

NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO OUR COMMUNITY  
1971-2021**



## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Niagara Regional Police Service is dedicated to serving and protecting residents and visitors within the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

In partnership with the community, we shall provide quality policing services with integrity, diligence, and sensitivity.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE POLICE SERVICES BOARD



On behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board, I am pleased to introduce the 2021 Annual Report of the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) with special recognition of the Service's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The COVID-19 pandemic remained a challenge throughout 2021, and policing was no exception. As the pandemic entered its second year, NRPS members continued to play an essential role to navigate the rapidly changing nature of rules and regulations while maintaining ongoing enforcement efforts to ensure the residents of Niagara Region were safe and well.

The 2021 Annual Report is an opportunity to take a detailed look at policing in the Niagara Region. Inside the report, you will find information on calls for service, statistics on crime, as well as information on specialized units, crime prevention programs and community engagement initiatives. The report also features statistical information on public complaints, provides an overview of the police budget, and highlights many of the successful investigations and accomplishments achieved by members of the NRPS that demonstrate the Service's ongoing commitment to achieving operational excellence and strengthening public safety.

When we look back at 2021, I was proud to Chair such a committed Board. This year marked the completion of the new 1 District (St. Catharines/Thorold) facility, a project that was over a decade in the making and instrumental to meet the current and future needs of our police service. In addition, the Board successfully negotiated and unanimously ratified the renewal of a new six-year contract for the Sworn and Civilian Members with the Niagara Region Police Association. With this new contract, the Board, NRPS and Association will have the opportunity to move forward with other policing priorities.

As we mark this 50<sup>th</sup> milestone in the history of the Niagara Regional Police Service, we remember with thanks all the men and women who have served Niagara in the past and we salute those of you who continue to selflessly offer your courage and professional skills to keep our Region strong and safe.

I would also like to thank the residents of the Niagara Region, for taking the time to review the 2021 Annual Report. Together we will continue to develop pro-active solutions that will improve policing services, prevent crime, and enhance the safety, security, and quality of life for all citizens in the Niagara Region.

**Board Chair William C. Steele**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



On behalf of our members, sworn and civilian, I am pleased to present the Service's 2021 Annual Report. This report documents the work that our members were involved in to ensure that the Niagara Region remains a safe community to reside in and a preferred destination for tourists to visit.

The report covers community policing, calls for service, special victims, emergency services, special investigations, public complaints, as well as our continued efforts to support our members through our Member Support Unit and our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Unit. Policing has become increasingly complex, and I am so proud of how our members have contributed to addressing these challenges throughout the year.

In 2021, the Service continued to adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic. As first responders, our members worked tirelessly to maintain full operational capacity, serving the community at large across the Niagara Region. I have never been so proud of our members working under such extreme circumstances, with continued excellence and dedication to duty.

Crime rates in Niagara rose again in 2021, with violent crime increasing by 7.00% compared to 2020. Much of this had to do with the rise in assaults as more and more pandemic restrictions were lifted. Property crime increased by 7.96% compared to 2020. Again, this was due to the community re-opening in 2021.

The year 2021 marked the Service's 50<sup>th</sup> year as a Regional Police Service following the amalgamation of police services from each municipality across the Niagara Region in 1971. As the Service's 9th Chief of Police, I am acutely aware of the expectations of the residents and visitors to Niagara, and especially proud of the dedication and professionalism of our sworn and civilian members, past and present, in carrying out their work, as we celebrate this important milestone in our history.

On behalf of the Niagara Regional Police Service, I hope you take the time to learn about the activities of our members in 2021. In the years to follow, we will continue to serve our community with pride, compassion, and dignity.

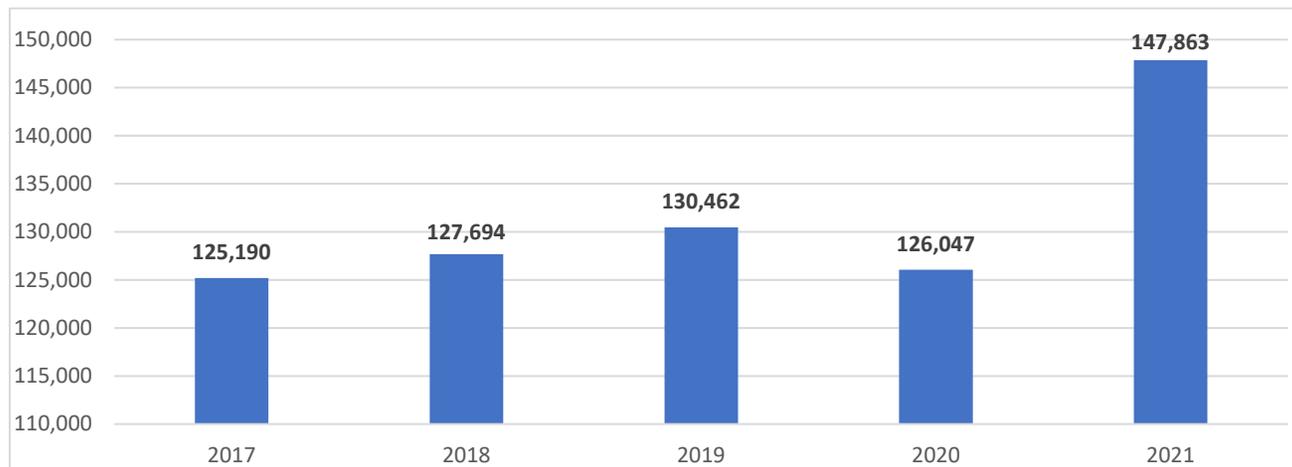
**Chief of Police Bryan MacCulloch, BA, MA, M.O.M.**



## CALLS FOR SERVICE

Police calls for service originate from several sources including 911 calls, calls received through the police service non-emergency line, in-person reporting or "walk-ins", as well as officer generated, or officer identified incidents. These numbers do not represent the entire police workload as they do not portray other duties such as traffic safety and enforcement, proactive policing, nor the length of time that specialty units spend on an investigation due to the seriousness and/or nature of the incident. In addition, there are calls for service involving persons in crisis that are diverted to a non-police response as appropriate. In 2021, the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) implemented a new six priority call system. Before the change, the NRPS only had three priority levels of calls for service. This new system more appropriately categorizes calls to ensure an appropriate police response as well as accurately captures workload that was not previously captured. This also allows the NRPS to track calls for service involving a person in crisis that do not ultimately require a police response or are diverted to an alternative to a police response.

In 2020, there were fewer calls for service due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related business closures.





## CALLS FOR SERVICE BY POLICING DISTRICT

<b>1 District</b> St. Catharines Thorold	<b>2 District</b> Niagara Falls Niagara-on-the-Lake	<b>3 District</b> Welland Pelham	<b>5 District</b> Fort Erie	<b>6 District</b> Port Colborne Wainfleet	<b>8 District</b> Grimsby Lincoln West Lincoln
54,154	44,449	21,236	8,348	6968	9,357

\*Excludes P6 classified calls for service



## COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

The Communications Unit is the largest civilian unit within the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS), operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When someone calls 911, or the police administrative phone numbers in Niagara, the first person they speak to is a Communicator. Members also provide the NRPS with a centralized control of personnel and facilitate field operations through the rapid dissemination of critical information by radio and telephone.

The NRPS is the Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PPSAP) for the Region of Niagara. Currently, when a call comes into our emergency dispatch for a response, there are three options for dispatch: fire, police, and EMS.

In 2019, the NRPS Communications Unit achieved "ACE" accreditation. This made the NRPS the first police agency in the Province of Ontario to earn such an accreditation. In 2021, the NRPS Communications Unit continued to maintain its "ACE" accreditation status.

## REAL TIME OPERATIONS CENTRE (RTOC)

The Real Time Operations Centre (RTOC) also operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Their role is to provide near real time actionable intelligence to front line and investigators. The accessing of installed community cameras is done on an incident driven basis and through intelligence led crime prevention.

This strategic and intelligence driven approach assists police in obtaining crucial information to optimize public safety to the residents and visitors to the Niagara Region.

Through the implementation of the RTOC, the NRPS has been able to assist in locating missing children, those from the vulnerable sector, and people in crisis. The RTOC has also been pivotal in determining identity of suspects wanted for various types of crimes.

Video records are collected in accordance with the Guidelines for the Use of Video Surveillance Cameras in Public Places-Information and Privacy Commissioner Ontario (2007).



## **MOBILE CRISIS RAPID RESPONSE (MCRRT)**

In 2021, the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) program expanded to the City of Niagara Falls and Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake following increased funding from Ontario Health West (formerly the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network).

This valuable crisis program is a partnership between Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Niagara Branch and the NRPS.

