



2022

NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT



Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The Regional Municipality of Niagara stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

OUR MISSION

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

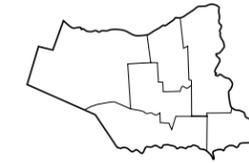
In partnership with the community, we shall provide quality policing services with integrity, diligence, and sensitivity.





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PART OF OUR COMMUNITY



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE POLICE SERVICES BOARD



On behalf of the Niagara Police Services Board, I am pleased to present the 2022 Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) Annual Report. I would like to recognize the many successes achieved by the Service and applaud the dedication and professionalism of the 1,074 members who continue to work hard to keep the Niagara Region safe, while meeting the needs of the 480,000 residents and over 13 million visitors to Niagara each year.

There is no question that 2022 was a difficult year in policing, and for the NRPS. Police services across the country have suffered the immeasurable loss of officers in the line of duty, with 11 of those deaths occurring since September 2022. We mourn with our policing partners and will continue to strive for safer conditions for Police and our community at large.

One of the Board's key responsibilities is the provision of adequate and effective Police services to its communities. To accomplish this, the Board approved a 2022 Police budget of \$168.4 million, which includes additional Police officers and civilian personnel to address growing demands of specialized response to highly volatile incidents that pose a risk to community and officer safety; increased homicide rates and growing demands resulting from changes to investigative processes, digital and forensic evidence; increased workload demands from 911 call volumes and additional resources for the Real Time Operations Centre to leverage technology of CCTV cameras and intelligence information to support frontline officers; as well as growing demands to ensure fiscal responsibility, accountability, and cost-containment for the NRPS.

The Board and Service developed its 2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan for the NRPS. This process involved extensive community consultation to ensure that citizens had a prominent voice in how Police services are delivered. The final document serves as a blueprint for the delivery of Police services. It sets out a road map for our organization and establishes goals and objectives for the next four years linked to measurable and meaningful results.

The Board thanks former Board Members - Regional Councillor Bob Gale and former Regional Councillor and Mayor of Wainfleet, Kevin Gibson, for their years of service following the end of their tenure in 2022. They were respected members of the Board and committed an enormous amount of time and energy over the past several years to the many challenges this Board has faced. The Board also welcomed Regional Councillors Pat Chiocchio (Welland) and Laura Ip (St. Catharines) who were appointed to the Board for a four-year term (2022-2026).

To our Niagara Region community, we encourage you to read the 2022 Annual Report to learn more about important statistical information, the policing initiatives which promote community engagement and our crime prevention and victim support programs.

I would like to thank the members of the NRPS for their unwavering commitment to community safety and members of the Niagara Police Services Board for their diligence in providing responsible, effective, and transparent governance.

Sincerely,

William C. Steele
Board Chair

The Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board



Board Member
Henry D'Angela

Board Member
David Eke

Board Member
Bob Gale

Board Member
Kevin Gibson

Board Member
Jen Lawson

Board Member
Tara McKendrick

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



It is my honour, on behalf of our members, sworn and professional staff, to present the Service's 2022 Annual Report.

Each and every day, our members continue to work tirelessly to ensure the on-going safety and protection of residents of the Niagara Region, as well as ensuring that it is a safe destination for millions of tourists who visit our beautiful Region every year.

In this report, you will see the immense commitment to 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.

As the COVID-19 pandemic and various restrictions continued to impact our community into 2022, our Service and members continued to adapt, taking an education first approach towards enforcement.

Crime rates in Niagara remained steady in 2022, with violent crime decreasing slightly by 2.36% compared to 2021, largely due to a rise the year before as more pandemic restrictions were lifted and the community re-opened.

As pandemic restrictions continued to lift throughout the year, it was my pleasure to again be able to re-engage in person with our many community stakeholders and community members. The inception of the Community Oriented Response and Engagement (CORE) Unit reflected a fundamental shift in our community outreach as we look for new and innovative ways to engage with all members of our community.



Deputy Chief
Brett Flynn, M.O.M.



Deputy Chief
Bill Fordy, O.O.M.

2022 also saw the implementation of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, which serves as a road map for the path forward for our Service. In the creation of the plan, through consultation with various community stakeholders, faith based and equity deserving groups, and educational leaders within our Region, I am confident that we have the framework to continue to provide quality policing services to the residents of Niagara.

On behalf of the NRPS, I hope you take the time to learn about the activities of our members in 2022. In the years to follow, we will continue to serve our community with pride, compassion, and dignity.

