

Union relieved cops looking at child care [CA-AB]^[1]

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AVAILABILITY

See text below.

EXCERPTS

Police brass are finally moving in a direction union officials say they've been trying to lead them in for years -- looking at how to offer officers child care that meshes with their work schedules.

Calgary Police Association president Al Koenig said while he's pleased to see Chief Jack Beaton muse about the merits of offering child care for staff, he's disappointed union proposals to do just that were twice rejected in recent years.

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Earlier this week, Beaton said it's critical for the service to look at offering a home/work balance, possibly including day-care options, in order to attract recruits.

Insp. Steve Barlow, with the bureau of resource development, yesterday said plans are in the works to come up with a concept to offer "child-care initiatives" -- to ultimately make the job more appealing to those looking to leave or thinking of joining.

His department is reviewing possible options and plans to have recommendations ready for police executives this fall.

Barlow said finding child care is the biggest issue for many sworn and civilian members with children, given the job can often involve night shifts, last-minute schedule changes and overtime.

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- reprinted from the Calgary Sun

Region: Canada^[2]

Alberta^[3]

Tags: workplace child care^[4]

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