The NRPS and CMHA Niagara have worked closely to determine how and where the program will expand to have the greatest positive impact for Niagara residents based upon a statistical review and analysis of police calls for service in relation to people in crisis and mental health related incidents throughout the Niagara Region.

MCRRT has proven to be an effective approach to de-escalating crisis situations, immediately assessing individuals' mental health care needs, and connecting people with appropriate support services in the community. This co-response program with CMHA Niagara pairs a mental health professional with a specially trained, uniformed officer to respond to 911 mental health calls.

The new annualized funding allowed for the expansion of MCRRT in Niagara by one team. Each MCRRT team includes three full time mental health workers to work 12-hour shifts with police responding to 911 calls.

Since 2015, MCRRT has responded to the growing number of mental health and addictions-related calls received by NRPS. Previously, MCRRT only operated in St. Catharines / Thorold district. MCRRT made 868 face-to-face responses with 612 people in 2020 alone.

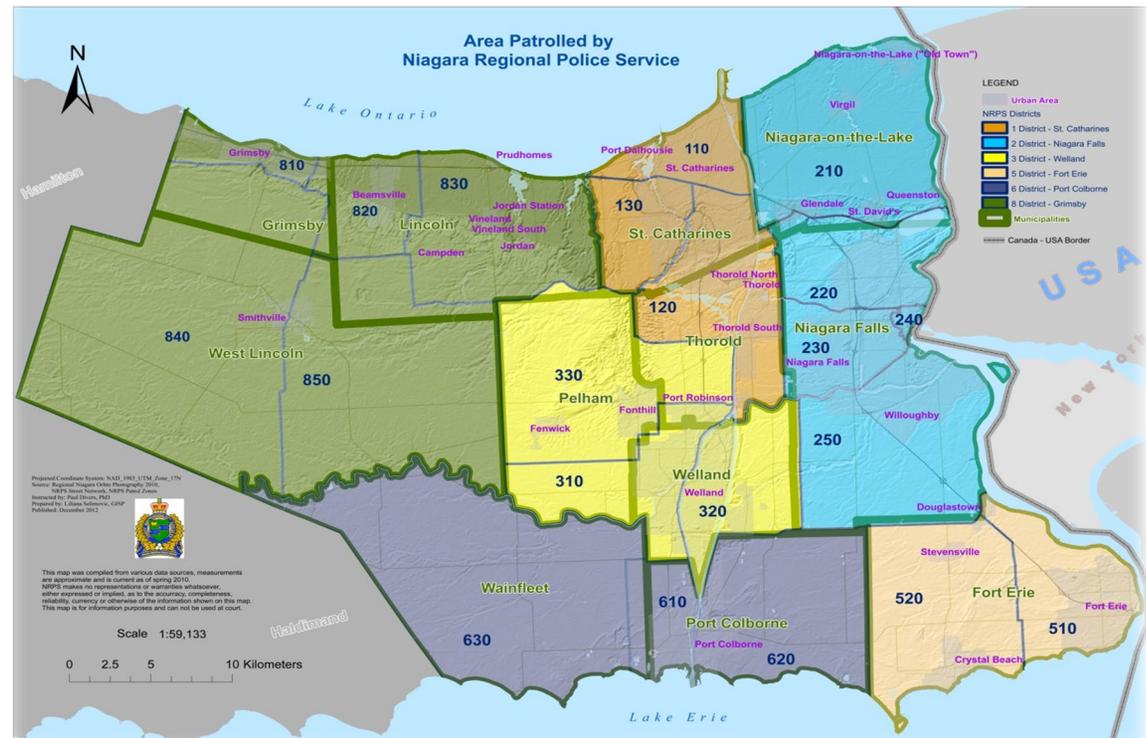
Of all face-to-face interactions, 623 of these calls (72%) were diverted from hospitals into appropriate community supports. MCRRT diversions led to 688 connections to various mental health or addictions services. Additionally, 717 of these interactions (83%) were de-escalated without the need for police apprehension.



## NIAGARA REGION

Located in Southern Ontario between two of North America's Great Lakes (Ontario and Erie), the Region is well linked to the North American marketplace through all major modes of transportation, road, water, air, and rail. The Welland Canal, which is a true tourist attraction, is also one of the major factors in Niagara's focus on transportation. New York State borders on the east. With four bridges less than an hour away from major Canadian cities such as Hamilton, Oakville, Mississauga, and Toronto, Niagara has proven to be a vital link to businesses in both the United States and Canada.

Covering 1,850 square kilometers (715 square miles), Niagara is one of the largest geographical areas policed by a municipal police service. Its 12 unique municipalities include large urban centres such as St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, as well as towns with a distinctly more rural flavour such as Wainfleet and West Lincoln. Niagara also has a total of 161 kilometers of shoreline and a total of 1,500 square kilometers of international water surrounding its borders. Based on Statistics Canada data, the estimated population at the end of 2021 was 475,986.





## CRIME IN NIAGARA

In 2021, there was an increase in overall violations, following a decrease in 2020 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Violent crime increased considerably in 2021 compared to 2020. Increases occurred in assaults cause bodily harm, robbery, criminal harassment, uttering threats, and domestic violence.

### TOTAL, ALL CRIMINAL CODE VIOLATIONS

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Actual Incidents	17,366	18,885	19,882	18,388	21,352
Rate per 100,000	3,730.5	4,000.1	4,157.7	3,817.1	4,403.93
Percent Change	+7.22	+7.2	+3.9	-8.2	+3.69

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Crime Analysis January 1-December 31, 2021

### TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME VIOLATIONS

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Actual Incidents	2,725	3,188	3,260	3,648	4,166
Rate per 100,000	585.4	675.3	681.7	757.3	859.25
Percent Change	+10.4	+15.4	+0.9	+11.1	+7.0

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Crime Analysis January 1-December 31, 2021



## TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME VIOLATIONS

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Actual Incidents</b>	12,234	13,003	14,465	12,148	13,140
<b>Rate per 100,000</b>	2,628.1	2,754.2	2,825.6	2,521.8	2,710.17
<b>Percent Change</b>	+5.9	+4.8	+2.6	-16.0	+7.96

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Crime Analysis January 1-December 31, 2021

## TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE VIOLATIONS

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Actual Incidents</b>	2,407	2,694	3,110	2,592	2,233
<b>Rate per 100,000</b>	517.1	570.6	650.4	3,538.1	460.56
<b>Percent Change</b>	+10.4	+10.4	+13.9	-17.2	-15.05

Including such crimes as weapon offences, disturb the peace, accessing or possessing child pornography, etc.

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Crime Analysis January 1-December 31, 2021



## CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS – SELECTED OFFENCES

Select Incidents	2020 Incidents	2021 Incidents	Cleared By Charge	Cleared Otherwise
Murder – 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	3	5	5	--
Murder – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	2	1	1	--
Manslaughter	--	--	--	--
Criminal Negligence Cause Death	2	1	1	--
Murder – Attempt	4	4	4	--
Sexual Assault – Aggravated	--	1	--	--
Sexual Assault – Weapons/ Bodily Harm	6	3	3	--
Sexual Assault	305	381	63	20
Sexual Interference	53	81	52	3
Total Sexual Violations Against Children	65	94	55	3
Invitation to Sexual Touching	4	4	1	--
Sexual Exploitation	2	--	--	--
Lure Child Via Computer	4	5	--	1
Assault - Aggravated	43	50	42	--

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Crime Analysis January 1-December 31, 2021



## CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS CONTINUED

Select Incidents	2020 Incidents	2021 Incidents	Cleared By Charge	Cleared Otherwise
Assault – Weapon or Cause Bodily Harm	428	430	319	19
Assault – Minor Harm	1,034	1,037	593	132
Assault – Police/ Peace Officer	89	107	102	4
Criminal Negligence Cause Bodily Harm	1	3	2	--
Assault – Other	32	31	27	--
Robbery	193	177	99	6
Extortion	47	128	6	--
Criminal Harassment/ Stalking	255	331	99	32
Threats – Person Death/ Harm	670	682	201	71
Indecent/ Harassing Communication	361	534	67	18
Total Crimes Against Persons (All Incidents)	3,648	4,166	1,721	346

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Crime Analysis January 1-December 31, 2021



## CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY – SELECTED OFFENCES

Select Property Incidents	2020 Incidents	2021 Incidents	Cleared By Charge	Cleared Otherwise
Arson	57	45	12	--
Break & Enter	1,694	1,829	284	46
Theft Over \$5000	169	116	16	1
Theft Under \$5000	5,074	2,282	101	100
Theft of Motor Vehicle	864	891	80	7
Shoplifting Under \$5000	1,030	1,075	197	222
Shoplifting Over \$5000	4	12	8	1
Possession Stolen Property	157	161	131	12
Fraud	1,720	1,886	272	58
Fraud – Identity Theft	55	35	6	--
Fraud – Identity Fraud	382	722	4	4
Mischief	1,970	1,950	266	102
<b>Total Crimes Against Property</b>	<b>12,148</b>	<b>13,140</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>569</b>

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Crime Analysis January 1-December 31, 2021



## CRIME PREVENTION AND PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING

### Across all Districts:

**Foot Patrol Initiative:** To continue to emphasize the importance of community policing and a visible police presence, officers in 1 District (St. Catharines/Thorold), 2 District (Niagara Falls/Niagara on the Lake), 3 District (Welland/Pelham), 5 District (Fort Erie), 6 District (Port Colborne/Wainfleet), and 8 District (Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln) have continuously dedicated hours of foot patrol in downtown areas to proactively address community complaints as well as engage with residents and business owners. In St. Catharines and Niagara Falls specifically, foot patrol officers have worked closely with community stakeholders to manage homeless encampments. Across all Districts, foot patrol officers were actively engaged with by-law personnel, continuing to include education and enforcement of COVID-19 regulations.