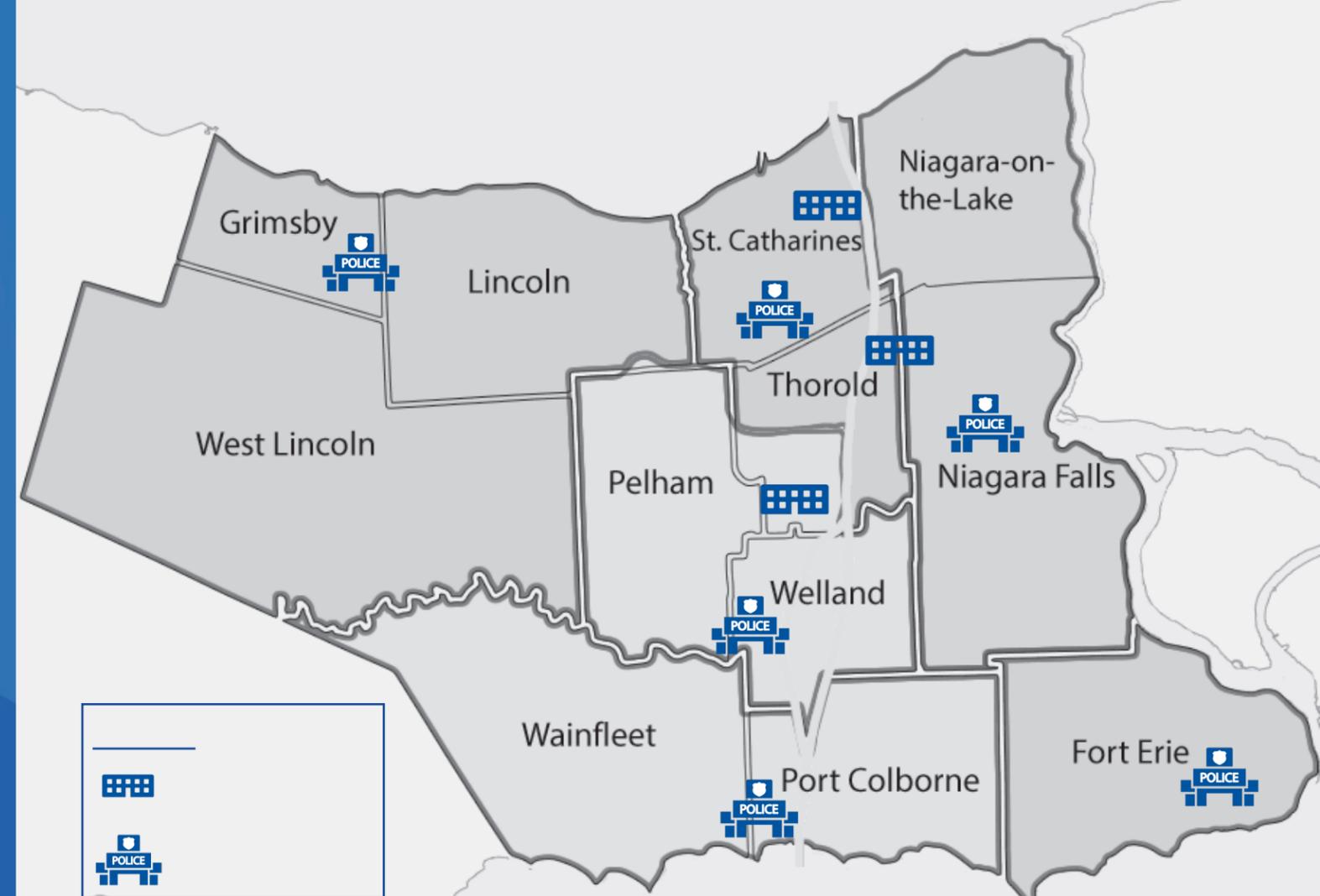
Chief of Police Bryan MacCulloch,
BA, MA, M.O.M.



Established January 1, 1971, the Niagara Regional Police Service is the oldest regional Police service in Ontario. In an area of 1,852 square kilometres, the Niagara Regional Police Service patrols one of Ontario's largest geographic regions.

The Niagara Regional Police Service is comprised of highly-trained and motivated individuals dedicated to serving and protecting residents and visitors within the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

In partnership with the community, it provides quality policing services, with integrity, diligence, and sensitivity.



