

Alberta Industrial and Emergency  
Management Association  
AFRRCS Info and Update- September, 2018

Deputy Chief Vern Elliott

# Talking points

- AFRRCS - what is it
- Recent conversations
- Potential
- What next?

# The AFRRCS Mission



*The Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) is a two-way radio network for first responders in municipal, provincial and First Nations agencies across the province. The Alberta government funded the network's construction, operation and maintenance, and it became operational on July 1, 2016.*

# Functions of AFRRCS

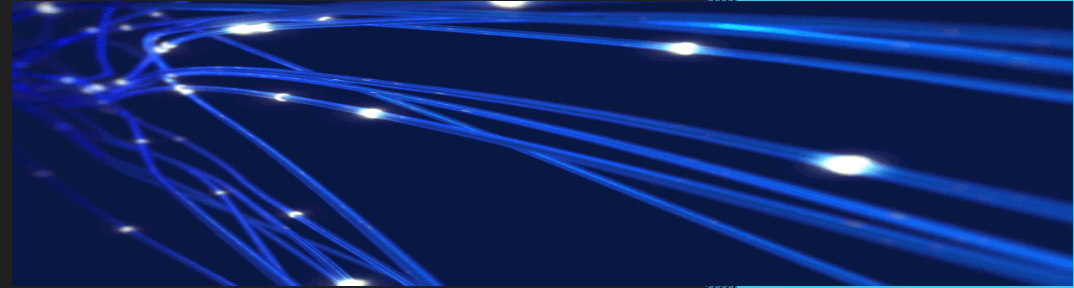


*Agencies using AFRRCS are able to:*

- fully coordinate joint responses to emergency scenes*
- improve and integrate radio communication among first responders from different agencies*
- reduce the cost of radio system infrastructure*
- use robust, resilient radio technology in day-to-day operations*

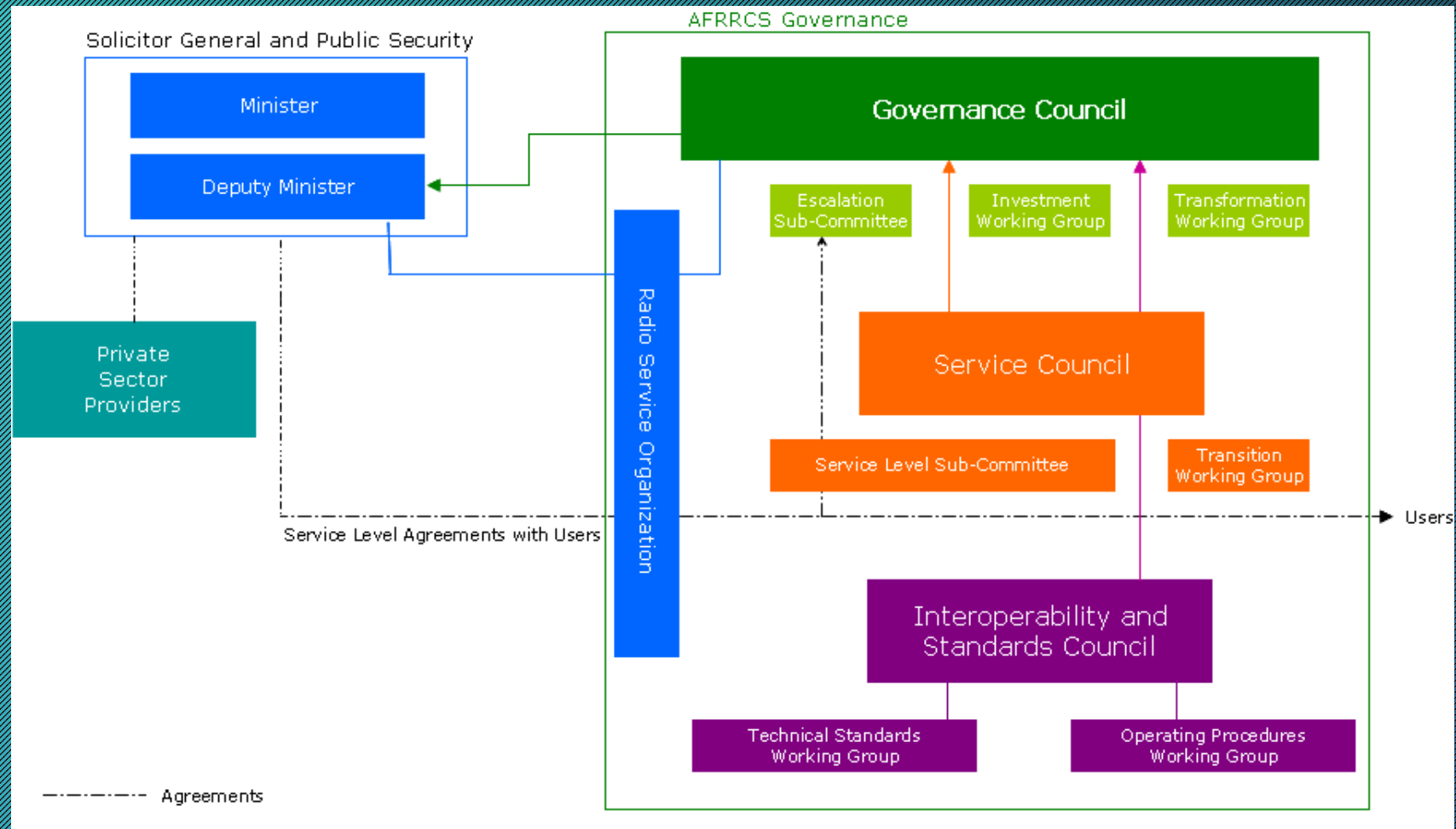
*Public safety agencies are encouraged to use AFRRCS, but their participation is voluntary.*

