Policing in Canada

Three Levels of Policing

Federal (RCMP)

Provincial

Municipal

Three Levels of Policing

1. **Federal (RCMP)**
   - Formed in 1873; national police force
   - Enforces federal laws, investigates major crimes (drug trafficking, fraud, terrorism)
   - Provides protective services and international liaison
   - Acts as provincial/municipal police in some regions

Three Levels of Policing

2. Provincial

- Some provinces have their own forces (e.g., OPP, Sûreté du Québec)
- Police rural and unincorporated areas
- May include specialized units (e.g., organized crime, Indigenous policing)

3. Municipal

- Police cities and towns (e.g., Vancouver Police)
- Funded by municipalities
- Responsibilities: maintaining peace, crime prevention, enforcing by-laws, arrests, supporting prosecutions

Core Duties of the Police

Crime prevention and investigation
Drug enforcement and organized crime control
Immigration and border-related enforcement
Intelligence gathering and public safety
Confiscation of proceeds of crime
Protection of officials and national interests

FACTS

Policing in Canada Facts

- 71,000 police officers in Canada
- Cost to taxpayers: ~$20 billion per year
- 178 officers per 100,000 people (USA is higher)
- 16,000 female officers (~23%)

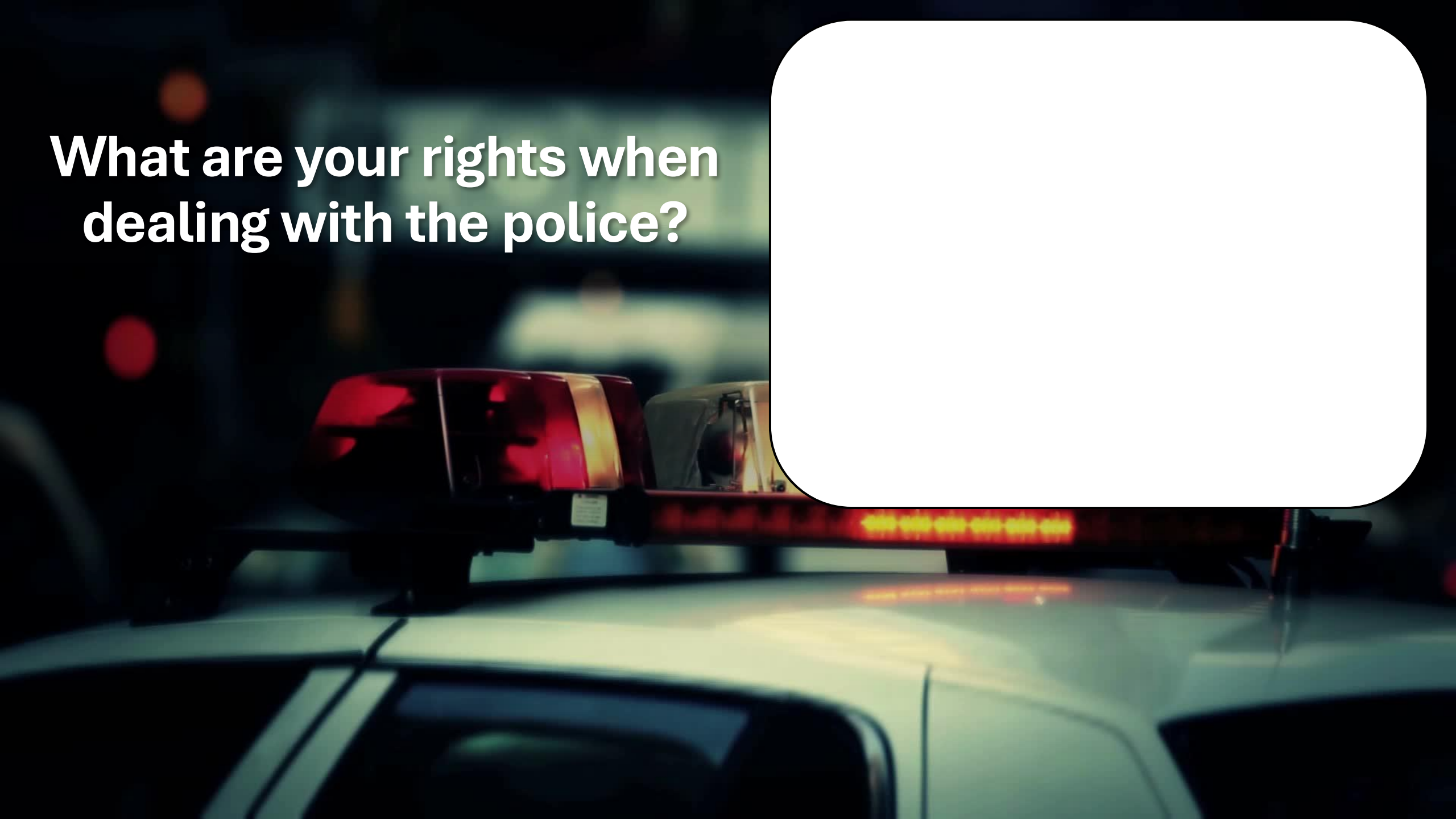
Requirements

- Must be 19 (18 for RCMP
- Complete Grade 12 – some services require one year of post-secondary credits
- Valid class 5 driver's license
- Canadian citizen

Vancouver Police (VPD) Facts

- 1,450 sworn officers
- 40–44 weeks of training (academy + field training)
- Salary: $70,000 starting → $110,000+ with experience

What are your rights when dealing with the police?



What to say if you are stopped by the police

- Am I under arrest? If so, please tell me why.
- If I am not under arrest, am I free to go?
- I want to exercise my right to silence and talk to a lawyer before I say anything to you.