NIAGARA AT A GLANCE

6 POLICE DISTRICTS

12 UNIQUE COMMUNITIES

327 PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS

768 SWORN OFFICERS

1500 SQ KM WATER POLICING AREA

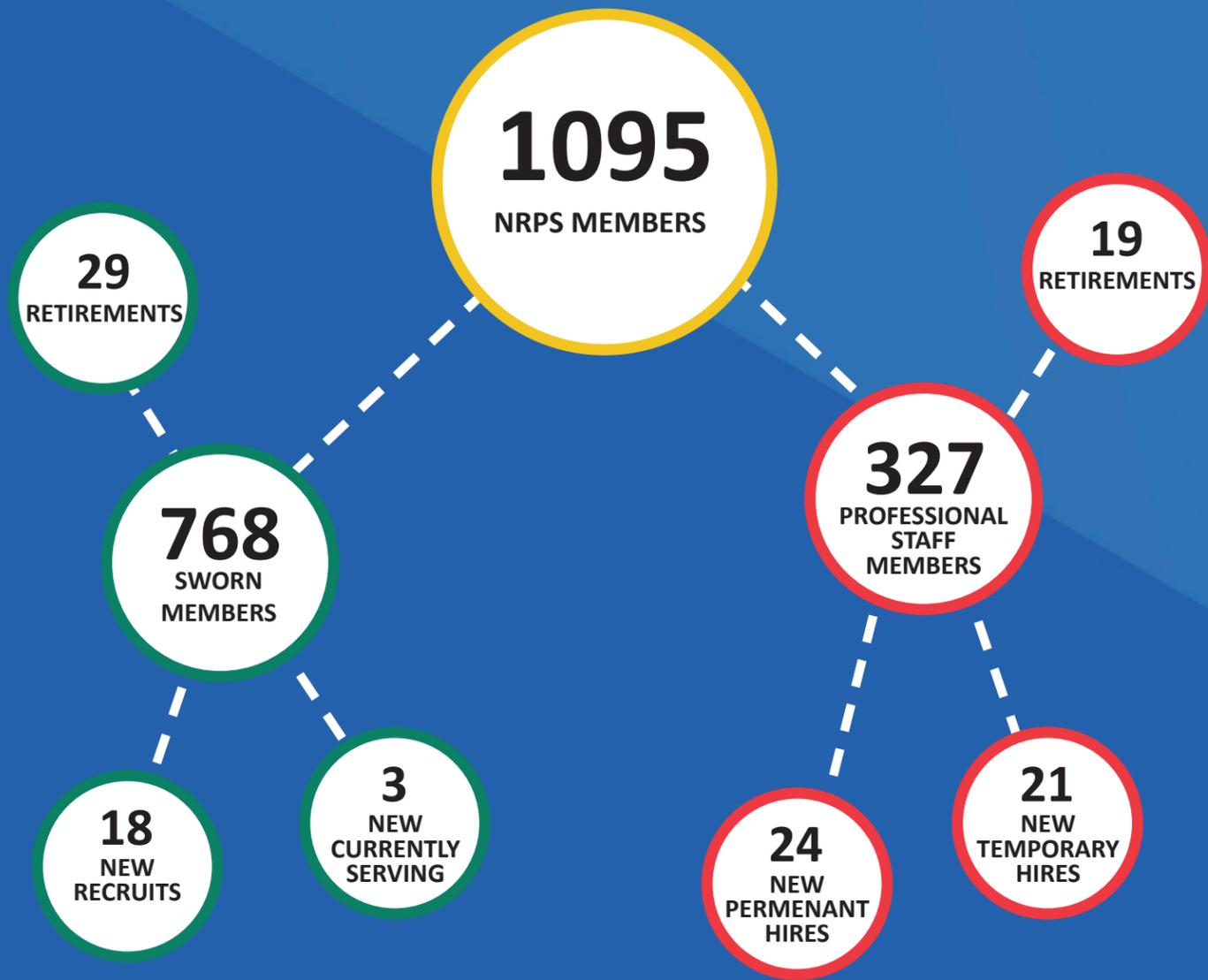
1852 SQ KM LAND POLICING AREA

484,840 RESIDENTS*

13,000,000+ TOURISTS ANNUALLY**

* As of December 31, 2021 Source: Niagara Region

** Source: niagaracanada.com



OUR PEOPLE

The Human Resources Unit continues to support the delivery of quality policing to the residents and visitors of the Niagara Region through the execution of the NRPS Strategic Plan.

During 2022, the Unit was able to refocus on non-pandemic related activities. The implementation of the provisions of the 2021-2026 Collective Agreements, which were finalized in the fall of 2021 for the Uniform, Professional Staff, and Senior Officer bargaining units dominated the HR workplan for the first 2 quarters of the year.

The number of job postings for internal and external vacancies more than doubled during 2022, which meant that a significant amount of time and resources were spent on talent acquisition activities. The need for temporary communications operators, special constables, and administrative staff also increased significantly resulting in continuous staffing activities for temporary staff.

A review of the current state of HR functions was undertaken by an external consultant in the latter part of 2022 with the goal of designing a contemporary Human Resources (HR) operating model to meet the future needs of the Service. The implementation of the results of this review continue to be considered.

SWORN COMPLIMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

Chief	1
Deputy Chief	2
Superintendent	5
Inspector	14
Staff Sergeant	30
Sergeant	109
Constable	607
Total	768

2022 HIRES

Uniform	21
Professional Staff- Permanent	24
Professional Staff- Temporary	21
Total Hires	66

PROFESSIONAL STAFF COMPLIMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

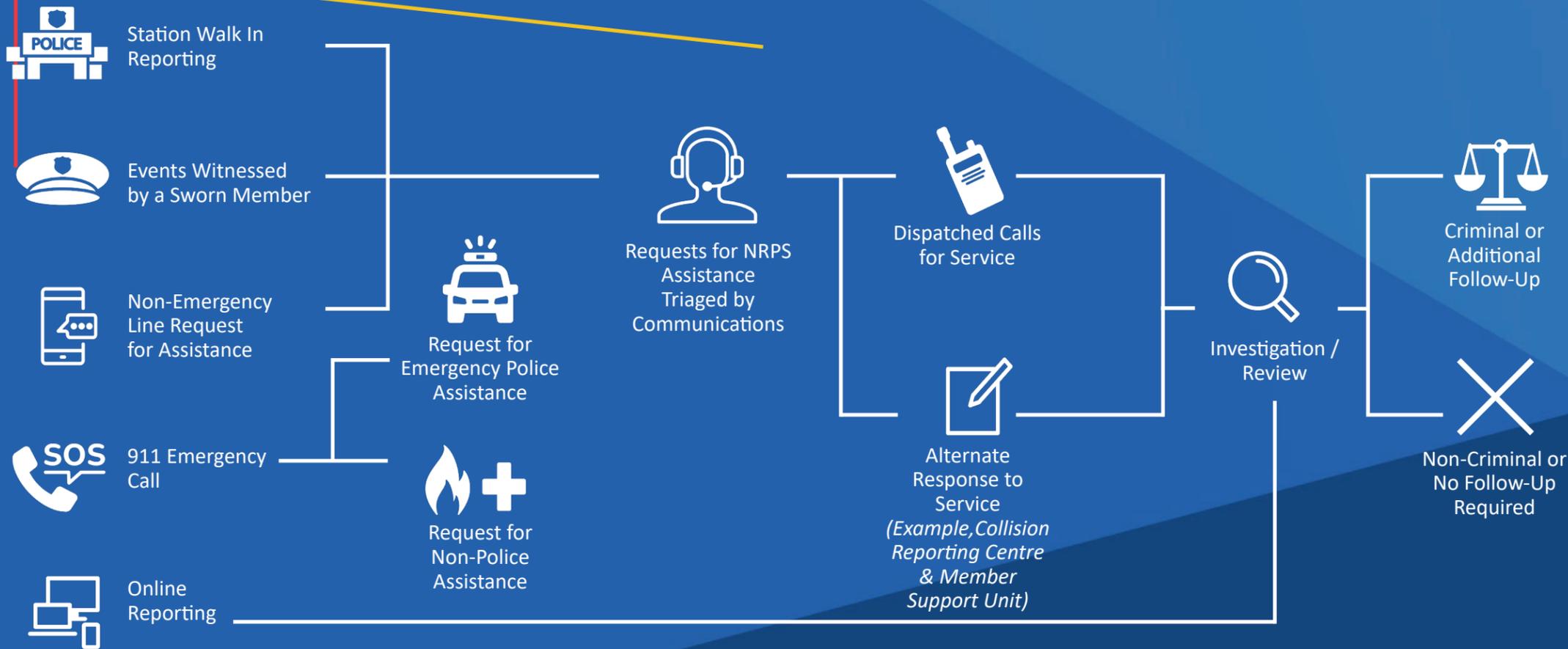
Director	1
Managers	13
Professional Staff Personnel	313
Total	327

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:



Scan to view, or visit our website at www.niagarapolice.ca

COMMUNICATIONS & DISPATCH



The Communications Unit is the largest professional staff unit within the 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.

