

Providing Safe and Secure Communities

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Report recommends significant changes to modernize private security legislation

Edmonton... Setting higher standards of accountability and professionalism form the basis of recommendations to update the law guiding Alberta's private security industry.

The proposed changes are contained in a report by Calgary-Foothills MLA Len Webber who chaired the review of the 40-year-old *Private Investigators and Security Guards Act*. The findings are based on extensive consultations with organizations and associations including security guard companies, private investigators, and locksmiths as well as police services. The 27 recommendations cover such areas as licensing criteria, standardized training and strengthening qualifications for those who wish to enter the security industry.

"Over the past four decades individuals and companies have taken greater steps to protect themselves and their property," said Webber. "These recommendations reflect the important role played by today's security industry to enhance the safety and security of our communities."

Other recommendations from the review include:

- improving accountability through auditing and inspections;
- streamlining licence renewals; and
- requiring uniforms and vehicle markings that clearly distinguish security companies from law enforcement.

"Updating the legislation to improve standards and accountability will help promote confidence in the industry and the people who provide this service to Albertans," said Fred Lindsay, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. "These recommendations will provide good guidance to government as we look at updating this legislation. Further stakeholder consultations will be held to get feedback on the recommendations. I'm working to bring forward changes to the legislation this fall."

Approximately 6,000 licensed security guards and licensed security guard companies, and 900 licensed private investigators and agencies currently operate in Alberta. In addition, more than 2,400 locksmiths and individuals requiring vehicle entry tools are licensed under the *Act*.

A copy of the report can be found at: www.solgps.gov.ab.ca

This review supports Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to provide safe and secure communities. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, manage growth pressures, improve Albertans' quality of life and build a stronger Alberta.