

## Secondment to the Canadian Police College

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It was Monday, August 15, 1988, and the beginning of another work week. Going to work wasn't something new to me, as I had been doing it all my adult life.

This morning was different — and what a difference! Not only was I starting a new job with new peers and bosses, but I was in a building that was located in another city and province.

For those of you who may have experienced this type of situation in your career, you may be thinking, "So what's the big deal, it's just a new job." For someone born, raised and educated in Saskatoon, and having been a member of the Saskatoon Police Department (SPD), for 20 years, I expected to spend the remainder of my career there. For me, a secondment to the Canadian Police

College (CPC), was certainly more than just a new job!

The word secondment is not usually part of the average person's vocabulary, but is most often used within military and police organizations. Webster's Dictionary defines secondment as "the detachment of a person from his regular organization for temporary assignment elsewhere."

To best explain the process involved in my secondment to the college, let me take you back in time.

On December 1, 1985, I was reassigned to the SPD Staff Development and Training Section, and quickly became involved in audio-visual production, in-service instruction, course coordination, lecturing at the Saskatchewan Police College and recruit testing and training.

In an effort to expand my knowledge, I was sent to the Canadian Police College, Rockcliffe, Ontario, in September, 1986, to attend the Instructional Techniques Course (ITC). Having attended other courses at the college, I felt comfortable about returning. However, I was somewhat apprehensive about taking the ITC, as I was told it would be the hardest course I would ever take. This course was demanding, but it was also the best and most rewarding I have attended.

During the ITC, I spoke to many college personnel and learned about a program involving municipal police officers being seconded to the CPC for a two-year