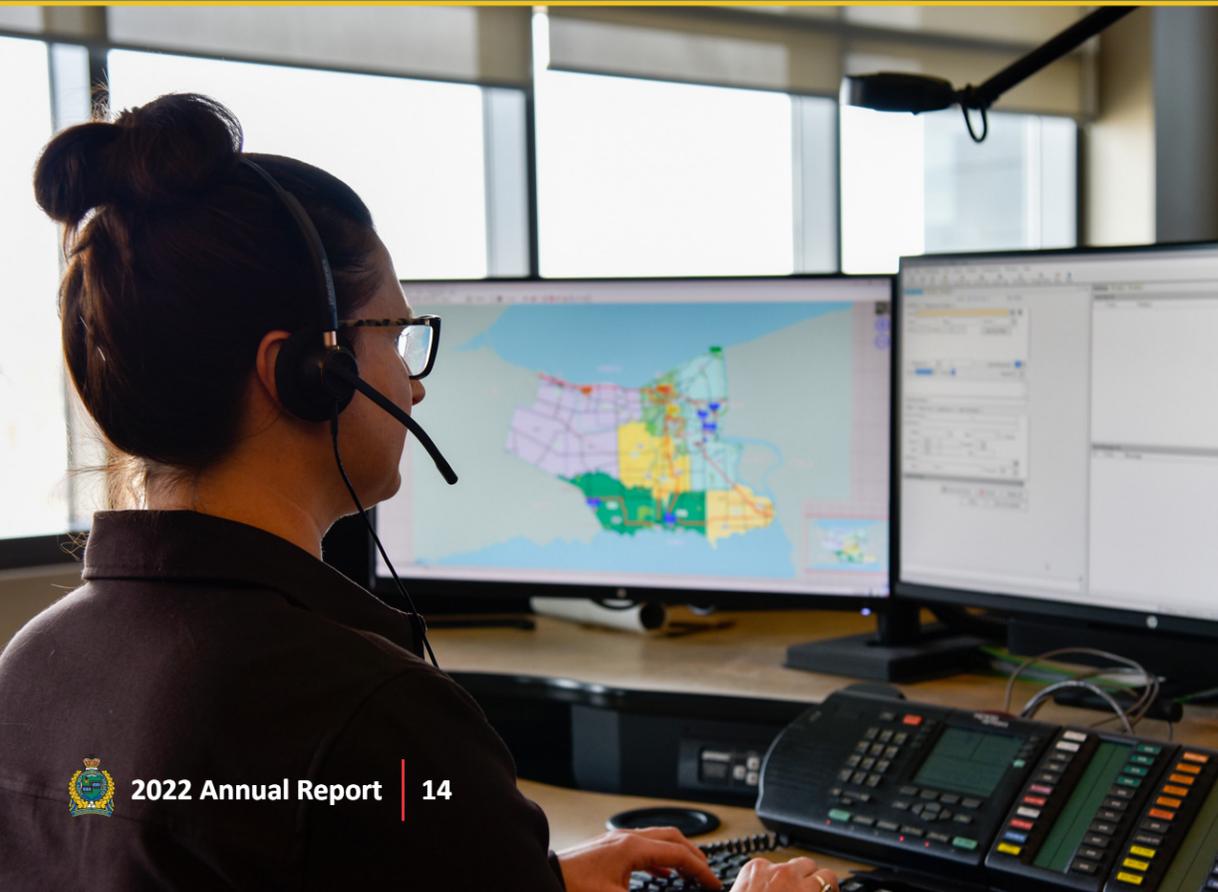
The NRPS is the Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PPSAP) for the Region of Niagara. Currently, when a call comes into our emergency dispatch for a response, there are three options for dispatch: fire, Police, and EMS.

The organizational structure and the staffing levels of the Communications Unit changed during the reporting period. A communications administrator position was created which replaced the staff sergeant and 4 new 9-1-1 operator positions were added that resulted in an additional 9-1-1 operator per platoon.

In 2022, the NRPS Communications Unit, once again, achieved “ACE” (Accredited Centre of Excellence) status with the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch (IAED).

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.



PRIORITY 1
138

PRIORITY 2
24,979

PRIORITY 3
47,293

PRIORITY 4
31,415

PRIORITY 5
22,392

PRIORITY 6
22,128

PRIORITY 1 -
Emergency / Crime in Progress

PRIORITY 2 -
Just Occurred

PRIORITY 3 -
Non-Urgent / More Serious

PRIORITY 4 -
Non-Urgent / Less Serious

PRIORITY 5 -
No Mobile Response Required

PRIORITY 6 -
**Information or Referral
(Communications or Other Unit)**

* (excludes Niagara Parks Police calls for service)

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

Includes duplications and calls received for other agencies.

493,732

**EMERGENT 911 CALLS RECEIVED
 202,674**

**NON-EMERGENCY
 CALLS RECEIVED
 291,058**

**911 CALLS REQUESTING POLICE
 122,674**

DISTRICT	CALLS*
1 DISTRICT- ST. CATHARINES THOROLD	47,244
2 DISTRICT NIAGARA FALLS NIAGARA- ON-THE-LAKE	38,552
3 DISTRICT WELLAND PELHAM	18,566
5 DISTRICT FORT ERIE	7,072
6 DISTRICT PORT COLBORNE WAINFLEET	5,713
8 DISTRICT GRIMSBY LINCOLN WEST LINCOLN	9,133

**TOTAL CALLS RESPONDED
 TO BY NRPS**

*Includes non-emergency, officer
 generated, and walk-ins.*

148,348



**Providing real time visual support to our officers to help
 keep Niagara safe**

The Real Time Operation Centre (RTOC) operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Its role is to provide near real time actionable intelligence as required by many units, including but not limited to: the Frontline Patrol, Detectives' offices, Traffic Enforcement Unit, Child Abuse Unit, Sexual Assault Unit, and the Homicide Unit.

Community cameras are accessed on an incident driven basis and through intelligence-led crime prevention.

This strategic and intelligence-driven approach assists Police in obtaining critical information to optimize officer and public safety to residents and visitors to the Niagara Region.

