

# NCPE FAQ for Key Decision-Makers

GOVERNMENT · POLICY · PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERS

A comprehensive overview of the National Centre for Police Excellence – addressing the critical questions facing government officials, policymakers, and public safety leaders across Canada.

## Public Trust Decline

From 74% → 58% between 2018–2023. A national education standard is urgently needed.

## Annual Police Spending

Canada spends approximately **\$19.7 billion** annually on policing – yet outcomes remain inconsistent.

## Fragmented System

No national standard for entry-level academic preparation leads to uneven ethical grounding and readiness.

## What Problem Is the NCPE Designed to Solve?

Canada's police education system is fragmented, with no national standard for entry-level academic preparation. This results in inconsistent readiness, uneven ethical grounding, and disparities in public trust – particularly among Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities.

<b>Inconsistent Readiness</b> Officers enter service with vastly different levels of academic and ethical preparation depending on their province or institution.	<b>Uneven Ethical Grounding</b> Without a shared curriculum framework, ethical standards vary widely – creating accountability gaps across jurisdictions.	<b>Eroded Public Trust</b> Confidence gaps persist especially among Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities who bear the greatest impact of inconsistent policing.
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## Why Is a National Approach Necessary Now?

<b>74%</b> Trust in 2018 Public confidence in policing before the decline began	<b>58%</b> Trust in 2023 A significant drop reflecting growing community concerns	<b>\$19.7B</b> Annual Spend Canada's yearly policing budget – demanding better coordinated outcomes
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Confidence gaps persist across communities. Police spending is high, yet outcomes are inconsistent. A coordinated education model improves efficiency, trust, and accountability.

## What Is the National Centre for Police Excellence (NCPE)?

An independent, federally supported research and advisory body designed to elevate the standard of police education across Canada.

<b>Standardized Curricula</b> Develops national police education curricula grounded in evidence and ethics	<b>Academic Partnerships</b> Partners with universities and colleges across Canada to deliver consistent programming
<b>Evidence-Based Learning</b> Promotes research-driven, ethics-first approaches to police education	<b>National Repository</b> Maintains a living repository of best practices accessible to all institutions

## How Is NCPE Different from Police Academies or Training Colleges?

<b>NCPE</b> <b>Focuses on education - the “why”</b> Does not deliver instruction directly Supports existing institutions Respects provincial jurisdiction	<b>POLICE ACADEMIES &amp; TRAINING COLLEGES</b> <b>Focuses on training - the “how”</b> Delivers direct instruction Operates independently Governed by provincial authority
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The NCPE focuses on **education** – the “why” behind policing – rather than operational training. It does not replace existing institutions but supports and elevates them, while fully respecting provincial jurisdiction over education and policing.

## What Are the Expected Policy and System-Level Benefits?

<b>National Consistency</b> Uniform police education standards across all provinces and territories	<b>Improved Public Trust</b> Greater legitimacy and accountability in policing through better-prepared officers	<b>Reduced Duplication</b> Eliminates redundant curriculum development efforts across provinces enhancing efficiency
<b>Better Recruitment &amp; Retention</b> Recruitment will be easier when citizens have increased trust of their police. Retention will be better because of improved self-health skill and a better working environment	<b>Lower Long-Term Costs</b> Fewer complaints, legal claims, and oversight costs over time	

## How Does NCPE Align with Federal Priorities?

<b>Public Safety Modernization</b> Directly supports <a href="#">Public Safety Canada's modernization agenda</a> for 21st-century policing	<b>Truth &amp; Reconciliation</b> Responds to <a href="#">TRC Calls to Action 57 and 94</a> , embedding Indigenous perspectives in police education
<b>Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion</b> Advances federal EDI strategies through culturally grounded, anti-racist curriculum design	<b>Community-Centered Policing</b> Supports models that prioritize community relationships, de-escalation, and trust-building

## What Role Do Provinces and Indigenous Governments Play?

Provinces and Indigenous governments **retain full authority** over training delivery, policing governance, and education systems. The NCPE complements – never replaces – these roles by providing national coordination and research support.

<b>Provincial Authority</b> Full control over training delivery, policing governance, and local education systems remains with provinces	<b>Indigenous Sovereignty</b> Indigenous governments retain governance over their communities' policing and education priorities	<b>NCPE's Role</b> Provides national coordination, research, and curriculum frameworks that complement existing authority
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## How Will Indigenous and Community Perspectives Be Integrated?

<b>Co-Development with Indigenous Leaders</b> Curriculum is developed in partnership with Indigenous educators, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers – not designed for them, but with them and by them.	<b>Inclusive Voices</b> BIPOC, gender-diverse, and lived-experience voices are embedded throughout the curriculum design and governance process.	<b>Grounded in Cultural Safety</b> All curricula are rooted in <a href="#">cultural safety principles</a> , treaty rights recognition, and anti-racism frameworks.
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## What Is Meant by Competency-Based Education?

A model focused on **demonstrated abilities** rather than classroom hours – aligned with the [Police Sector Council's National Competency Framework](#).

<b>Ethical Decision-Making</b> Officers demonstrate sound judgment in complex, high-stakes situations	<b>Communication &amp; De-escalation</b> Proven ability to resolve conflict through dialogue and measured response
<b>Crisis Response</b> Competency in managing mental health, trauma, and high-pressure scenarios	<b>Cultural Competency</b> Demonstrated understanding of diverse communities, histories, and lived experiences

## How Will Success Be Measured?

<b>1</b> <b>Public Trust Indicators</b> Tracked improvement in community confidence in policing across all demographics	<b>2</b> <b>Reduced Complaints</b> Measurable decline in severity and type of use-of-force incidents and formal complaints against officers
<b>3</b> <b>Graduate Competency</b> Consistent demonstration of core competencies by graduates across all jurisdictions	<b>4</b> <b>Recruitment &amp; Retention</b> Increased rates of officer recruitment, career longevity, and leadership advancement <a href="#">Read this still relevant older paper</a>

## What Are the Financial Implications?

<b>Initial Investment Required</b> Federal seed funding is needed to establish the NCPE's governance structure, research capacity, and curriculum development infrastructure. This is a <b>strategic investment</b> – not an ongoing operational cost – with returns measured in system-wide efficiency gains.	<b>Long-Term Savings Expected</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced duplication in curriculum development across provinces</li> <li>Fewer legal costs and oversight expenditures</li> <li>More efficient use of the ~\$20B annual policing budget</li> <li>Lower costs from reduced complaints and use-of-force incidents</li> </ul>
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## What Governance Model Ensures an Effective NCPE?

<b>Federally Supported but Operationally Independent</b> Government funding without government control	<b>Academic and Community-Led Governance</b> Board of educators, leaders, and Indigenous representatives	<b>Transparent Evaluation and Public Reporting</b> Regular public reports and independent audits
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✔ The NCPE governance model is designed to ensure credibility, independence, and accountability – building the trust of both government partners and the communities policing serves. Read more at <https://ncpe.info> Phone us at: +1587.955.6171