**COVID-19 Education, Engagement, and Enforcement:** Due to the pandemic, officers were required to adapt to the ever-changing guidelines and restrictions implemented by the Province of Ontario. Significant resources were used throughout the year to educate and engage members of the public, including conducting compliance checks for land-border crossings.

**Lock It or Lose It:** Officers attended various neighborhoods conducting foot, bicycle, and vehicle patrols to deter thefts from unlocked vehicles. Officers distributed Lock It or Lose It cards and identified various unsecured vehicles and residences taking a proactive approach and helping to educate residents.

**Social Media:** Throughout 2021, District Commanders continued to utilize district specific Twitter accounts to proactively address community concerns, raise awareness to crime trends, as well as disseminate valuable public safety information.



## 1 District – St. Catharines and Thorold

**Queenston Street Trespassing/Vandalism/Drug Use:** Places of worship in the Queenston Street area reported an overwhelming problem with trespassing, encampments, vandalism, and drug use on their properties. Police engagement with the individuals involved greatly reducing the issue with limited use of enforcement actions under the Trespass to Property Act and Criminal Code over the course of several weeks. The positive effects of this action have continued and have been met with appreciation by members of the community. As part of this initiative, police worked with Niagara Assertive Street Outreach to offer homeless community members opportunities to move to transitional and permanent housing.

**Project Sunset:** This initiative focused on the ongoing problems with out-of-town visitors from areas in lockdown due to COVID-19 restrictions attending the Niagara area beaches. This initiative focused on disturbances, noise complaints, impaired driving, Highway Traffic Act (HTA) offences, and COVID-19 related municipal By-Laws. This project was highly effective and addressed numerous citizen complaints.

**Project Safe Haven:** This initiative focused on increasing a visible police presence, liaising, and improving relations with Bethlehem Housing staff and residents, resulting in decreased calls for service through proactive patrols around the property. This project will continue into 2022.

**Project Roehampton Park:** This initiative was created as a result of 64 calls for service involving this area, including assaults, disturbances, and drug related offences. Police were able to utilize a proactive approach to lessen ongoing issues at this location, conducting foot patrols in the area to deter crime. Officers also provided security enhancement suggestions to Public Works, such as improved lighting to the area.

**Project Quiet Times:** This initiative was created in response to ongoing noise, mischief, and Emergency Order violation complaints with the area of Juneberry Road and Winterberry Boulevard in the City of Thorold as a gathering place for post-secondary students. This created a large increase of calls by residents and local politicians to the Service. A committee of community stakeholders was created in response to this issue, including the Service, the Thorold Mayor, City of Thorold By-Law, Brock Student Union, and Brock Security. A total of 2 arrests, 70 noise complaints, and 82 Provincial Offence Notices were issued.



## 2 District - Niagara Falls and Niagara on the Lake



**Operation Royal:** This initiative was created in response to complaints of vehicles being broken into within the neighbourhood of Royal Manor Park in Niagara Falls. This initiative was conducted throughout the fall. Checks of the area continued daily with police directed patrols occurring 37 times. Residents in the area observed the increased police presence and were very appreciative limiting further crime in the area.

**Community Support Officer Program:** This program is in its fourth year and continues to flourish. A dedicated Community Officer is in daily communication with the homeless community, responding to calls while also placing them in contact with an Outreach Worker when required. Having an officer that is consistent each and every day relating to the homeless provides a reciprocal relationship ultimately reducing calls for service. This program was expanded, and dedicated officers were assigned to this role as a Community Support Officer on weekends or when the dedicated Officer in Charge is absent.

**COVID-19 Quarantine Enforcement:** This initiative was based upon community safety working in conjunction with Public Health of Canada and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Beginning May 30, 2021, officers were either called to attend or deployed to international border crossings by way of a special duty to enforce the Quarantine Act. Officers responded to 314 calls for service

and issued 314 Quarantine Act charges. This initiative was above and beyond the provincial health measures that were also being enforced.



### 3 District - Welland and Pelham

**Downtown Core Visibility:** Platoons continued to set initiative goals to address the illicit drug activity, loitering and trespassing around the area of East Main Street/Division Street and King Street, which included businesses around the downtown core, including the Courthouse and City Hall.

**All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Patrols of St. Lawrence Seaway Property and Surrounding Areas:** This initiative was jointly funded by the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation and 3 District. The targeted areas included Hunters Point, Seaway Service Roads and both East and West sides of the Welland Canal. Uniformed Officers drove ATVs along Seaway property enforcing Highway Traffic Act (HTA) and Trespass to Property Act (TPA) violations.

**Vacation Rental Property Crackdown:** Numerous complaints were received with respect to a vacation rental property causing issues with local neighbours. This joint project with the city resulted in the suspension of a property used as a vacation rental.

**Road Safety Initiative:** Officers conducted a campaign to address speeding and impaired driving. As a direct result 1,073 Provincial Offence Notices (PONs) and 161 Warnings were issued for speeding, and a total of 64 drivers were arrested for impaired operation.





## 5 District - Fort Erie

**Beach Patrol:** In a continued effort between Town of Fort Erie (TOFE) and 5 District members, an on-going beach initiative was conducted. Uniform members utilized this initiative to educate beachgoers with the local By-Laws. Uniform members assisted Municipal Officers along with staff members on site to enforce Liquor Licence Act and the Trespass to Property Act. Officers also conducted foot patrol and ATV patrol at Waverly Beach due to numerous complaints of persons on private property. In August 2021, TOFE installed private property, no motorized vehicle, and no dogs sign at the public and private beach property line.

**ATV Patrol Initiative:** 5 District members and the TOFE worked jointly with ATV patrols at various locations, which included Waverly Beach, Crescent Beach, Bernard Avenue Beach, Bay Beach, Crystal Beach Waterfront Park, and the Friendship Trail. This initiative ran from February to November.

**Friendship Trail Patrol:** The Friendship Recreation Trail extends 16 kms across Fort Erie to the Port Colborne border. Police received a high volume of complaints from the public regarding Off-Road vehicles such as ATVs on the Friendship Trail, which are prohibited in accordance with local by-laws. The Service utilized uniform members in marked ATVs to educate violators with enforcement as required.



**Cottage Checks:** As part of the Service's commitment to crime prevention and patrols of summer vacation properties (cottages), uniform members utilized foot patrol, ATV patrol and marked cruisers to conduct checks along the Lake Erie Shoreline. The cottage checks consisted of ensuring doors/windows were locked and secured with no obvious signs of damage or forced entry. Cottage check signs were left at the property for owners to inform them that police were active in the area patrolling and conducting these checks.

**Special Projects / Crime Patrol Initiatives:** Crystal Beach Co-Op (Esme Lane/Weber Court) contacted the Service regarding drug related issues, suspicious persons and trespassing concerns on the property. Uniform members conducted regular checks of the property via foot patrol and mobile patrol, which led to identifying units involved in drug sub-culture. The Service worked with the property manager, which led to the eviction of occupants of a known drug house. Recommendations were made to the Co-Op applying the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to install/update cameras and lighting on the property.





## 6 District - Port Colborne and Wainfleet

**Port-All Situation Table:** The Service, along with several community agencies representing a variety of the human services sectors formed the multiagency "Port-All" situation table. The group has worked with various subject matter experts from different community agencies, effectively assisting persons suffering elevated risk of harm within the Port Colborne Community. Participating agencies look forward to the benefits that "Port-All" brings to the Port Colborne community, specifically as it relates to community safety and well-being.

**ATV Patrols/Cottage Checks:** ATV patrols were utilized to provide enforcement in rural areas, open areas and those trails normally accessed by members of the public. Officers conducted cottage checks along the Lake Erie shoreline, patrols along the Friendship Trail, St. Lawrence Seaway properties, and areas of concern reported by the community. Officers enforced offences under the Trespass to Property Act and the Off-Road Vehicles Act. The cottage checks consisted of ensuring doors were locked with no obvious signs of damage or break in. Cottage check signs were left for owners to inform them that police had conducted a premise check of the dwelling and served notice that officers were active in the area conducting these patrols.

