

CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF POLICE THE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT: *The presentation will be a general overview of the framework of civilian oversight of municipal police forces in Canada. After a brief discussion of the history of the modern day police force, the three branches of civilian oversight will be described and discussed: Police Boards (governance), Office of Police Complaints Commissioner (complaints against police) and Independent Investigation Office (criminal investigation of police). Each branch of oversight will be discussed in the context of a specific case study. The consistent theme will be Sir Robert Peel's vision that "we are the police; the police are us" and demonstrating why this theme is essential to the success of modern society as well as policing itself.*

KEYWORDS: *civilian oversight, police, police boards, overview, complaints, investigation, Canada, Peel*

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