also be advised of the outcome of the clearance process.</p> <p>Initially the municipality will be responsible for the final decision and for informing the applicant. Once governance bodies have been established, the governance body should assume the responsibility for the enhanced security check process.</p>
<p>What are the costs associated with this program for municipalities?</p>	<p>There are currently no firm cost estimates to share. Following the initial establishment of these municipal, regional and joint municipal policing committees, the municipalities will be responsible for any ongoing costs associated with the enhanced security checks.</p> <p>Costs related to the issuance of the conflict-of-interest declaration and the official Oath (if any) will be the responsibility of the governance body and/or the municipality.</p>
<p>How long will it take to implement this program?</p>	<p>The Police Governance (Ministerial) Regulation comes into force on March 1, which will require that the screening process commence in accordance with this timeframe.</p> <p>There will be no penalty for municipalities who experience reasonable and expected delays as they work towards implementation.</p>
<p>Does this change apply to current members of oversight bodies or just to new appointees?</p>	<p>The new enhanced security check process currently applies to new appointees. In the future, it will be the responsibility of municipalities and existing governance bodies to align with the Police Governance (Ministerial) Regulation and the new enhanced security check requirements.</p>
<p>What about next steps?</p>	<p>For further information about the enhanced security check process please contact the Provincial Security Intelligence Office - Security Clearance Coordinator at SecurityClearanceCoordinator@gov.ab.ca. Please continue to direct general police governance inquiries to albertapolicegovernance@gov.ab.ca.</p>