



# Chapter 1: Overview of Ethical and Professional Conduct

---

- A historical overview of the values, beliefs, and expectations that have evolved in Canada to shape the relationship between the community, the law enforcement agency, and the individuals that represent that agency is presented in this chapter.
- This chapter also outlines the expected ethical and professional conduct by law enforcement in Canada.

# Chapter 1:

## Learning Objectives

---

- Discuss the historical background of ethical conduct and professionalism in law enforcement
- Discuss how Sir Robert Peel has influenced modern policing and law enforcement in Canada
- Explain how to properly respond to an ethical dilemma
- Explain how to foster ethics and professionalism in the law enforcement workplace

# The History and Development of Professional Law Enforcement



---

- Contemporary Canadian law enforcement is based upon the London Metropolitan Police in England and the principles established by Sir Robert Peel in 1829.
- Peel set high standards for both the selection of recruits and the level of training provided.
- One of his goals was to create a legitimate and professional police agency that was void of corruption and treated individuals in a fair manner.



# Peel's Principles of 1829

---

1. Prevent crime and disorder
2. Ability to perform duties dependent upon public approval
3. Voluntary public compliance
4. Cooperation diminishes with use of force
5. Demonstrate impartial service



# Peel's Principles of 1829

---

6. Physical force is limited
7. Public trust: Police are the public and public are the police
8. Police focus upon their duties and not to interfere with the judiciary
9. The test of police efficacy is the absence of crime and disorder

# Standards of Ethical Law Enforcement in Canada



---

- Safety and security
  - Fair access
  - Public trust
  - Transparency and accountability
  - Teamwork
  - Objectivity
- Sample (for review purposes only)*



# Private Security and Ethics

---

- Canada private security officers outnumber public police officers by a ratio of 3 to 2
- Private security represents an integral component of public safety
- Provincial laws regulate security personnel and agencies, providing guidelines and expectations with regards to training, licensing, oversight, and conduct of officers



# Discretion, Power, and Public Service

---

- Discretion

- The power granted to officers to make decisions according to their judgment and the unique circumstances they face at any given time.

- Power

- Officers may arrest, detain, search, seize, and question individuals in order to enforce laws and maintain peace for a safe society.





# Discretion, Power, and Public Service

---

## ■ Public Service

- Society places public trust in law enforcement to carry out their duties – granting officers special powers and privileges.
- Public trust requires that all public officials be held to a higher standard than those they serve.



# Morality and Contemporary Society

---

- Paradox of contemporary society
- Morality and criminal law
  - Is there a difference?
- Morality and justice
  - Societal expectations
- Responding to ethical concerns

# Why Does Misconduct and Corruption Occur?



---

- Police deviancy exists in various forms and in various degrees.
  - Rotten apples, Rotten barrels, Rotten orchards
- Today, the number of misconduct incidents is very small in contrast to the number of interactions. Similar to other occupations.
  - Public expectations and scrutiny of officer activities are high. Issues of accountability and transparency.



# Responding to Ethical Concerns in Law Enforcement

---

- Staying on course: A focus on ethical decision making
- Responding to an ethical dilemma
- Leadership
- Fostering ethics in the workplace



# Steps in Responding to an Ethical Dilemma

---

1. Review all of the facts, and then identify the relevant values of the groups or individuals involved.
2. Identify all of the moral issues, and make note of those that are most important to the situation at hand.
3. Resolve the dilemma by making a decision that is based on sound reasoning and in accordance with the core values and policies of your organization.

(Evans & MacMillan, 2014)



# Chapter Summary

---

- The high expectations placed upon law enforcement have been shaped largely by Canadian society, ensuring that officers are held accountable for their actions.
- The very nature of law enforcement duties allows officers with opportunities to engage in unprofessional or unethical behaviour.
- Ethics and professionalism remain the responsibility of the individual officer, the law enforcement agency, and the community.