**Beach Patrols:** As a result of the COVID-19 safety restrictions many normal summer activities were modified across the Region and Province. This resulted in people trying to find alternative ways to spend time with their families. Wainfleet and Port Colborne beaches became popular destinations, with many at capacity during weekends. Members worked with local By-Law officers to help address the influx of people. From the May long weekend until the Labour Day weekend, additional officers assisted with the influx of people and related call volume associated to the beaches.

**Project Compliance:** The purpose of this project was to conduct compliance checks on persons that were bound by specific terms of Release Orders/Probation Orders and to apprehend wanted persons within the community. A secondary purpose was to have an increase presence in identified areas of concern relating to potential criminal activity. As a result of this project, 20 arrests were made in relation to wanted persons or people failing to comply with conditions of their Release Orders. Numerous address verifications were also conducted to ensure compliance with specific conditions.

**Project Capture:** Project Capture was a proactive crime prevention initiative aimed at identifying emerging crime trends and associated persons of interest. The initiative involved officers gathering and sharing intelligence relating to local community issues which led to 82 information reports, which assisted in identifying various persons of interest within specific geographical areas and timelines. These centralized reports led to focusing various high visibility directed patrols and associated arrests.



## 8 District - West Niagara (Grimsby, Lincoln, and West Lincoln)

**Commercial Vehicle Enforcement:** Officers along with members from the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) responded to complaints regarding overweight trucks on west Niagara roadways. Educational efforts led to a heightened awareness of the approved truck routes within west Niagara. Numerous charges were laid under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), and a significant reduction in the number of commercial motor vehicles traveling on restricted roadways.

**Truck Safety Blitz:** Niagara Regional Police officers worked alongside Ministry of Transportation officers conducted three safety blitzes targeting unsafe large commercial vehicles using the roads in west Niagara. In total, 36 Provincial Offence Notices (PONs) were issued.

**Operation Safe Play:** This initiative involved officers conducting park and premise checks throughout the course of their nightshifts, in an effort to discourage disruptive loitering and vandalism in area parks.

**Project Avoidance:** in June officers took part in these joint forces initiatives in an effort to prevent large commercial motor vehicles that were attempting to avoid the Ministry of Transportation weigh scales and, from utilizing roads within the Town of Lincoln that were not designed to accommodate such large vehicles, avoid detection.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUTH

### School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

The Niagara Regional Police Service has developed and maintained a strong relationship with the District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud, and Conseil Scolaire Viamonde. School Resource Officers (SROs) work closely with staff and administrators in the development of proactive and reactive programs within the school for youth, provide a professional and positive role model, and act as a resource in conflict situations. This arrangement supports our frontline officers and district detectives with respect to school related incidents.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program adapted to current regulations, limited in the ability to conduct in school interactions due to closures and virus



transmission mitigation. Positive youth engagement was accomplished via virtual presentations and opportunities outside of traditional school facilities (parks, plazas, fast food restaurants). The program was suspended temporarily in 2021 pending further review at the request of a local school board while continuing to operate in other boards.

Continuous inroads with indigenous youth continued to be paved through activities with students at Soaring Eagles Secondary School.

Understanding that since the advent of the pandemic there has been an increase in internet child exploitation, SROs have maintained a consistent relationship with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. This organization provides professionally produced multimedia presentations with respect to

on-line safety for youth that are often leveraged by the SROs to augment their own presentations.



The NRPS SRO program continued its community satisfaction momentum in 2021, with numerous requests for in-person presentations following a reprieve from pandemic restrictions. The ability of the SROs to successfully adapt to pandemic era engagement with youth has assisted in the safety and wellbeing of the community at large.

During the summer of 2021, the SROs were re-deployed to assist the Marine Unit to conduct general patrol duties in parts of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, the Niagara River, and other water ways within or bordering the Niagara Region. Working with the Marine Unit, the SROs supported enforcement of the marine and navigation laws as well Criminal Code, Controlled Drug and Substances Act, and Liquor License Act offences.

### **Extrajudicial Measures Program (EJM)**

Since the full-time implementation of the SRO program in 2012, the involvement of these officers in local high schools continues to have a positive impact. In 2021, 202 young persons were charged criminally with 397 charges laid. Twenty-seven young persons were afforded extrajudicial measures, allowing them to complete the program in lieu of being processed through the criminal court system.

The NRPS relies upon the services of community partners such as Contact Niagara, John Howard Society, Family and Children Services, Port Cares, Pathstone, Youth Probation and Parole, and Youth Resources Niagara to provide not only extra judicial programs but also for assistance regarding all youth related concerns. Our partnerships allow for extra judicial measures that not only provide accountability for criminal acts but also provide support for the youth involved.

### **Community Partners**

The NRPS endeavors to optimize relationships with community partners to improve service delivery to youth, victims, vulnerable persons, and at-risk persons. Working with our community partners and stakeholders the NRPS is better able to address the needs of youth in the Niagara Region. Our community partners include the following: Contact Niagara, Port Cares Youth Justice Committee, Family and Children Services (FACS), Pathstone Mental Health, Ministry of Children & Youth Services – Youth Justice Services, Youth Resources Niagara, TAPP – C (The Arson Prevention Program for Children), and the John Howard Society.



## MEMBER SUPPORT UNIT

The Member Support Unit focuses on providing support services to sworn and civilian members of the NRPS to foster long-term health and wellbeing. The unit expanded in 2021 to include a Sergeant position.

The following activities relate to formal programs facilitated by the unit:

- Mandatory completion of the short-term *Reintegration Program* was expanded to include officers who were involved in situations resulting in the death of an individual (previously only mandatory for officer-involved shootings). The NRPS Reintegration Officer completed Reintegration Train-the-Trainer.
- A small sample of officers who participated in the *New Officer Wellness Evaluations* provided feedback, which showed the participating members were satisfied with the program, felt supported, and believed it was beneficial regarding stressors and coping.
- The *Safeguarding* process was revised to now be completed with the Service Psychologist rather than an external psychologist.
- The *Early Intervention Program* is under development. Computer systems were integrated and the need for further development was identified through testing of computerized results. Testing and improvements are ongoing.
- Axel joined the unit as a *facility dog* in February 2021. He engaged in various debriefings, member meets, and member contacts.
- The *Peer Support Team* was refreshed, expanded, and trained.

The PeerConnect First Response “app” was launched in November 2021 to make connecting with peer support members and community mental health providers more accessible. Health-related resources are available on the app. The app was pushed out to Service cells and computers. It is available for personal cells for free through the App Store. It was funded through July 2022 by the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Members were sent a link to the online Member Support Survey, which was accessible in September and October 2021. Results showed a small but statistically significant improvement in mental health stigma and attitudes toward accessing psychological help compared to 20 months earlier.

A 2021-2023 Mental Health Strategy was approved by the Police Services Board in February 2021. The strategic focus is fostering a culture of resilience by addressing mental health stigma and literacy.



## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION UNIT



The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Unit was created as a standalone unit in late spring, 2021. The Unit has progressed positively in enhancing community relationships with many community partners and individuals recognizing and respecting the many different people that live and work in Niagara. The Unit continues to assess any calls for service that involve any aspects of EDI, including people from marginalized or equity seeking groups, playing a supportive and informative role. The EDI Unit has participated in the creation of Newcomers to Canada videos available on our public website, attended and participated in many community events and meetings, and presented to Brock University and Niagara College on policing. The EDI Unit has also participated with the Recruiting Unit to encourage people from all backgrounds and experiences to explore the possibilities of a career with the Niagara Regional Police Service, in both civilian staff and sworn positions.

The EDI Unit also advises and supports training for members and played an integral part in securing upcoming training in Indigenous awareness. This includes a collaboration with the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre utilizing a video series that they produced and CORE Foundations training through the San'Yas Anti-Racism Indigenous Cultural Safety Program.

The EDI Unit continues to be involved with the Internal Inclusion Committee (IIC) comprised of civilian and sworn members that contribute to ensuring that equity, diversity, and inclusion is valued in the workplace and in our interactions with the community.

The EDI Unit is also engaged and participates in the Chief of Police Community Inclusion Council that meets 8 times per year and is comprised of over 20 community partners from local institutions and community-based organizations. The Council is a collaboration that informs the Chief of Police on matters related to equity, diversity, inclusion and the elimination of racism and discrimination.



## EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT UNIT (EMU)

The Evidence Management Unit (EMU) is responsible for receiving, processing, storing, managing, and disposing all items of property and evidence seized, found and recovered by members of the Service and the public.