The RTOC has also been instrumental in assisting with

missing persons investigations, persons in crisis, and suspects to identify various types of crimes. RTOC also assists in Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver assists Police response by helping to locate wandering and disoriented people due to alzheimer's, autism, or other cognitive disability or impairments.

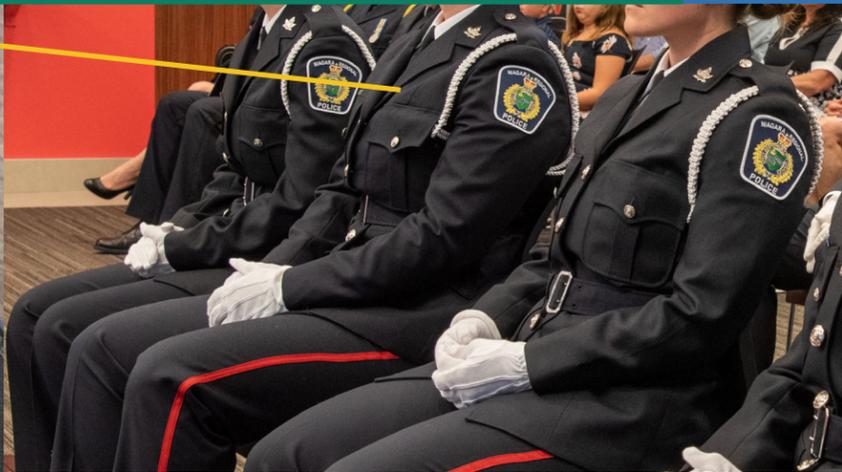
In 2022, the RTOC was utilized and assisted in 3976 incidents. The RTOC was activated on a wide array of calls such as robberies, weapons, missing persons, impaired driving, and homicides.

The RTOC is continuing to expand operations with 2 new additional cameras installed in both Niagara Falls and St. Catharines. In addition, the RTOC is collaborating with local stakeholders and agencies. In 2022, 28 cameras from the Ministry of Transportation and 80 cameras from Niagara College were added to the RTOC platform.

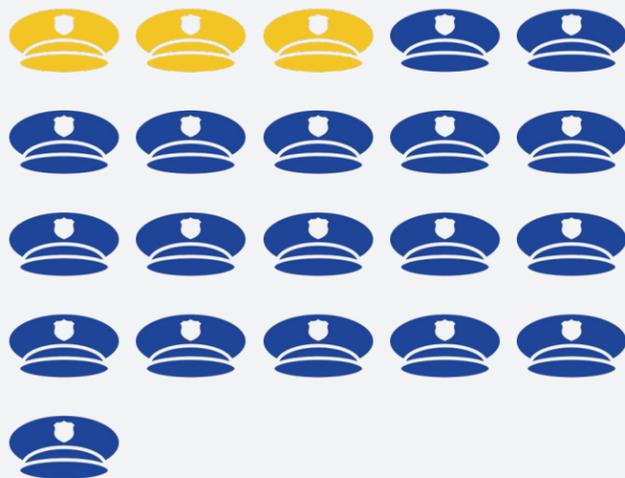
**CALLS ASSISTED IN 2022:
 3,967**

* Excludes Priority 6 classified calls for service

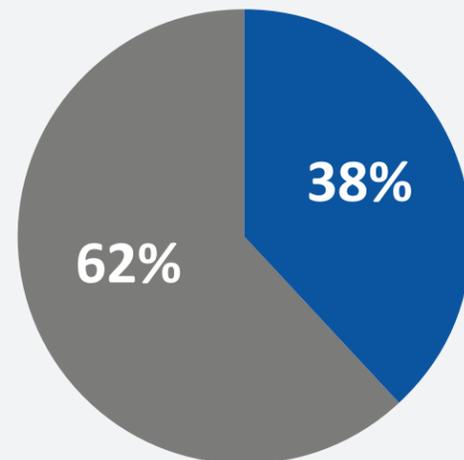
RECRUITING



3/21 RECRUITS WERE EXPERIENCED OFFICERS



62% OF 2022 RECRUITS IDENTIFIED AS FEMALE



The Recruiting Unit operates with the goal of finding the best candidates to join the NRPS team. They are responsible for the recruitment of uniform constables, auxiliary constables, and beginning in 2022, special constables.

Police recruitment continued to be challenging in 2022, as the downward trend in Police applications nationally continues. Despite these challenges, the members of the Recruiting Unit were able to successfully hire 18 recruit constables and 3 currently serving constables. The unit also hired 23 auxiliary constables and 9 special

constables. Women accounted for 62% of the Constables recruited in 2022 and 19% of recruits identified as being part of an equity deserving group.

The members of the Recruiting Unit also attended numerous career fairs across Southern Ontario and hosted focused information sessions locally, including sessions specific to women in policing, and in cooperation with the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Unit information sessions for the South Asian and Black communities.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A POLICE OFFICER WITH THE NRPS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE.



1
PUBLIC SAFETY



2
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
& COLLABORATION



3
CONTINUOUS
IMPROVEMENT &
ORGANIZATIONAL
CONTINUITY



4
MEMBER WELLNESS



GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TO READ THE FULL 2022-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE



2022 INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PATROLS

Back to School Road Safety Initiative



This annual initiative was carried out to remind drivers that kids are back in school. Patrols aimed to target impaired drivers, drivers who are speeding, disobeying school bus protections, disobeying stop signs, and other Highway Traffic Act (HTA) violations that endanger the safety of the students. This initiative was developed to establish safe roadways and a safe environment for the students in the Niagara Region.

