

# WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE POLICE?

***Are you in trouble with the police?***

Check out Further Resources for:

- free confidential legal advice for youth under 18
- information about your rights with the police

## **Police Boards:**

Most, if not all, police services in Canada answer to a police board. Police boards make recommendations about policies and rules that should change.

For example, in some places, police boards recommended to their police chiefs that police stop the use of carding (stopping individuals on the street and asking them for identification) until better laws could be put in place that make sure the practice is less discriminatory.

## **Complaints Commissions:**

An ethics and/or complaints commission investigates complaints against police. For instance, if someone thinks that a police officer was rude to them or discriminated against them, this is where they can complain. Usually, a complaint has to be filed with these commissions within a certain time period – for instance, within six months of the time that the event occurred that you're complaining about. For the RCMP, the complaints commission is here: <http://www.cpc-cpp.gc.ca/>.

## **Investigative Bodies:**

For more serious issues, like where the police seriously hurt somebody, there are organizations that investigate the incident. Not all provinces and police services have these kinds of investigative bodies. For example, there is no investigative organization set up to investigate the RCMP as a whole. Instead, the organizations that investigate the RCMP will vary according to each province.

For a list of the complaints commissions and investigative bodies by province, go to our Further Resources page.