Members of the EMU oversee the inventory of general evidence and property, firearms, drugs, and cash in accordance with applicable General Orders, Statutes and industry best practices. EMU staff ensures that all evidence/property entering the care of the Service is properly packaged and, where necessary, forwarded to external agencies such as Health Canada for further analysis. In addition, all seized firearms, are stored until a lawful disposition can be made.

The EMU conducts regular stocktaking and audits to ensure that all items brought into possession of the Service remains secure and that, once authorized, those items are either returned to the rightful owner or properly disposed of. The EMU follows the standards set out by the International Association for Property and Evidence.



## SPECIAL VICTIMS

The Special Victims Unit is a combined investigative office focusing on providing services to victims of violent crime, and it includes the following units: Domestic Violence Unit, Child Abuse Unit, Sexual Assault Unit, Human Trafficking Unit, Offender Management Unit, Internet Child Exploitation, Cybercrime Unit, and Technological Crime Unit. The office is supported by Violent Crime Analysts responsible for daily review and tracking of relevant incidents, submissions to the Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS), and Ontario Major Case Management System data entry. The office works collaboratively with community partners, through formal protocols and procedures, to respond to incidents of violent crime, and to provide access to resources to support victims of crime.

### Domestic Violence Unit (DVU)

The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) is a centralized investigative unit that is responsible for conducting criminal investigations involving persons connected through past or present intimate partnerships.

Having a specially trained unit of Domestic Violence Investigators allows the Service to free up front-line resources for incident response, provide increased monitoring of cases with elevated risk for domestic violence, and to have consistent representation during engagement with community partners.

The DVU works collaboratively with Family and Children's Services Niagara, Victim Services Niagara, Victim Witness Assistance Program, Probation and Parole, the Crown Attorney's Office, and shelters for abused women and children, including Gillian's Place, and Women's Place of South Niagara.

### Domestic Violence Unit Investigations in 2021

Classification	2021
Investigations – Total	1,618
Domestic Violence – Criminal Charges	848

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Domestic/Family Violence January 1-December 31 2021.



## Child Abuse Unit (CAU)

The Child Abuse Unit is a centralized investigative unit with a mandate to investigate all incidents of child sexual abuse, child physical abuse and neglect where serious injuries have resulted, a life has been endangered, or where there has been a failure to provide the necessities of life. Members of the Child Abuse Unit also aid during investigations involving children or requiring child interviews.

Child Abuse investigators are specially trained in sexual assault and offences against children's investigations, investigative interviewing, and Major Case Management. These investigators work closely with community partners to deliver on a shared commitment to a comprehensive and coordinated response to allegations of child abuse. This collaboration is guided by the Child Abuse Protocol for the Niagara Region, involving the Niagara Regional Police Service, Family and Children's Services Niagara, Ministry of the Attorney General – Crown Attorney, and Victim/Witness Assistance Program, and the Ontario Office of the Chief Coroner.

Joint child abuse investigations are conducted in partnership with Family and Children's Services Niagara and benefit from the strong support of the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara (KFCACN). The Centre, formally opened on September 16, 2008, offers a safe, child friendly environment where the child and their family can be formally interviewed. Together with its community partners, the Service supported several initiatives organized by the KFCACN, including the Playhouse Build and Auction and the Amazing Race Niagara.

Child Abuse investigations also benefit from the expertise of physicians and staff at the McMaster University Children's Hospital – Child Advocacy and Assessment Program, and in addition are reviewed and tracked by the Child Abuse Review Team.

## Child Abuse Unit Investigations in 2021

Classification	2021
Investigations – Total	272
Total Charges Laid	227

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Child Abuse and Neglect January 1-December 31, 2021



## Sexual Assault Unit (SAU)

The Sexual Assault Unit (SAU) is a centralized investigative unit responsible for the coordination and response to reports of sexual assault in the Niagara Region, involving victims over the age of 16 years and reports of historical sexual abuse of child victims.

The SAU, in collaboration with community partners, is committed to meet the needs of sexual assault victims and appropriately respond to public safety concerns. Our dedicated team of investigators manages cases from initial reporting to the conclusion of an investigation. They provide support to victims and witnesses through the court process, and action referrals to Victim Services Niagara and the Victim Witness Assistance Program.

The SAU works collaboratively with community partners through the Sexual Assault Response Protocol. Amended over time, this protocol includes: the Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Treatment Program at the Niagara Health System, the Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Centre, the Victim Witness Assistance Program, Victim Services Niagara, and the Crown Attorney-Ministry of the Attorney General.

## Sexual Assault Unit Investigations in 2021

Classification	2021
Investigations – Total	367
Cleared by Charge	41
Cleared Unfounded*	9
Investigation Suspended**	238

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Sexual Assault Investigations January 1-December 31, 2021

\* The category of "Unfounded" describes incidents in which it has been determined through police investigation that the offence reported did not occur, nor was it attempted.

\*\*The category of "Investigation Suspended" describes incidents that may still be under investigation or there is insufficient evidence to proceed. Subject to the discovery of new evidence or the conclusion of an investigation, these incidents may be reclassified in the future.



## Human Trafficking Unit (HTU)

Human Trafficking Unit (HTU) investigators work closely with community partners, in accordance with the Niagara Region Emergency Response Protocol to Human Trafficking. Investigations are referred from calls for service, local community agencies, other police services, and the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline. The overarching goal of HT investigations is support for survivors and an end to exploitation of vulnerable victims. The Unit also works closely with the community to increase public awareness of the pervasiveness and the devastating effects of human trafficking on our communities.

### Human Trafficking Unit Investigations in 2021

Classification	2021
Investigations – Total	110
Arrested – Total	12
Charges – Total	32

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service Special Victims Unit January 1-December 31, 2021



## **Offender Management Unit (OMU)**

The Offender Management Unit (OMU) develops management strategies for high-risk federal and provincial parolees to ensure they are complying with court ordered conditions and to prevent further criminal behaviour. The OMU liaises with other police services as well as Correctional Service of Canada, the Provincial Probation and Parole Offices, the Ontario Sex Offender Registry operated by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and the National Sex Offender Registry. The OMU conducts checks on individuals who are on Release Orders, as well as those that are on either of the sex offender registries, with a 98.8% compliance rate. Where an individual is violating a condition of release and evidence exists, the OMU will work with the appropriate agency to bring the offender before the courts.

## **Electronic Crimes Unit**

The Electronic Crimes or “E-Crimes Unit” was formed to bring together under one umbrella units that investigate crimes that occur on the internet or are aided using technology and digital devices. This investigative office is comprised of the Technological Crimes Unit, which supports criminal investigations through forensic examinations of digital devices to extract evidence of a variety of offences; the Cyber Crime Unit, which supports criminal investigations by extracting evidence from online sources and providing technical support to investigators conducting online investigations; and the Internet Child Exploitation Unit, which investigates offences committed against children on the Internet or using digital devices.



## Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE)

The Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit has established a local police response to crimes against children perpetrated via the Internet. In addition to a reactive response to public complaints, investigators initiate investigations of identified targets, authoring search warrants that are judicially authorized, and executed locally. This leads to the identification and arrest of offenders possessing, distributing and making child pornography, and persons who utilize the internet to lure children into sexual activity.

The ICE Unit continues full-time membership in the Ontario Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet, which the Niagara Regional Police Service joined in 2007. This initiative has led to a high level of interagency co-operation and successful joint investigations of Internet Child Exploitation throughout the province, as well as nationally and internationally.

## Internet Child Exploitation Unit Investigations in 2021

Classification	2021
Investigations – Total	98
Arrests	16
Criminal Charges	65

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Child Pornography January 1-December 31, 2021.



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency Services is a highly trained and specialized office capable of responding to a variety of emergencies on land and water, and it includes the following units: Emergency Task Unit, Explosives Disposal Unit, Marine and Underwater Search and Recovery Unit, Canine Unit, Traffic Enforcement Unit, and Collision Reconstruction Unit. Each of these units offers specialized skill sets in support of front-line officers and day to day policing activities, thereby contributing to the safety of our communities. These units work closely with one another and with our divisional units, as well as various municipal, provincial, and federal agencies, to ensure the most efficient and effective coordination of policing efforts in Niagara

### Emergency Task Unit (ETU)

The ETU is a team of specially selected and highly trained officers who respond to major incidents to maintain officer and public safety. Members of the ETU employ a variety of specialized equipment and tactics, using the least amount of force required to resolve some of the most dangerous incidents in our communities. The ETU is an accredited Hostage Rescue Team and is prepared to respond to incidents involving hostage takings, armed persons, barricades persons, and high-risk warrants. Utilizing their specialized training, members of the ETU regularly respond to assist with persons in crisis, high risk missing persons, and search and rescue operations. As part of their duties, the ETU is also responsible for dignitary protection, witness protection, and high-risk court security details.

