

CHAPTER 1

Introduction to the Security Industry

TOPICS

This chapter covers the following topics:

- 1.1** Structure and Role of Police Services in Canada
- 1.2** Difference Between Private Security and Public Police
- 1.3** Occupations Within the Security Profession
- 1.4** Security Guard Duties
- 1.5** The Legal Authority of Security Guards

Structure and Role of Police Services in Canada

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Describe the role of the police in Canada	(CGSB 12.3.b)
Describe the authority of the police in the enforcement of law and the maintenance of order on public and private property	(CGSB 12.3.c)
Describe the organizational structure of police forces in Canada	(CGSB 12.3.a)

Need to Know

In Canada, public **police officers** carry out activities that:

- prevent crime,
- detect crime,
- catch those who break the law,
- enforce laws,
- maintain public order, and
- protect people and their property from harm or loss.

The main role of the police is to enforce the law.

There are several different kinds of police forces in Canada. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is our federal police force. In some provinces—such as British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba—the provincial government hires the RCMP to serve as the provincial police as well. Other provinces have separate provincial police forces, such as the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in Ontario. While many Canadian cities and

municipalities have their own municipal police forces, some hire the provincial police to serve as the municipal police. In very small towns and rural areas across Canada, the provincial police are usually the only police, though some have their own small police departments.

Although there are variations among police forces in Canada, the basic rank structure in most is more or less the same. Most of the uniformed police officers who carry out police patrol duties hold the basic rank of constable, while the officers who provide direct supervision to groups of other officers on a day-to-day basis may hold the rank of sergeant. Officers who conduct investigations are called detectives, and may either be detective–constables or hold higher ranks. Police officers who hold the rank of staff-sergeant or higher carry out administrative and executive leadership roles. The most senior officer in most police organizations is called the chief constable, or just chief of police. The head of the OPP and the head of the RCMP are both called commissioner.

SAMPLE QUESTION 1

Most uniformed police officers in Canada hold the rank of:

- (a) detective
- (b) sergeant
- (c) staff-sergeant
- (d) officer
- (e) constable

Difference Between Private Security and Public Police

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Describe the difference between private security and the police

(BC 2)

Need to Know

The role of a **security guard** is different from that of a police officer. The main role of a police officer is to enforce the law. The main role of a security guard is to provide protection against harm or loss. Police serve the community as a whole. Security guards provide their services for the benefit of a specific employer or client. Police officers are public law enforcement officers. Security guards are private employees with no special status or authority under law.

Security guards provide protection against harm to or loss of:

- people
- property and buildings
- movable goods and assets, including money
- information
- their employers' reputations
- their employers' general interests.

There is considerable overlap between the work done by the police and the work done by private security. Like security, police play a role in protecting people and their property from harm or loss, and security sometimes provide assistance to the police in the task of enforcing the law. In many places and in many ways, police and private security work closely together.

(For more information on how private security work with police, see Chapter 12.)

A police officer or law enforcement officer has a duty to enforce the law, but a private security guard does not. A private security guard is not a law enforcement officer. Under certain circumstances, security guards have the legal *authority* to act in the enforcement of the law and carry out acts such as making arrests, but they have no legal *duty* to do so.

There is an exception to the general rule that private security guards have no duty to act in the enforcement of the law. Under s. 129 of the *Criminal Code* of Canada, it is a **criminal offence** for a security guard to either obstruct the police in their efforts to enforce the law or fail—without reasonable excuse—to assist a police officer in carrying out his or her duty after having reasonable notice that he or she is required to do so.

Some private security guards are given appointments—such as special constable appointments—that result in them being security guards and law enforcement officers at the same time.

SAMPLE QUESTION 2

The difference between the role of public police and the role of private security is:

- (a) Police officers can carry firearms while security guards cannot.
- (b) Police officers can make arrests while security guards cannot.
- (c) Police officers enforce the law on behalf of the public while private security guards provide protection against harm or loss to a particular employer.
- (d) Security guards can go onto private property but police officers cannot.
- (e) Police officers can investigate both federal and provincial offences but security guards can only investigate provincial offences.

