



## Commissioner's New Year Message

The RCMP is evolving. Our organization is maturing, our mandates are maturing, and we need to maintain perspective. The RCMP has embarked on an exciting, and sometimes painful, voyage. We have to realize that change will be our one constant over the long run. For example, our decision to restructure the Force into four operational regions — reflected in the way that Divisional Dispatches have been laid-out in the last few issues of the *RCMP Quarterly* — furthers our intention to decentralize authority so that operational decision-making takes place at the service-delivery level. Regionalisation must result in bringing us closer to our clients and their needs, supporting the cultural changes we are undergoing, giving us the flexibility needed to improve quality and ensuring value for money.

It is often said that the RCMP is an important thread in the Canadian fabric. With this, I strongly agree. Never has a police service of similar size contributed so much to the building of a nation. While the Musical Ride is an evident symbol of national unity, our operational presence in each of the provinces also makes a powerful contribution. When Canadians see representatives of all races and cultures in our society wearing the RCMP uniform, the notion of national unity is reinforced. But the most compelling image of all is to see those same representatives working in harmony and serving with equal respect all the separate elements that make up our nation.

Our adoption of community policing has seen this impact of the RCMP in local communities grow to even greater degrees. If we compare ourselves today what we were even five years ago, we can see the difference we have made to many individuals and to many communities. It is because of the day-to-day activities of our people in their communities, in Canada and abroad — which are regularly illustrated in issues of the *RCMP Quarterly* — that we are held in such high esteem. Without your personal commitment to the Force and the people you serve, attaining our goals would not be possible.

The coming year will see even more changes unfold, but it also promises to be inspirational and thrilling as we celebrate our 125th anniversary with all Canadians. There are many activities planned in recognition of our contributions. I hope that you will participate in special events in your communities. In reporting these events to its readership, the *RCMP Quarterly* will provide a link between serving employees, former Force employees and the general public, worldwide, and continue to display the wealth of tradition, history and stories of the RCMP.

Please accept the *RCMP Quarterly* personnel's and my warmest wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

J.P.R. Murray  
Commissioner