

May 2026 PRC Update



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NEW format for *PRC Update*

We're trying out an in-email newsletter format for this edition of the *PRC Update*. This format is inbox-friendly, easier to scan, and more accessible with mobile devices and screen readers.

This edition of the *PRC Update* newsletter and previous issues are publicly available on our website. They provide regular organizational updates on areas such as policy, staffing, community engagements, and more. It's one of the ways we're striving to improve transparency and make information easier to access.

View the *PRC Update* on our website [here](#).

We welcome feedback or content suggestions for the *PRC Update*: prc@gov.ab.ca



Katherine Murphy named CEO of Alberta's Police Review Commission

The Government of Alberta has appointed Katherine Murphy as incoming chief executive officer of the Police Review Commission, as the agency continues to advance Alberta's independent, civilian-led police oversight work.

Murphy brings more than 15 years of senior leadership and regulatory experience to the PRC. A long-standing public servant, Murphy has led large, multi-disciplinary teams and has extensive experience as a civilian leader in law enforcement.

She is joining the PRC from the Calgary Police Service, where she served as chief strategy officer, leading the Bureau of Organizational Performance, which handles strategy, legal services, professional standards, finance, policy, intergovernmental relations, public affairs and communications.

"I am honoured to lead the Police Review Commission as it continues to grow and deliver on its important mandate," said Murphy. "I look forward to working with the team to ensure independent, fair and transparent oversight that strengthens trust between communities and police across Alberta."

Murphy's appointment comes at the next stage of the PRC's development.

Since launching in December 2025, the PRC has assumed responsibility for Alberta's police complaints and oversight framework under a single civilian-led structure. That mandate includes non-

criminal disciplinary matters and alternative dispute resolution, as well as investigations of potential criminal wrongdoing conducted by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT).

Throughout her career, Murphy has worked in senior leadership roles focused on governance, public accountability and complex regulatory systems.

Prior to joining the Calgary Police Service, Murphy served as chief of staff and corporate secretary of the Canada Energy Regulator. In that capacity, she provided strategic and governance support to the regulator's board of directors, CEO and Indigenous advisory committee. Murphy has also practiced law at two national law firms.

She holds a bachelor of laws from Dalhousie University, and a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Acadia University.

“Katherine Murphy brings deep leadership experience, strong governance credentials and a clear understanding of the importance of independence and accountability in police oversight,” said Mike Ellis, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services. “Her background positions her well to lead the Police Review Commission as it continues to mature and deliver on its mandate.”

Murphy is succeeding Michael Ewenson, who is leaving the PRC following his appointment to the Alberta Court of Justice.

Ewenson played a foundational role in establishing the organization during its launch and early operational period. Before becoming the PRC's first CEO, he led ASIRT, where he was widely recognized for improving investigative efficiency, reducing backlogs and advancing civilian police oversight in Alberta.

As the organization moves through this leadership transition, Murphy officially joins the PRC on June 8. Jessica Thomson, the executive director of the PRC's corporate services branch, will serve as acting CEO during the transition period.

Thomson has played a key role in the PRC's creation and operational growth, including helping lead implementation work ahead of the agency's launch. Prior to joining the PRC, Thomson held senior leadership roles within the Government of Alberta focused on public administration, organizational strategy and large-scale system implementation.

First quarterly data report released

We're pleased to share that we've distributed our first quarterly data report on April 17th. This report represents our first provincial snapshot, providing a comprehensive overview of oversight

activity and key metrics across jurisdictions for Q1 (Dec. 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026), along with additional month-by-month reporting on submissions, complaints and closures during the same four-month timeframe.

By consolidating this information into a single, consistent format, the report establishes a shared point of reference for understanding activity across jurisdictions and creates a clearer picture of how the system under the PRC is operating in practice.

We provide regular data reporting to police commission to support local oversight and awareness. Quarterly reports bring together provincewide data, highlighting early observations and identifying trends where sufficient data exists.

While the report provides a strong foundation, it also marks the beginning of a broader and more detailed public reporting approach. As the system matures and more data becomes available, future reports will expand in scope to include deeper analysis, trends where appropriate, and outcomes.

Quarterly reports are published on our website [here](#).

PRC DATA REPORT

DEC. 1, 2025 TO MARCH 31, 2026

Police Review Commission
Date of Release: April 16, 2026



OVERVIEW: SUBMISSIONS

A provincewide view of submission volume, initiation methods and entry points

Overall, the data shows a system that is accessible and actively used by the public.

Submissions and complaints are concentrated in Calgary and Edmonton, which aligns with population distribution.

Most submissions are received through the online portal, representing about three-quarters of intake, while email and voicemail are used less frequently. These early results are consistent with pre-launch expectations and provide a foundation as the system continues to mature.

[Find definitions on Page 13](#)

Point of Entry

Website: 764
Submitted through the PRC portal

Email: 110
Sent to prccomplaints@gov.ab.ca

1,030

Total Number of Submissions

A submission is an initial contact from a member of the public.