While deployed to major incidents, the ETU is supported by the Tactical Support Group (TSG). The TSG is a part-time, accredited containment team. It is comprised of members from the Marine and Underwater Search and Recovery Unit, Canine Unit, Traffic Enforcement Unit, and past members of the ETU. The TSG enhances the ETU's ability to successfully conclude high risk operations by providing a pool of highly trained officers to conduct basic tactical operations such as containment of structures, high risk canine tracks, and specialized support during high-risk warrant operations.



## Explosives Disposal Unit (EDU)

The EDU is trained and equipped to render safe improvised chemical, biological, radiological, and explosives devices (CBRNE), military ordnance and provide technical support to the Emergency Task Unit. Additionally, the EDU provides investigative support to other Service units primarily in the context of post blast investigations. The EDU is active in promoting awareness and education regarding explosives and bomb threat procedures among various community partners. EDU members are certified by the Canadian Police College in various disciplines, including render safe procedures, electronics, post blast investigations, radiology and x-ray, and explosive forced entries.

## Marine and Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU)

The members of the Marine and Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU) extend the function of the police investigator into the aquatic environment. The members are required to act as the “eyes” for investigators at any scene which is underwater. Through the highly trained members of the USRU, NRPS investigators can recover a variety of evidence including vehicles, vessels, aircraft, weapons, and deceased persons. Members of the USRU are required to be qualified as commercial divers under standards set by the Canadian Safety Association and the Ontario Health and Safety Act – Diving Regulations. The members undergo further training in the areas of vessel inspection, harbour clearing, explosives recognition, rappelling, live boating operations, and hazardous material response.

## Underwater Search and Rescue Activities in 2021

Activity	# Of Calls for Assistance
Body Recoveries	17
Assist Partner Agencies	0
Evidence Search	5
Vehicle/Vessel Investigations	5

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Underwater Search and Recovery Unit January 1-December 31, 2021



## Canine Unit

In 2021, the Canine Unit continued its commitment to support Uniform Patrol and Specialty Units, maintaining seven general purpose dogs, with five of these dogs cross-trained in narcotics detection and two cross-trained in explosives detection.

The mandate of the unit is to respond to crimes in progress that may be solved with the assistance of a police service dog, while also assisting with all tactical calls for service involving the ETU.

In 2021, members of the Canine Unit responded to 1754 calls for service and used their police service dogs to assist in 546 calls. Unit members used their canines to track suspects on 329 occasions in addition to searching buildings, searching for evidence, narcotics, and explosives. Furthermore, Canine teams are routinely used to assist the ETU while executing high-risk warrants and arrests.





## Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU)

Members of the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) conduct proactive enforcement throughout the Niagara Region while also addressing specific traffic related complaints received from members of the public through the NRPS website, CrimeStoppers, and the dedicated traffic hotline.

In 2021, officers from this unit were responsible for issuing 6052 Provincial Offence Notices and Summons, comprising of approximately 23% of the Service's total enforcement efforts. In addition, members also arrested several drivers for driving while disqualified, impaired driving (alcohol & drugs), and other criminal offences.

In 2021, the TEU added a third Automated Licence Plate Recognition camera system. The camera system obtains photos of licence plates which then compares the plate to a "hot list", which is composed of information that is updated by Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) each morning. If a captured plate is recognized as being on this list, an alert is given, notifying the officer of the potential infraction. This system allows the officer to focus on driving while the cameras check the plates. These vehicles generated 364 tickets in 2021. Since the program's inception, a total of 6917 Provincial Offence Notices (PONs) have been issued.

Once again, the NRPS received grant funding for 2021/2020 from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services as part of the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E) program. A total of 16 scheduled R.I.D.E. spot checks were conducted throughout the year with a significant amount of the dates scheduled during the holiday season. This year, approximately 7785 vehicles were stopped and checked, 287 roadside tests were conducted, 12 people had their licences suspended for 3 days or more, 7 people were charged criminally with impaired driving, and 73 Provincial Act charges were issued.



## Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU)

Officers assigned to the Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU) are technically trained and dedicated investigators, who specialize in the field of collision investigation. Members are initially required to complete a minimum of 10 weeks of extensive collision investigation training at either the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ontario or the Canadian Police College in Ottawa. Beyond their initial training, our collision investigators receive ongoing training to maintain and increase their skill set and expertise.

In 2021, the CRU investigated 36 incidents involving 21 fatal collisions, 11 life threatening injury collisions, and 4 investigative assistance incidents, including suicide and homicide investigations.

### Fatal and Life-Threatening Collisions

Collision Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fatal Collisions	20	18	15	17	16	21
Life Threatening Injuries	21	24	16	12	8	11

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Traffic Management, Enforcement, and Road Safety January 1-December 31, 2021



## **SPECIAL INVESTGATIVE SERVICES (SIS)**

The NRPS Special Investigative Services Unit (SIS) provides support and information on organized criminal activity to the front-line policing units of the Service and includes the following units: Intelligence Unit, Major Drugs and Gangs Unit, Opioid Enforcement and Education Unit, Covert Operations Unit, and Mobile Surveillance Unit. Additionally, several officers are deployed to Joint Forces Operations including, Biker Enforcement (OPP), Provincial Weapons Enforcement (OPP), Provincial Anti-Terrorism Investigations (OPP, RCMP), the Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit (OPP), and the Border Enforcement Security Task Force (Canadian and American Authorities).

### **Intelligence Unit**

The Intelligence Unit is responsible for the monitoring and investigation of organized crime groups and extremism groups for the purpose of prosecuting, dismantling, or disrupting their criminal activities. The Unit works cooperatively with law enforcement agencies across Ontario and New York State and facilitates the sharing of information on criminal matters locally, nationally, and internationally. This Unit also administers the Witness Protection Program.

The Unit's responsibilities include the monitoring of protests within the Niagara Region. The NRPS Hate Crime Coordinator is assigned to the Unit and monitors Hate Crime incidents within the Niagara Region and who is also part of the Provincial Hate Crime team.

The Intelligence Unit is also responsible for the technical aspect of Intelligence and Investigational operations including the use of interception of private communications under Part VI of the Criminal Code of Canada.



## **Major Drugs and Gangs Unit (MDGU)**

The Major Drugs and Gangs Unit (MDGU) was established with the mandate to take enforcement action on mid to high level drug traffickers. The MDGU works closely with other SIS investigative units to develop investigative strategies and initiate projects to address drug crime trends within the Niagara Region. In 2021, working through these partnerships, drug seizures by the MDGU totaled \$102,769,464.

## **Opioid Enforcement and Education Unit (OEEU)**

The objective of the Opioid Enforcement and Education Unit (OEEU) is to investigate and disrupt the illicit trafficking of opioids in the Niagara Region. These include the possession, trafficking and use of illegal Opioids such as fentanyl, heroin, and the many forms of the controlled substance that are available in pill form. OEEU provides critical education to first responders regarding the recognition, safe handling, and enforcement relating to opioids while also raising public awareness and providing education regarding the dangers of opioid misuse through community partnerships including the Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN).

## **Joint Forces Operations**

### **Biker Enforcement Unit (BEU)**

The Biker Enforcement Unit (BEU) is an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) led Joint Forces Operation comprised of 12 law enforcement agencies, including the NRPS.

The BEU is committed to investigating and disrupting the organized criminal activities of outlaw motorcycle gangs through shared policing expertise throughout the Province of Ontario. The main objective of this unit is to monitor the activities and movements of outlaw motorcycle gang members within the Niagara Region and to enforce applicable laws, when necessary, regarding any illegal activity of gang members and associates. Part of their mandate is to develop expert officers for use at trials and civil proceedings.



## **Provincial Anti-Terrorism Section (PATS)**

The Provincial Anti-Terrorism Sections (PATS) is an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) led Joint Forces Operation that has active participation from all the major police services in Ontario including the NRPS. The Unit works very closely with members of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET), and the United States Intelligence community in addressing threats of terrorism.

The section was established in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, in the recognition of the fact that additional resources were needed to combat the threat of terrorism in Ontario. Investigators within PATS investigate criminal extremism throughout the province.

As a border community, Niagara is a strategic site for human smuggling and transport of terrorist-related contraband to and from the United States. The primary objective of this Unit is to conduct investigations on individuals and organized crime groups involved in terrorism-related activities.

## **Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit (PWEU)**

The Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit (PWEU) is an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) led Joint Forces Operation made up of 11 law enforcement agencies including the NRPS. The mandate of the Unit is to identify persons involved in the illegal movement of firearms and to take enforcement action. This includes the offences of smuggling, trafficking, and possession of “crime guns”. Many “crime guns” found or used in the commission of offences have their origins in the United States and PWEU has established a strong working relationship with their American counterparts. In 2021, the member was involved in 21 Niagara based investigations along with 15 investigations in other jurisdictions resulting in the arrests of 19 individuals.