Occupations Within the Security Profession

LEARNING OUTCOMES

List the types of jobs that security professionals could do (BC 2)

Describe and compare the different jobs in the security industry (ON 1)

Need to Know

Some of the different occupations within the private security field include:

- security guard;
- door person (“bouncer”) (primary duty is to control access to an establishment where alcohol is served);
- retail loss prevention officer (primary duty is to catch people who are trying to steal from a store);
- close protection guard (“bodyguard”) (primary duty is to protect a particular person from violent attacks by others);
- armoured car guard (primary duty is to transport cash and/or valuables from one place to another using an armoured vehicle);
- pre-board screening guard (primary duty is to screen people and luggage in order to keep weapons and explosives off airplanes);
- private investigator;
- security consultant;
- alarm installer; and
- locksmith.

Security guards can be assigned to carry out a variety of different occupational functions, including:

- fire watch (guard is assigned to remain in a particular location or patrol a particular building or structure for the primary purpose of raising alarm if a fire breaks out);
- **fixed post static site duty** (guard is assigned to carry out security duties while remaining at a particular “post,” such as the front desk of a building, a gatehouse, or a security control room);
- **static site patrol duty** (guard is assigned to work on a particular “site” or property that is being protected but will patrol around the property in order to carry out his or her duties);
- mobile vehicle patrol;
- bicycle patrol;
- alarm monitoring;
- alarm response;
- dog handler; and
- bylaw enforcement officer.

The term **contract security** refers to security guards (and/or other security professionals) who are employed by security businesses to provide security services to others on a contract basis. The terms **proprietary security** and **in-house security** refer to security guards (and/or other security professionals) who work directly for and provide security services to employers who are not security businesses.

SAMPLE QUESTION 3

Which of the following is not an occupation within the private security profession?

- (a) locksmith
- (b) alarm installer
- (c) private investigator
- (d) customs officer
- (e) retail loss prevention officer

Security Guard Duties

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Give examples related to the protection of people from the security duties defined in this topic	(CGSB 2.3.a)
Give examples related to the protection of property from the security duties defined in this topic	(CGSB 2.3.b)
List the basic duties of security professionals	(BC 2)
List the types of incidents to which security professionals might have to respond	(BC 2)
Describe the basic elements of security	(ON 3)
Describe the different duties of security guards	(MB 1, SK 2)
Describe the job specifications, activities, and demands of a security guard	(ON 1)
Give examples of how security guards protect people	(MB 1, SK 2)
Tell how security guards protect property	(MB 1, SK 2)

Need to Know

Some of the basic duties of a security guard may include:

- patrolling a site or particular area;
- standing guard at a particular post;
- observing, detecting, and reporting
 - safety hazards;
 - illegal activity or signs of illegal activity;
 - violations of rules, regulations, policies, and/or procedures;
 - dangerous situations; and
 - unusual or suspicious activity;

- inspecting and operating physical security systems;
- maintaining control systems for locks, keys, and access cards;
- controlling access to a property, building, or area within a building;
- maintaining records and logs;
- receiving lost property;
- inspecting and/or testing security, safety, and emergency equipment;
- enforcing rules, regulations, policies, and/or procedures;
- maintaining order;
- monitoring alarm systems and/or **closed-circuit television (CCTV)** surveillance systems;
- responding to alarms;
- responding to emergencies;
- providing first aid and CPR;
- directing vehicular traffic;
- conducting crowd control;
- responding to incidents;
- de-escalating confrontational situations;
- removing **trespassers**;
- making arrests;
- securing **evidence**;
- assisting police and **emergency services personnel**; and
- completing **incident reports**;

SAMPLE QUESTION 4

Safety hazards, signs of illegal activity, and violations of rules and regulations are all examples of:

- things it would be the duty of a security guard to observe and report
- violations of provincial trespass-to-property legislation
- sensitive issues under provincial human rights legislation
- grounds for a security guard to make a citizen's arrest
- union issues rather than security issues

