

The Canadian Police Information Centre in the 1980's

P. M. McLellan

Assistant Commissioner and Director of Informatics
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
1200 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R2

The success of the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) over the past fourteen years has been largely due to the fact that it has been able to meet the information needs of the police community without infringing on the rights of citizens. This delicate balance is constantly reviewed and adjusted by the operators of the Centre through direct contact with user agencies, and through the collective counsel of the CPIC Advisory Committee, composed of representatives of these agencies. For those outside the police community, an updated discussion of the nature of the information banks currently made available through the CPIC, and of the policy governing access to police information, is desirable in view of changing social attitudes. Technology

offers the opportunity to expand services like CPIC to a wider user base, but this inclination must be weighed against a keen public awareness of privacy issues and human rights. This presentation reviews the status of CPIC access policy in terms of the services available and the participating user agencies.