

Bill #5
The Law Enforcement Democratization Act
Moved by: Minister of Finance

WHEREAS the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “[t]he will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures”¹; and

WHEREAS police forces in Canada are authorized by government²; and

WHEREAS the behavior of Canadian police forces does not always align with the will of the people, regularly harming marginalized or vulnerable communities.³

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Act is to
 - 1) Establish **COPPER** with the mandate set out in Clause (4).
 - 2) Dismantle the current system of law enforcement by eliminating all municipal police forces.
 - 3) Create a new system of law enforcement, in which the heads of police forces are elected democratically by the constituents of the communities they police.
 - 4) Facilitate a level playing field in police force elections by providing resources for all candidates running in each constituency.

Definitions

- 2 The following terms shall be defined for the purposes of this Act:
 - (1) **Police force**: Any municipal, provincial, or federal law enforcement organization.
 - (2) **Police department**: An individual office of a police force, working under the mandate of that police force.
 - (3) **Head of the police force**: An individual serving as the highest-ranking salaried employee of a police force, who is accountable for the operations of that police force.

COPPER Established

- 3 The Community Organized Police for the Protection and Empowerment of Residents [**COPPER**] agency is hereby established.

Mandate and Powers

- 4 The mandate of **COPPER** is to organize the creation and maintenance of democratically elected police forces for every federal riding.

¹ United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, Article 21.

² Criminal Code of Canada, S.C. 1985, c. 46.

³ Wally T. Oppal, *Forsaken: The Report of the Missing Women Commission*, November 19, 2012, <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Forsaken-Vol-2B-web-RGB.pdf>.

- 5 **COPPER** shall be responsible for
- (1) All capital and operational expenditures related to the creation of new police forces.
 - (2) The reassignment of current police officers to newly created democratic police forces.
 - (3) Organizing local elections for each new democratic police force.
 - (4) Providing resources to candidates participating in police force elections.

Creation of Democratic Police Forces

- 6 All current police forces will be disbanded immediately.
- 7 A new democratic police force [**DPF**] will be created to serve each federal riding in Canada.
- 8 All current police officers shall have their contracts terminated immediately, and shall be automatically re-hired to serve in non-managerial roles in a newly created **DPF**.
- 9 **COPPER** shall hire and assign interim heads of police forces, heads of police departments, and all other managerial roles, to serve in each **DPF** until the first **COPPER** election takes place.
- 10 Any laws applying to disbanded police forces shall apply to each **DPF**, unless they conflict with this Act.

Election Procedures

- 11 The head of the police force, and the head of each police department for a **DPF** shall be chosen by a popular vote of the eligible voters in the riding.
- (1) To be eligible to vote in a **COPPER** election, an individual must be a resident of the riding, and be over the age of 18.
 - (2) Elections must be held no more than four years from the date of the previous election.
- 12 Each candidate must be a Canadian citizen and meet the following criteria:
- (1) Present a list of at least 500 signatures of eligible voters who intend to support the candidate in the election.
 - (2) Have announced their candidacy to **COPPER** at least three weeks prior to the election date.
- 13 **COPPER** shall be responsible for informing all eligible voters in a riding of the names and platforms of each candidate in an election, as soon as their candidacy is confirmed.
- 14 **COPPER** shall provide each candidate with the resources necessary to run their campaign, including but not limited to:
- (1) Designated campaign staff employed by **COPPER**.
 - (a) **COPPER** shall provide a number of campaign staff it deems necessary to each candidate, to ensure voters are properly informed.
 - (2) A campaign fund.
 - (a) **COPPER** shall provide a campaign fund large enough to meet the needs of each candidate, to ensure voters are properly informed.
 - (b) This campaign fund shall be equal for all candidates in the election.

Responsibilities of Heads of Police Forces and Heads of Departments

- 15 The head of the police force, and heads of departments in each **DPF** shall be responsible for appointing any officers they will directly supervise.
- (1) Notwithstanding Clause (15), the head of the police force may not appoint the head of a police department.
 - (2) In cases of overlapping supervision, the head of a police department may overrule the head of a police force in determining which officer to appoint to a position.