Bicycle Safety



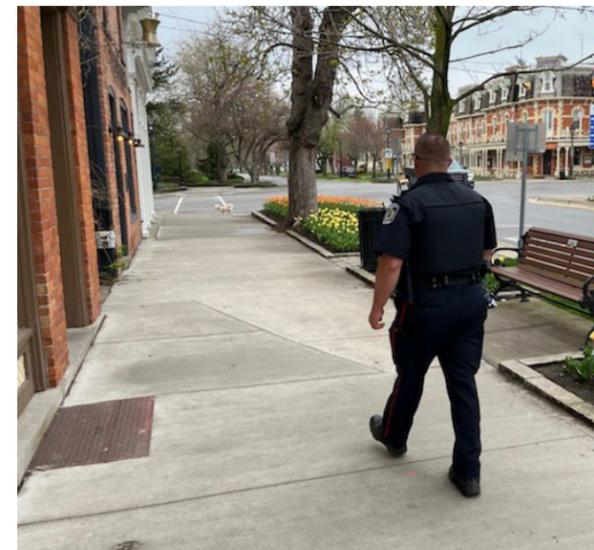
Police and Wendy's Restaurants once again partnered in the 'Free Frosty Campaign' where 10,000 coupons were provided to frontline officers to distribute to youths displaying good bicycle safety by wearing a helmet and obeying the rules of the road. New for 2022, Wendy's, with the assistance of officers, gave away 150 bicycle helmets on kick off day. Officers also assisted in the delivery of 2-week long Safety Village Courses.

Crossing Guard Initiative



5 District (Fort Erie) members responded to complaints received through the Town of Fort Erie, implementing an initiative directed at multiple student crossing locations. Members were present to monitor and enforce HTA offences.

Bicycle and Foot Patrol Initiatives



Throughout the year, to adopt a stronger focus on community policing and visibility, bicycle and foot patrols were initiated in the downtown cores and recreational areas. While walking the beat, officers routinely engaged with local shopkeepers and citizens identifying problem areas and concerns. Issues related to homelessness, unwanted persons, thefts, damage, drug use, and discarded paraphernalia were identified and addressed.

2022 INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PATROLS

Operation Supply and Demand

This initiative was designed to create a relationship with the homeless community in St. Catharines by providing care packages to individuals in need. In doing so, Police interacted with the individuals that frequented the downtown area. This helped reduce calls involving these individuals and helped to build relationships.

Homeless Persons Outreach

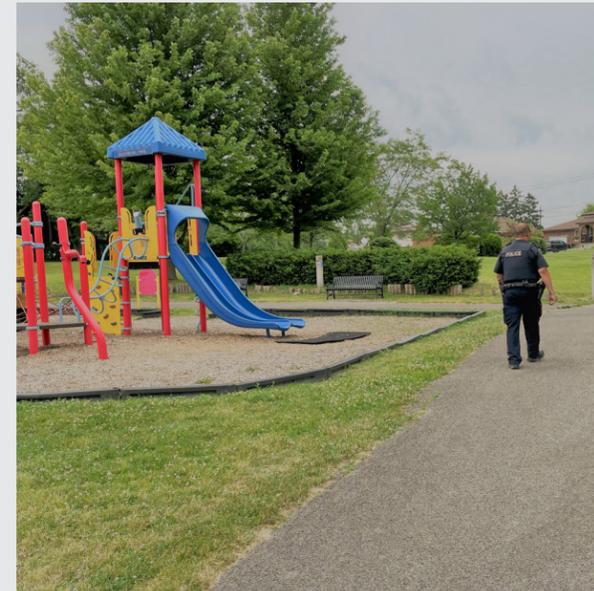
With the onset of cooler weather, Police in 3 District (Welland/Pelham) worked closely with the staff from Niagara Assertive Street Outreach, Gateway Niagara, and The Hope Centre. These partnerships were valuable and assisted several persons who were living in tents or vehicles by providing them with temporary and/or permanent shelter.

Operation Outline



Officers participated in this project from November 2022 through April 2023. With the onset of inclement weather, the City of Port Colborne staff had reported a significant increase in damage or entry to city-owned and operated buildings and facilities. In many cases, individuals gained entry to these facilities for the purpose of taking up temporary residency to avoid inclement weather. Through correspondence with city staff, 15 individual locations were identified. Officers then conducted directed patrols at and around these identified locations. Over the course of this project, Police identified 11 individuals, taking this opportunity to connect these individuals with the resources to help them find temporary shelter.

Parks and Beat Patrol Initiatives



Officers assigned to 5 District (Fort Erie), monitored and patrolled various locations that included, Crystal Ridge Park, Fort Erie Skatepark, Ferndale Park, Lions Sugarbowl Park, Stevensville Memorial Park, and Ridgeway Village Square. Members attended during the summer months to enforce various Highway Traffic Act (HTA) offences in and around the surrounding areas as attendance increased due to the warmer weather. Members from 5 District also conducted routine foot patrols in and around community centres.

Lundy's Lane Business Initiative



A high-visibility, crime prevention initiative took place over three months to address issues in commercial businesses on Lundy's Lane. Uniform officers performed high-frequency, high-visibility patrols engaging business owners to discuss crime-related issues and crime prevention strategies. The NRPS 'Online Reporting' portal was reviewed, and businesses were encouraged to report minor incidents that may not have been previously captured. The high-visibility patrol continued during evening hours with officers patrolling parking lots when businesses were closed.

2022 INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PATROLS

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Several requests were received from businesses, community groups, and homeowners to have an officer come out to their property and offer suggestions to discourage crime. Police were able to work with homeowners and business owners to make recommendations for improved safety.

High School Beach Day

District officers along with CORE Unit members planned for, and were present, during the annual high school unsanctioned beach day across the Region. The annual beach day had been postponed due to the pandemic and a large number of students were expected. Officers utilized ATV patrols and foot patrols to engage with the students who attended this event. Police enforced the Liquor Licence Act and the Trespass to Property Act throughout the day.

Beach Patrols



The beaches of Niagara remained popular destinations in 2022 and quickly overwhelmed local infrastructure that was put in place. On weekends, all beaches were at, or over, capacity and parked vehicles exceeded available parking spaces. Officers worked with local By-Law Officers to help address the influx of people. From the start of August until Labour Day weekend, additional officers were hired to deal with the influx of people and related the call volume associated to the Sherkston beaches.

