

### **Leanne J. Fitch – as of June 2020 Bio**

Leanne Fitch was appointed to the position of Vice Chair of the RCMP Management Advisory Board for the Federal Government in June 2019 after retiring from more than 33 plus years in municipal policing. Leanne served seven years as Chief of Police for the Fredericton Police Force, and seven years as Deputy Chief after spending twenty years in a broad range of front-line operational policing roles including: Patrols, Street Crime, and Detective in Family Services section of Criminal Investigations. She served as Training Officer, Media Liaison, Platoon Supervisor and Special Munitions Leader for Crowd Management Team.

Leanne is a graduate of Fredericton High School class of '81, the Ontario Police College and holds both a Bachelor and Masters degrees from the University of New Brunswick. She is a lifelong learner who has completed many specialized police related courses over the years at the Atlantic Police Academy, Canadian Police College and Dalhousie University. While working with the Force, she taught part time as an Instructor in the Department of Criminology with St. Thomas University from 1998 to 2004. Leanne is a published author on topics including Community Policing, Organizational Change, Intimate Partner Violence, and other police-related topics and has presented locally, nationally and internationally.

Leanne was named officer of the year for both the Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement (AWLE) and the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) in 2002 and 2003, respectively. She has earned her Police Officers' Exemplary Service medal from the Government of Canada, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal and the Member of the Order of Merit for the Police Forces (M.O.M) from the Governor General of Canada. Leanne is a member of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) and International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Public Relations Lead for the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) and member and former executive board member of AWLE and the Atlantic Regional Coordinator for IAWP. Leanne was inducted into the New Brunswick Crime Prevention Hall of Fame and was recognized as a NB Pride Hero.

Leanne is committed to improving professionalism, compassion, ethics and community collaboration and crime prevention in the field of policing. She is the past Atlantic representative on the Permanent Working Group for Criminal Intelligence Services Canada and recent past Chair and vice-chair of the Provincial Executive Committee for Criminal Intelligence Service NB. She is the past co-chair of CACP Crime Prevention, Community Safety and Wellbeing Committee where she was instrumental in the development of the CACP National Framework for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Leanne is a former roundtable member for the Provincial Department of Public Safety on Crime Reduction and Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence and former member of the NB Domestic Violence Death Review Committee. She is the past co-chair and current committee member for Safe for Pets Too....In Transition with You; founder and previous Chair of FPF Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee; founder and current Co-Chair of the Fredericton Police Force (FPF) Pride Committee. Chief Fitch has served as Aide De Camp for three Lieutenant Governors of New Brunswick. She has been a community volunteer throughout her career and supports a variety of not-for-profit organizations.

As a gay woman and the first female Chief of Police in Atlantic Canada and only 13<sup>th</sup> in our Country's history in 2013. Leanne has many insights into policing, diversity, inclusion, and public safety. With her resilience, compassion, professionalism, and experience Leanne is enjoying her new life chapter that includes her work with the RCMP, writing her memoir, public speaking, and

pro bono work with various organizations. She and her wife Sara live on a hobby farm in rural NB.