Once reviewed by the PRC, it is considered a complaint if it meets the requirements set out in the *Police Act*.

Initiation Method

Public (1,014) 98%

Chief-Initiated (15) 1.4%

PRC CEO-Initiated (1) 0.5%



Four new CEO rules released

We have released four new CEO rules to provide greater clarity, consistency and transparency in how police complaints are handled.

CEO rules set out how the PRC carries out its work under provincial legislation. They help explain what people involved in complaints — including police officers, complainants and the public — can expect as complaints are assessed, investigated and resolved.

The four recently-released rules focus on communication, timelines and respectful engagement during the complaint process:

- **Status Updates to Subject Officers** clarifies when and how subject officers will receive updates about the status of a complaint, supporting fairness and procedural transparency.
- **Non-communication Direction for Involved Officers in Level 3 Complaints** sets out when the PRC may direct involved officers not to communicate with one another during serious investigations, helping preserve the integrity of the investigative process.
- **Timeline for Explanatory Reports and Interviews** establishes clear timelines for officers and other involved persons to provide reports or attend interviews, supporting timely and efficient investigations.
- **Managing Unreasonable Conduct in Interactions with the PRC** outlines how the PRC may respond when interactions pose safety risks to staff or undermine the fair and effective administration of the complaints process.

Under the *Police Act* and the Police Conduct and Oversight Regulation, the CEO has authority to establish rules that govern the PRC's processes and procedures. These rules are publicly available and are binding on those to whom they apply.

When the CEO releases a rule, it means the PRC is formally setting out how a specific part of the complaints process will operate in practice. CEO rules do not change the law, but they provide clear guidance on how the PRC applies legislation to ensure consistency, accountability and public confidence in Alberta's police oversight system.

Review the full rules on our website [here](#).



PRC meets with municipal police commissions in Calgary, Edmonton and Lacombe

We recently held meetings with the Calgary Police Commission, Edmonton Police Commission, and Lacombe Police Commission to answer questions, hear local perspectives and better understand what policing and oversight look like on the ground.

The PRC team met with the Edmonton and Calgary commissions virtually to accommodate schedules, but we were pleased to meet the Lacombe Police Commission and Chief Jason Dobirstein of the Lacombe Police Service in person on May 5 (pictured above). Thank you to everyone who took the time to meet with us and share their insights and experiences.



Previewing 180 milestone reports

The Police Conduct and Oversight Regulation sets an expectation that the PRC makes reasonable efforts to resolve complaints within 180 days of categorization. In practice, this timeline begins once a submission has been reviewed and determined to meet the requirements of a complaint.

The PRC operates under a number of published CEO rules that further define the agency's obligations and responsibilities contained in legislation. The CEO rule [“Public Reporting when Investigations Exceed 180 Days”](#) requires the PRC to publish a quarterly report on its website that specifies the number of investigations that exceeded the 180-day timeline. The rule also requires the PRC to specify the reasons why cases exceeded the 180-day timeline by listing the number of cases that fall under five specified categories:

- capacity and resource constraints
- evidence-related delays (internal to the PRC)
- evidence-related delays (external to the PRC)
- legal or procedural intersections
- other

PRC overview video released

We recently developed a short animated video explaining the PRC's jurisdiction and the process for filing a complaint. It now has a prominent place on the front page of our [website](#), and we've shared it via our social media accounts as a way of increasing the public's awareness of the PRC and what we do. As part of our work to support community partners and their efforts to direct citizen concerns and complaints to the PRC, we are happy to share the video with other organizations for use on their websites and social media channels. To download a copy of the video for your own purposes, click the three vertical dots on the bottom right corner of the video player, then Download.



PRC marks Canadian Mental Health Week

The PRC's internal wellness committee marked Mental Health Week (May 4-10) with a series of staff events including guest speakers, wellness moments with leadership, and visits from pet therapy animals in both Edmonton and Calgary.



PRC's Shahleen Premji presents at design hackathon

Shahleen Premji, Manager, Policy and Planning was recently a guest speaker and stakeholder at an IxDF - Interaction Design Foundation-led design hackathon at Edmonton Unlimited.

Shahleen shared a real-world public policy challenge, and spoke about her work in supporting a new police complaints system. From there, six teams of UX designers explored different “How might we” questions centred around awareness, intake, and tracking, rapidly prototyping solutions using just paper and simple materials.

In just a few hours, participants produced thoughtful, creative, and human-centred concepts, then tested them with users, coaches and with stakeholders.

We’re excited to see PRC expertise shared in community learning spaces, especially when it helps translate complex accountability and policy work into human-centred service ideas.

Work with us

As an arm's-length Government of Alberta organization, PRC staff have access to the same benefits and training as other employees of the Alberta Public Service. Additionally, the PRC has internal social and wellness committees, and multiple learning opportunities. If you’re passionate about transparency and accountable policing, explore the PRC’s employment opportunities [here](#).