Lock it or Lose It



This initiative is an annual public reminder and was conducted throughout the year. Using social media posts and increased Police visibility, the community is alerted to the risk of theft from vehicles. Officers conduct foot and bicycle patrols throughout open-air malls and businesses, making themselves visible to patrons and business owners. Furthermore, while onsite, officers also walked through the parking lots, visually checking for unlocked cars, placing an educational pamphlet on the windshield of parked vehicles. This initiative incorporated increased Police visibility along with awareness for motorists of securing items in their vehicles out of plain view.

Overweight Trucks



Officers along with members from the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) responded to complaints regarding overweight trucks on West Niagara roadways. Education was pushed out over the district Twitter account. This led to a heightened awareness of the approved truck routes within west Niagara. Numerous charges were laid under the HTA, and a significant reduction in the number of commercial motor vehicles travelling on restricted roadways.

2022 INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PATROLS

Truck Safety Blitz



8 District (Lincoln/West Lincoln/Grimsby) and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) officers conducted 4 safety blitzes targeting unsafe large commercial vehicles using the roads in West Niagara. Policing partners from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Halton Regional Police Service also participated. Officers took part in these joint forces initiatives to prevent large commercial motor vehicles that were attempting to avoid the MTO scales from utilizing roads within the Town of Lincoln that were not designed to accommodate such large vehicles as part of “Operation Avoidance”.

Operation Impaired Driver Enforcement

This initiative was designed to increase the deployment of the Approved Screening Devices (ASD) that are currently available. The initiative ensured that all ASDs were assigned to qualified officers for the duration of the shift. As a result of this initiative, there were 22 Part 1 Provincial Offence Notices (PONs), 2 Part III summons, and 6 warnings issued for other traffic offences that came to light due to sobriety related vehicle stops.

2 District Traffic Safety Initiatives

These initiatives were initiated by individual 2 District (Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake) platoons to address community concerns related to traffic safety. A myriad of initiatives occurred throughout the year that targeted speeding, careless driving, unnecessary noise, and distracted driving to name a few. Platoons collaborated on directed patrol and organized enforcement activities. In total, 72 PON’s, and 24 Provincial Offence Warnings were issued to violators.

Driving Complaints

3 District (Welland/Pelham) received several driving complaints of vehicles not stopping for red lights/stop signs/school buses, speeding, loud mufflers, heavy trucks, and off-road vehicles. Subsequently, several traffic initiatives were conducted in identified areas with officers monitoring intersections and conducting radar/lidar enforcement. Officers partnered with MTO Enforcement Officers and City By-Law Officers on heavy truck enforcement. ATV patrols were also conducted along the St. Lawrence Seaway property educating the public, enforcing the “Off-Road Vehicles Act” and the “Trespass to Property Act”.

Traffic Enforcement Rural Roads

Focused traffic enforcement is conducted in rural areas of the Niagara Region prone to a high frequency of vehicles travelling at excessive speeds as identified through citizen complaints.



COMMUNITY ORIENTED RESPONSE AND ENGAGEMENT UNIT (CORE)



Community and youth engagement a priority for our CORE Officers

In April of 2022, the Niagara Regional Police Service undertook a fulsome review of our community engagement model and moved forward with launching a refocused model of community policing.

The CORE (Community Oriented Response & Engagement) Unit was a 12-month pilot project that will ensure that we, as a Service, are better positioned to facilitate youth engagement, community outreach, and a focus on problem-oriented policing through a district level CORE unit to directly address community issues.

CORE Unit members do not function as school

resource officers to offer a uniform response to schools. Rather, they will be working with stakeholders across our community, including school boards to proactively and reactively build and support those relationships to identify, strategize, and solve community problems.

In total, 16 constables and 3 sergeants operate out of 1 District (St. Catharines/Thorold), 2 District (Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake), and 3 District (Welland/Pelham) to directly address community concerns in an evolution of our community engagement model, as we move forward with a reinvigorated and focused community engagement model, allowing us to better serve our community.

Over the past year, CORE officers have participated in basketball tournaments, engaging with local youth, attended workshops at the Niagara Folk Arts Centre to educate new community members on law and policing in Canada, as well as liaised with local stakeholders to offer support and assistance to those experiencing homelessness across Niagara, while also offering Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) education to community members and business owners.

CORE INITIATIVES

- ATV, Foot, and Bicycle Patrols
- Community Engagement
- Community Outreach and Addiction Support
- Crime Prevention – Lock It or Lose It
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Audits - Business and Residential
- Municipal Enforcement Officers and Business Improvement Associations (BIAs)
- Spring Food Drive
- 529 Garage - Bicycle Registration Program

MOBILE CRISIS RAPID RESPONSE TEAM (MCRRT)

MCRRT partnership continues to be a valuable community resource

Throughout 2022, the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) program, continued to operate in 1 District (St. Catharines/Thorold) as well as 2 District (Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake). In addition, the program commenced a pilot expansion for the City of Welland and Town of Pelham following increased funding from the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

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

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

MCRRT has been active in St. Catharines/Thorold since 2015, and Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake since 2021, with funding provided by Ontario Health West (formerly Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network). Existing MCRRT teams are comprised of a full-time mental health worker to work 12-hour shifts with Police responding to 911 calls.



TOTAL CALLS
1,883

ST. CATHARINES
671 calls

3 Mental Health Workers

NIAGARA FALLS
714 calls

2 Mental Health Workers

SOUTH NIAGARA
498 calls

PILOT - 1 Mental Health Worker

% DIVERTED FROM HOSPITAL
78%

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Police Response to Persons who are Emotionally Disturbed or have a Mental Illness or Developmental Disability January 1-December 31, 2022.

MEMBER SUPPORT UNIT



Supporting our members' mental health and wellbeing

Since the inception of the Member Support Unit in 2017, the unit has continued to take positive action to support and promote the wellbeing of both sworn and professional staff members of the Service.

In 2022, the unit continued to utilize and expand upon programs and initiatives to ensure member wellbeing.

Criteria incidents and thresholds were created for the Early Intervention Program, thus establishing when an alert would be triggered to notify members of the Member Support Unit to contact a Service member to ensure their wellbeing.

The list of available and qualified mental health care providers with specific knowledge and understanding of the policing organization was updated to ensure appropriate resources were available for members.