The Legal Authority of Security Guards

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Discuss the legal authorities provided to security guards by provincial, territorial, and municipal legislation in the jurisdiction of work	(CGSB 4.3.f)
Explain the legal status of security guards under the <i>Criminal Code</i>	(CGSB 4.3.a)
List the federal and provincial statutes that provide a legal framework for security professionals' duties and powers	(BC 3)
Describe the security professional's powers and limitations under the law	(BC 3)
Identify other legislation that has a direct impact on security professionals	(BC 3)
Outline the relevant sections of the <i>Provincial Offences Act</i>	(ON 8)
Discuss municipal bylaws	(ON 7)
Explain the legal status of a security guard	(MB 3, SK 4)
Tell how the <i>Criminal Code</i> relates to the work of a security guard	(MB 3, SK 4)

Need to Know

The legal authority of security officers to do what they do comes from a number of different sources in law.

1. Provincial private security licensing legislation

Most security guards in most provinces are subject to provincial **private security licensing legislation**. This legislation does not confer any special or additional legal authorities on security guards. On the contrary, in most cases it imposes long lists of *restrictions* on their actions.

2. Federal legislation regulating security activities in certain sectors

Security guards who work in certain sectors of the security industry or who provide security services in particular environments may be subject to regulation as security guards under various federal statutes, including:

- the *Firearms Act*,
- the *Canadian Air Transport Security Authority Act*,
- the *Aeronautics Act*,
- the *Nuclear Safety Act*, and
- the *National Energy Board Act*.

3. The *Criminal Code*

Under the *Criminal Code*, a security guard has the same legal authorities as any other private person. This means that security guards may have the legal authority—under certain circumstances—to do the following:

- keep trespassers off or remove them from the properties they are protecting,
- arrest persons found committing certain types of criminal offences, and
- use **reasonable force** if necessary to
 - protect themselves and/or others from **assault**,
 - prevent serious crimes that are about to be committed,
 - keep trespassers off or remove them from properties they are protecting, and
 - make arrests.

4. Provincial legislation related to property rights

Many provinces have trespass-to-property legislation under which property owners and/or their representatives or agents (including the

security guards who are charged with protecting their properties) have the legal authority to remove trespassers from their property and/or to arrest them and hold them for the police. Provincial liquor control and gaming control legislation prohibits certain categories of individuals, such as minors, from entering onto certain kinds of property. The security guards who work on such properties have a degree of authority to enforce these laws.

5. Provincial legislation under which security guards receive appointments as special constables

Most Canadian provinces have statutes that allow provincial governments to appoint particular individuals as **special constables**. Special constables are given a limited range of police-like powers and authorities for the purpose of enforcing the provisions under one or more provincial statutes. Security guards may be appointed as special constables to allow them to carry out some of the duties they are assigned. For instance, private security guards may be given the authority to enforce certain **municipal bylaws**.

Some security personnel who are appointed as special constables are assigned duties that make their work more like the work of regular police than like that of other security personnel—for example, the work of many campus security personnel. The work of some special constables is almost exclusively law enforcement work—for example, the work of special constables on a mass transit system. Some people would classify such individuals more as public law enforcement officers than as private security personnel.

Special constables may have the authority to issue “tickets” under the legislation under which they are appointed. Under provincial offences acts in many provinces, special constables may be appointed as **provincial offences officers** and given the authority to charge individuals with provincial offences through issuing them **certificates of offence**.

6. Provincial human rights legislation and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

Security guards are subject to and must comply with the provisions set out in the human rights legislation in the province or territory in which they are working. This is particularly important given the role that security guards play in controlling access to properties and buildings. In many circumstances, security guards who make arrests may be subject to the provisions under the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** relating to the rights of persons who are being arrested.

SAMPLE QUESTION 5

Private security guards derive their authority to make arrests from:

- (a) the *Criminal Code*
- (b) provincial private security licensing legislation
- (c) the *Firearms Act*
- (d) the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
- (e) the *Provincial Offences Act*