## **Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit (PAFU)**

The Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit (PAFU) is an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) led Joint Forces Operation Operation that has active participation from all the major police services in Ontario including the NRPS. The PAFU is an investigative unit focused on the prosecution of complex proceeds of crime investigations and it specializes in the identification and seizure of offence related property. Their mandate includes assisting crown attorneys and front-line investigators in the preparation of applicable court documents and subsequent forfeiture of seized proceeds, assets, and offence related property.

The member assists with the submissions of forfeited proceeds and assets to the Ministry of Public Works and Government Services, Seized Property Management Directorate. The value and amount of these submissions are reported to the Board in the appropriate Annual Report on Proceeds of Crime.



## Provincial Joint Forces Cannabis Enforcement Team (PJFCET)

The Provincial Joint Forces Cannabis Enforcement Team (PJFCET) is an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) led Joint Forces Operation that has active participation from all the major police services in Ontario including the NRPS. It was established shortly after cannabis was legalized recreationally in Canada in late 2018 and is responsible for enforcing cannabis laws and investigating criminal operations that exploit or abuse the legal cannabis market. In 2021, the PJFCET Unit was involved in numerous investigations resulting in the seizure of illegal cannabis, cannabis by-products and currency from large-scale illegal cannabis production sites, cannabis extraction labs and residential dwellings. The PJFCET Unit executed 19 warrants in the Province of Ontario, 6 of which were in the Niagara Region. Their drug seizures were valued at \$112,769,464 (CAD) and a total of \$363,915 (CAD) was seized.



## PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Complaint Type	2020	2021
Conduct Complaints	115	136
Service Complaints	4	13
Total Public Complaints	119	149
<b>Complaint Conclusions</b>		
Other – No Investigation conducted as per the decision of the OIPRD – Not in the public interest, complaint more than 6 months old, frivolous/vexatious, no PSA breach, insufficient information provided – use other forum (i.e., Court)	51	70
Withdrawn	19	14
Early Resolution (Before Investigation)	3	7
Informal Resolution (During Investigation)	10	9
Unsubstantiated Complaints (Following Investigation)	29	34
Substantiated Complaints (Following Investigation)	7	4
Pending / Open Investigations	0	--
<b>Substantiated Complaint Resolutions</b>		4
No Further Action	0	10

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service Professional Standards Unit January 1-December 31, 2021



## PUBLIC COMPLAINTS CONTINUED

<b>Substantiated Complaint Resolutions</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Action Taken	0	1
Informal Resolution	2	1
Disposition Without a Hearing	2	2
Awaiting Disposition	3	--
Disciplinary Hearing	0	1
<b>Total Substantiated Complaint Resolutions</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service Professional Standards Unit January 1-December 31, 2021



## HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

Through continued involvement in the development and execution of the NRPS Strategic Plan, the Human Resources (HR) Unit supports the Service in providing quality policing to the residents and visitors of the Niagara Region.

During 2021, the Service's response to COVID-19 continued to dominate the HR workplan. The Unit staffed the operation of a 24/7 Attendance Management Office throughout the year to provide contact tracing and case management direction to all members. A comprehensive COVID-19 Safety Plan was developed and implemented during the early part of 2021, with ongoing review and monitoring throughout the year to ensure that Service COVID-19 protocols remained consistent with regional, provincial and federal requirements and recommendations.

The HR Unit also played an integral role in supporting the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (PSB) in their collective bargaining process with the Niagara Region Police Association (NRPA). In the fall of 2021, the PSB and the NRPA reached a settlement on a 6-year collective agreement spanning from 2021-2026.

## RECRUITING UNIT

In 2021, the Recruiting Unit processed 324 applications. This is consistent with the downward trend of the past eight years that has been experienced across North America in police recruitment. From 2009 to 2013, the NRPS Recruiting Unit would receive approximately 700 applications for the position of police constable. From 2014 to the present time, the number of applications received has dropped by approximately 50%, which is the same for many police services. Recruitment efforts were further compounded by a reduced number of recruitment opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of these obstacles, the Recruiting Unit was able to adapt its processes and was able to hire 27 Recruits and 2 currently serving Constables.

Throughout 2021, the NRPS hosted and participated in numerous online career fairs and information sessions and in December, hosted the first in person Women in Policing information session since the pandemic started. In the fall of 2021, the Recruiting Unit also began accepting applications for the Auxiliary Officer Program with the goal of adding new members to that unit in 2022.



## NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE 2021 HIRES

Uniform	28
Civilian – Permanent	11
Civilian – Temporary	10
<b>Total Hires</b>	<b>49</b>

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Promotion of Service Members and Hiring of Non-Service Members January 1-December 31, 2021

## APPROVED SWORN AND CIVILIAN STAFFING COMPLIMENTS

Chief of Police	1	Director	1
Deputy Chief of Police	2	Manager	12
Superintendent	5	Civilian Personnel	313
Inspector	14		
Staff Sergeant	31		
Sergeant	109		
Constable	599		
<b>Total</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Promotion of Service Members and Hiring of Non-Service Members January 1-December 31, 2021



## AWARDS, COMMENDATIONS, AND MILESTONES

Annually, the Service pays tribute to the men and women, both sworn and civilian, for their exemplary work, dedication, and successes. In addition, the Service recognizes members of our community for their selfless acts of courage. Highlighted here are the recipients of our awards and recognized achievements.

### Police Services Board Award of Excellence

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#### Recipient

Constable Rosaire Engelen  
Constable Robert Richardson

### Chief of Police Award

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The Chief of Police Award is presented by the Chief of Police to current or retired members and others who have shown special achievement or community involvement, which falls outside the criteria of other Service Awards.

#### Recipients

Detective Sergeant Andrew Knevel  
Detective Sergeant Michael Tripp  
Detective Constable Michael Ryan  
Mr. Andrew Sabbadini  
Mr. Kevin Kim



## Chief of Police Commendations

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A Commendation may be granted to members of the Service who have demonstrated an act of self-sacrifice, bravery, and/or outstanding performance over and above the highest expectations of the Service.

Commendations may also be granted to citizens by the Police Services Board or the Chief of Police for acts of self-sacrifice, bravery, or actions that assist the police service, which far exceed those expected of a citizen.

### Recipients

**Superintendent:** Ryan Hogan, York Regional Police Service

**Staff Sergeant:** Steve Magistrale, Paul Koscinski, Michael Clark

**Sergeant:** Todd Claydon, Matthew Whiteley

**Constable:** Darryn Barrow, Brett Emmerson, Tim Farr, Sarah Flowers, Michael Lord, Chris Lucy, Sarah Mummery

**Civilian:** Reginald Mallot, Mark Waters, Bernie Gugliemi



## 30 Year Bar

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A Police Officer who is a recipient of the Police Exemplary Service Medal is eligible to be awarded a bar for each ten-year period of full service with a recognized Canadian Police Service, provided the Exemplary Service standard is maintained for each 10-year period. The Chancellery of Canadian Orders and Decorations maintains an official register containing the names of each officer who has been awarded both the 30-year and 40-year service periods.

### Recipients

**Staff Sergeant:** Jason Nesbit, David Sawyer

**Sergeant:** Margaret Devine, Clifford Priest, Linda Haday, Craig Labaune

**Constable:** Jeffery Cross, Danny De Angelis, Duane Pardoe, Yvette St. Germaine



## 20 Year Medal

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The Police Exemplary Service Medal is awarded to Police Officers who have completed a minimum of twenty years of full-time service with one or more recognized Canadian Police Services, provided his or her service records meets an exemplary standard to qualify for receipt of the award. All medal recipients are awarded a personalized engraved medal, together with an official certificate, recognizing their exemplary service. The Chancellery of Canadian Orders and Decorations maintains a register containing the name of each officer who has been awarded this prestigious designation.

### Recipients

**Inspector:** Mario Lagrotteria

**Staff Sergeant:** Brett Atamanyk, Christopher Sirie

**Sergeant:** David Biggar, Christopher Chirico, Jordan Garus, Andrew Knevel, Alexander Mackay, David Pierini, Patrick Sandal, David Santo, Michael Webb

**Constable:** Barry Beck, Richard DiPietro, Karina Ferretti, Adam Franklin, Adam Gorski, Stephen Janes, Evan Lindsay, Alison Palmer, Matthew Pouli, Joseph Valeriote, Stephen Vandenbos

## Peace Officer 20 Year Medal

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### Recipients

**Special Constables:** Julia Durham, Peter Gonta



## 30 Year Civilian Service Recognition

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### Recipients

Veronica Gourley, Reginald Malott

## 20 Year Civilian Service Recognition

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### Recipients

Christine Bell-Mosley, Julia Durham, Patricia Durocher, Jerry Elia, Peter Gonta, Karen Higgins, Sandra Johnson, Brian Mantler, Natalie McCarthy, Ronald Naylor, Irene Osti, Lisa Paris, Deborah Reid, Andrea Rivet, Judy Rylands, John Saunders, Jennifer Savage, Andrea Wells



## District Officer of the Year Award

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### Recipients

**Executive Services** – Constable Gul Mohammad

**Investigative Services** – Detective Sergeant David Pierini

**Emergency Services** – Constable Claude Labrie

**Court Services** – Special Constable Shawn Sexton

**1 District, St. Catharines** – Constable Katia Cristicini

**2 District, Niagara Falls** – Constable Brandon Marsden

**3 District, Welland** – Constable Amy MacLean

**5 District, Fort Erie** – Constable Frank Elia

**6 District, Port Colborne** – Constable Jason McKnight

**8 District, Grimsby** – Constable Brian Klein-Horsman

**Casino Patrol Unit** – Constable Dustin Bianchin



## **Chief James A. Gayder Memorial Award**

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Senior Officers' Association Award is presented to a civilian member of the Police Service who has made a significant contribution to the community and/or the Police Service.

