



POLICY *Brief*



JOHNSON
SHOYAMA

REFORMING THE RCMP: THE PATH FORWARD

By:

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Policy Brief: CONTEXT

- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has enjoyed iconic status
- Seen as an important national institution, recognized internationally
- In recent years the RCMP has faced what are seen as operational failures
- A series of reports have focused on troubling issues:
 1. Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Commission
 2. Rouleau Inquiry into Emergency Powers Act
 3. Bastarache Report into sexual harassment
- Issues go beyond leadership to structural
- A vast mandate, largely unchanged over a century
- It is time to rethink and refashion the RCMP's role?

POLICY BRIEF: CONSIDERATIONS

- The RCMP has been an important Canadian brand
- Serves a crucial policing function at the provincial level
- Regarded as part of the Canadian fabric
- Its presence serves as a cornerstone in countless communities
- Plays an integral role in reconciliation with Indigenous people
- Past attempts to reform RCMP cultural issues have been unsuccessful
- Recent polling shows declining public trust in the RCMP

“Unless we know that the RCMP recognizes it’s in trouble, and has a vision about how to get out of trouble, then I’m afraid that we’re just going to see this slow erosion.” – Kent Roach, U of T Law professor

Policy Brief: Discussion Questions

Do you believe that the RCMP policing model works well for Canada?

Whether yes or no, give reasons for your opinion.

What are key considerations in reaching a policy recommendation on its future?

Can issues of trust be resolved in its current model?