

# Six Nations to get RCMP

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three years, and says he requested the position because "I never grew up with native culture so I'm still learning too. That's the reason that I was interested in this position."

Cooper has already spent 9 years with the RCMP. He spent his first five years in the drug section. A year of that was in Brantford, where he worked in a joint drug force as an undercover officer, buying drugs at the street level.

His next stint was a year in the federal enforcement section investigating fraud such as Unemployment Insurance and old age pension rip-offs. Cooper explains that there is always a way to beat the system. For example, people would get names from grave stones and collect benefits for deceased people by using fake I.D.

The last three years he has done double duty as an investigator in the customs and excise section, and the First Nations liaison officer.

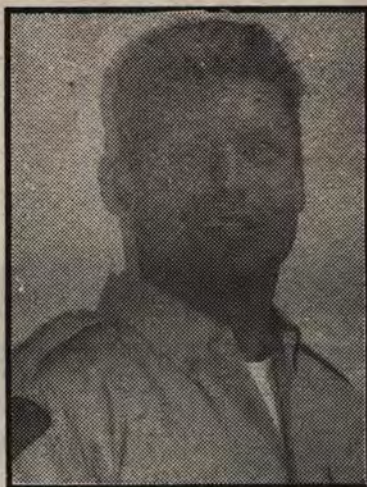
The year-long secondment with the Six Nations police will benefit Cooper as a police officer, giving him the opportunity to serve as a uniformed officer. He will have the opportunity to do ride-alongs with Six Nations officers. RCMP in Ontario customarily work in plain clothes, doing investigative duties.

Many people do not realize that the RCMP do have a federal policing mandate in Ontario communities. They are responsible to uphold federal statutes like drugs, customs/excise, immigration, commercial crime, and organized crime.

But Cooper stresses that the reason he is in the community is not to do any investigation. "We want to promote the functions of the RCMP, to let people know what we do. We want people to realize that every time we are in this community, its not always to investigate someone or make arrests. I am not here as an investigative tool."

The RCMP hope to be able to recruit Aboriginal candidates through Cooper's presence on the territory. There is a special native cadet program that pre-

pares First Nations members to enter the police academy. Six Nations' Dawn Johnson recently completed the program and left



*RCMP Officer  
Jeff Cooper*

for Saskatchewan June 1st to complete the same training as any other RCMP recruit.

Cooper will also be working

with Six Nations police to develop community crime-prevention programs. "Because we're national, we have a lot of resources available. This will give the local police more options."

Lickers agrees that Jeff will be able to provide valuable assistance in police initiatives. He admits that he expects that some people in the community will harbour suspicions that the RCMP is here as part of an undercover operation.

"If I had any doubts as to why Jeff was here, we wouldn't be a part of it. Its completely voluntary for both parties. Some trust has to be placed in the Six Nations police - we are here to serve the best interests of the community, and we wouldn't do anything to jeopardize that," cautions Lickers.

"We still don't want to see the Mounties on our territory."