### **Recipient**

Tim Roome

## **Civilian Member of the Year Award**

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The Civilian Member of the Year Award is presented to two civilian members who have consistently demonstrated reliability, professionalism, competence, and a commitment to the goals of the Service and served as positive role models to their supervisors, co-workers, and community.

### **Recipients**

Marcy Lohr, Andrew Roberts



## Traffic Safety Leadership Award

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The Traffic Safety Leadership Award is presented to a sworn member of the Service, or a team comprised of sworn or civilian Service members whose actions have exemplified the traffic related goals and objectives of the Service's Strategic Plan and the Traffic Management Plan.

### Recipient

Constable Frank Chadwick

## Tele-Communicator of the Year Award

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The Tele-Communicator of the Year Award is presented to a Communications Unit member who has through personal action and initiative made significant contributions to public safety and to furthering the mission, values, and beliefs of the Niagara Regional Police Service.

### Recipient

Vicki Roberts



## **Sergeant Major Brian Davidson Memorial Award**

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This award is presented to a sworn, civilian, or retired member of the Service who best exemplifies the goals of the Chief's Ceremonial Guard and the Niagara Regional Police Service. This member of the Chief's Ceremonial Guard exemplifies drill and decorum for the Service and serves as a positive role model for the Service and the community.

### **Recipient**

Constable Tim Ciaramitaro

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award**

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The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award is presented to a sworn member of the Service, or a team comprised of sworn and civilian members that have: established and maintained meaningful working relationships with a diverse community, contributed and exhibited efforts towards furthering diversity related initiatives, displayed leadership, professionalism, and inclusivity, or implemented an initiative that goes well beyond in a particular community and is highly impactful on policing in Niagara.

### **Recipient**

Samantha Crowe-Tappay



## **Community Policing Officer of the Year Award**

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The Community Policing Officer of the Year Award is presented to a sworn member of the Service who has best demonstrated and exemplified a commitment to Community Policing.

### **Recipient**

Constable Scott McGill

## **Peter Gallant Memorial Award**

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The Peter Gallant Memorial Award is presented each year by the Niagara Region Police Association to a civilian member who exemplifies the core values of the Niagara Region Police Association and who has promoted the mutual interest of the membership and law enforcement profession

### **Recipient**

Kristen Hansen



## Jeff Paolozzi Memorial Award

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The Jeff Paolozzi Memorial Award is presented each year by the Niagara Region Police Association to a uniform member who exemplifies the core values of the Association and who has promoted the mutual interest of the membership and law enforcement profession. The Award is named in memory of Constable Jeff Paolozzi who tragically died on duty during a training exercise.

### Recipient

Constable Robin Bleich

## Media Award

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The Media Award is presented to a local media personality who delivers to the community, newsworthy material received from and relating to the Niagara Regional Police Service in a manner that satisfies the public's right to know, while at the same time respecting the obligations of the Service.

### Recipient

Nicole Martin



## Retirees

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### Police Officer

**Inspector:** James McCaffery

**Staff Sergeant:** William Harris, Kevin Luciano

**Sergeant:** Margaret Devine, Linda Haday, Thomas Manney, Tammy Morden, Robert Schottlander, Paul Thomas

**Constable:** Nancy Charrois-Waugh, Deanne Evans, Robert MacClelland, James Taylor

**Civilian:** Rose Pierson, Terry Smith



## OPERATING BUDGET OVERVIEW

Expenditure	Budgeted	Actual
Personnel Costs	\$163,468,447	\$165,711,964
Administrative Expenses	3,970,086	3,380,849
Operational & Supply	2,446,553	2,514,004
Occupancy & Infrastructure	363,898	183,183
Equipment, Vehicles, Technology	7,224,642	6,836,493
Financial Expenditures & Regional Chargebacks	(4,527,773)	(5,189,152)
Net Transfers to Reserves	1,860,000	2,914,477
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>\$174,805,853</b>	<b>\$176,351,816</b>

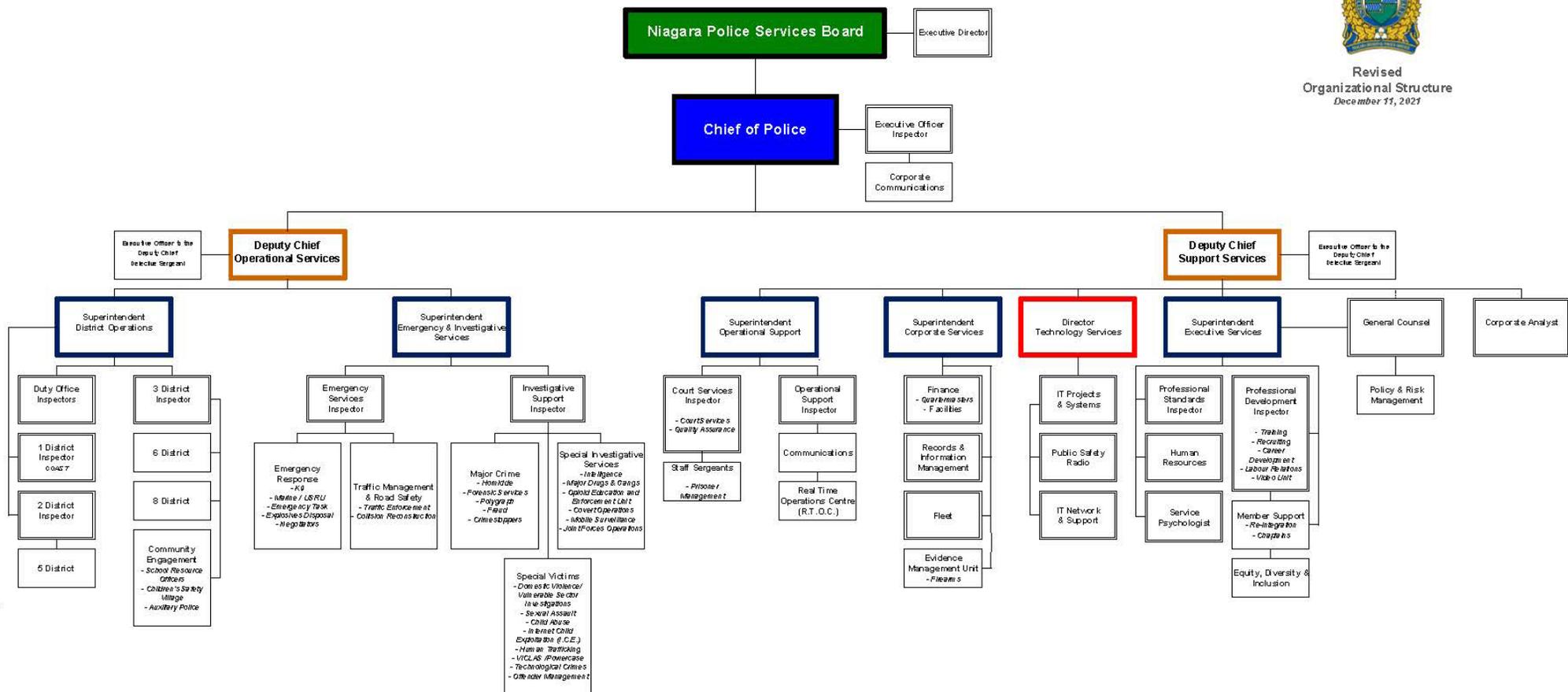
Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Finance Variance Overview January 1-December 31, 2021

Revenue Description	Budgeted	Actual
Fees & Service Charges	\$9,546,055	\$9,405,554
Ontario/Canada Grants	1,731,500	2,829,497
Other Revenue	2,468,256	2,757,496
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>13,745,812</b>	<b>14,992,547</b>
<b>Budgeted vs. Actual Costs</b>	<b>\$161,060,041</b>	<b>\$161,359,269</b>

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Promotion of Service Members and Hiring of Non-Service Members January 1-December 31, 2021



Revised  
Organizational Structure  
December 11, 2021





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