

Police Officer

No degree required. Paid training, a pension, and six figures within a few years of hire.

TYPICAL PAY

\$104,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$66k to \$135k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Municipal, provincial and federal police services

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 The legal minimum. Most successful applicants have some post-secondary education or work history.
- 2 Meet the requirements** Before applying
 Canadian citizen or permanent resident, 18 or 19 or older, valid driver's licence, clean record, first aid and CPR, and pass a vision and hearing check.
- 3 Testing and selection** 3 to 12 months
 In Ontario, the OACP Certificate (a standard police entrance test): written tests, a fitness test (called PREP) and a psychological screen. Then the service's own interviews, background check and polygraph at some services.
- 4 Police college** 3 to 6 months
 Ontario Police College is 13 weeks. RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) Depot in Regina is 26 weeks. Quebec's police academy (ENPQ) is about 15 weeks after a college diploma. Paid.
- 5 Probationary constable** 12 months
 Coached by a senior officer for the first year.

Pros and cons

- + Six figures without a degree
- + Excellent pension, retire in your 50s
- + Every day is different
- Shift work, nights and holidays for years
- Exposure to trauma; PTSD (post-traumatic stress) rates are high
- Public scrutiny and criticism

Optional boosts

Detective or investigator. Tactical or emergency response. Canine, marine, mounted, traffic. Promotion.

Good to know

The RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) trains everyone...

Every Mountie in Canada goes through Depot Division in Regina, Saskatchewan. Cadets live on base for 26 weeks.

Ontario and Quebec have their own provincial forces

The OPP (Ontario Provincial Police) and the Sûreté du Québec police most of their provinces outside big cities. Everywhere else, the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) does that job under contract.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Police officers, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Vancouver Police: Recruiting
 RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police)
 Ontario Police College

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/police-officer>



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