# Updates



- AFRRCS will be operational for two years in July, 2018
- Currently 90 agencies (predominately Fire) on AFRRCS with another 38 in various stages preparing to go on to the system
- The ISSI/CSSI connection which provides dispatch centers with effective connections has been recognized as a viable solution and AFRRCS is currently working on additional redundancies
- Upgrades are being completed on schedule
- Outages and AFRRCS response

# AFRRCS structure



# How Governance is meeting the guiding principles

Principle	Assessment
Voice communication needs of Alberta's First Responders is AFRRCS first priority.	Definitely, the priority of the system is designed and implemented as a precedence for first responders

# How Governance is meeting the guiding principles

Principle	Assessment
Formal or de facto Industry Standards are used when making technology selections and setting standards. In the absence of Industry Standards, de facto standards for the applicable technology discipline will be employed.	Yes, the system meets or is striving to meet all Industry Standards



# How Governance is meeting the guiding principles

Principle	Assessment
<b>Flexible operating environment that facilitates the pursuit of Open Architecture for public safety radio technologies.</b>	Yes

# How Governance is meeting the guiding principles

Principle	Assessment
<b>First Responders have an understanding of services to be provided.</b>	<b>Just Call AFRRCS</b> 

# How Governance is meeting the guiding principles

Principle	Assessment
<b>The choice of technologies and interfaces promote efficient use.</b>	Yes
<b>Security is designed into all architectural elements balancing accessibility and ease of use with requirements for the protection of voice and data.</b>	Yes
<b>The radio technology is implemented within an architectural framework that is sound, consistent in use, and flexible to accommodate the diverse requirements of first responder agencies.</b>	Yes

# How Governance is meeting the guiding principles

Principle	Assessment
<b>Reporting metrics are used to assess system quality, operational status, and process improvement.</b>	<b>This is one area we will be focused on. With a recent outage, AFRRCS Governance recognized the need to provide improved operational status and communicate with dispatch centers. As well, AFRRCS has yet to provide an annual report which is mandated by Governance. We will be insisting that a report be provided by end of August. Recent quarterly report did not meet designated minimum service level</b>

# How Governance is meeting the guiding principles

Principle	Assessment
<b>Policies and procedures for a single shared First Responders communications system apply to all First Response Agencies.</b>	I believe there is still some work to be completed at the governance level on policies on interoperability for a single system. Where the system provides a viable interoperable solution for first responders, operational management should be completed at the dispatch level.

# Strathcona County experience

- Dispatch and all radios in municipality
- Great quality
- The coverage on the map is what you get
- Interoperability

What is the stance of AFRRCS  
with industry?



AFRRCS has been apprehensive with capacity

Recent informal conversations have been positive

Stay tuned...

Questions?

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