The Guarding Minds @Work survey was conducted with the intention of determining the more systemic components of psychological health and safety within the workplace.

The Peer Support Team, which consisted of 27 members of the Service, completed 189 recorded

contacts with members of the NRPS, offering support and additional resources, if required.

Eleven members of the Service received Reintegration Training to provide support and assistance to those members who required to be away from the workplace due to various physical or psychological reasons.

The Service has continued to ensure the availability of specially trained members to serve as part of the Critical Incident Response Team. There are currently 15 members available to serve in this capacity.

Additionally, to promote the need to have an overall healthy lifestyle, the Wellness Committee provided 5 initiatives which were available to all members of the Service during 2022.

As outlined in the NRPS Mental Health Strategy, the Member Support Unit continues to expand upon the Service's mental health literacy and reduce stigma in relation to seeking assistance related to mental health issues.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION UNIT (EDI)



Working to support positive relationships within the Niagara Region

The Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Unit consists of a staff sergeant, a constable, and a professional staff member. Fully recognizing the ever-changing and increasing diversity of the Niagara Region, the EDI Unit has continued in their efforts to positively enhance relationships with various equity-deserving groups embodied within the Region.

During the 2022 calendar year, the EDI Unit has provided meaningful training to the NRPS membership with regards to the various equity-deserving groups that exists within the community as well as challenges they have faced. Members have also been provided opportunities to engage with these communities in various forms, including the

attendance at community events and participation in diversity tours.

Understanding the importance of having the Police service reflect the community it serves, the EDI Unit has facilitated opportunities for the Recruiting Unit to encourage people of all backgrounds to explore the possibility of a career with the NRPS.

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



Additionally, the unit is also engaged and participates in the Chief of Police Community Inclusion Council. During the year, the council which is comprised of 24 community partners met on 9 occasions. With the assistance and input of the council and other community partners, the NRPS launched the #StopHateNiagara Campaign, which aimed at eliminating barriers to reporting hate-motivated incidents and crime. The initiative included the creation of information pamphlets that were available in 9 predominate languages used in the Niagara Region.

For more information on our EDI Unit, please scan the QR code:



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN POLICING CONFERENCE (IAWP)



The Niagara Regional Police Service and the Hamilton Police Service hosted the IAWP Conference in Niagara Falls, September 2022

In September 2022, the 59th International Association of Women in Policing (IAWP) Conference was hosted in Niagara Falls. The conference was co-chaired by Staff Sergeant Sarah Rose (NRPS) and Inspector Andrea Torrie (Hamilton Police Service). Over 800 delegates from 42 Countries attended the annual training event. The conference theme was Connect, Empower, Lead.

Monday morning was the kickoff to the conference and the opening ceremonies were held at the Avalon Theatre. Following the ceremony, the Parade of Nations took place down Murray Hill ending at Table Rock for a group photo. The parade was led

by the NRPS and Hamilton Honour Guard and Pipe Bands. Participants marched proudly behind their country flag.

The conference training streams were Leadership, Wellness & Resilience, Investigative Case Studies, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion, and Technology. There were 7 Keynote speakers and 33 breakout sessions over 4 ½ days. Both sworn and professional staff members came together to collaborate and network together building positive relationships in a safe and positive environment.

The conference offered a Companion Tour that gave delegate companions the opportunity to travel



throughout the Region stopping at daily events.

The conference was the first to be held post pandemic and was a huge success. The Niagara Region and the NRPS were showcased on an international level. During the week, many old and new friends came together to build strong relationships supporting women in policing from across the globe.



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 frontline 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 2022

CLASSIFICATION	2022
Investigations – Total	1,143
Domestic Violence – Criminal Charges	954

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Domestic/Family Violence January 1 - December 31 2022.

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 CAU 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 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 2022

CLASSIFICATION	2022
Investigations – Total	291
Total Charges Laid	155

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Child Abuse and Neglect January 1 - December 31, 2022.

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 manage 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 Niagara Health, 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 2022

CLASSIFICATION	2022
Investigations – Total	357
Cleared by Charge	28
Cleared Unfounded*	1
Investigation Suspended**	304

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Sexual Assault Investigations January 1 - December 31, 2022.

* 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 human trafficking 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 2022

CLASSIFICATION	2022
Investigations – Total	114
Arrested- Total	10
Charges Total	65

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service Special Victims Unit January 1 - December 31, 2022.

SPECIAL VICTIMS

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 (E-CRIMES)

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, 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 NRPS joined in 2007. This initiative has led to a high level of interagency co-operation and successful joint investigations of ICE throughout the province, as well as nationally and internationally.

Internet Child Exploitation Unit Investigations in 2022

CLASSIFICATION	2022
Investigations – Total	70
Arrests	16
Criminal Charges	61

Source: *Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Child Pornography January 1 - December 31, 2022.*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency Services is a highly trained and specialized unit 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 frontline 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, barricaded 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.

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

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.

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 that 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.

The Marine Unit is responsible for conducting proactive marine enforcement patrols and respond to water-related search and rescue calls. With 1,500 square kilometres within the response area of the NRPS, the Marine Unit has responsibility for one of the largest waterways in Canada. The areas covered include large portions of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie and both the Upper and Lower Niagara River which collectively border the Region on three sides. Vast networks of inland lakes, rivers, and hydro canals fall within the Marine Unit's response area along with the St. Lawrence Seaway - Welland Canal, a critical component to commerce in both Canada and the United States.



The Marine Unit provides water borne response to both sanctioned events such as Canal Days in Port Colborne and unsanctioned events which are typically year end school parties. The Marine Unit promotes public safety on and around the water through both education and enforcement of several Provincial and Federal Acts.

Underwater Search and Rescue Activities in 2022

CLASSIFICATION	2022
Total Deployments	17
Body Recoveries	9
Assist Partner Agencies	0
Evidence Searches	3
Vehicle/Vessel Investigations	1
PR Events	2

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Underwater Search and Recovery Unit January 1 - December 31, 2022.

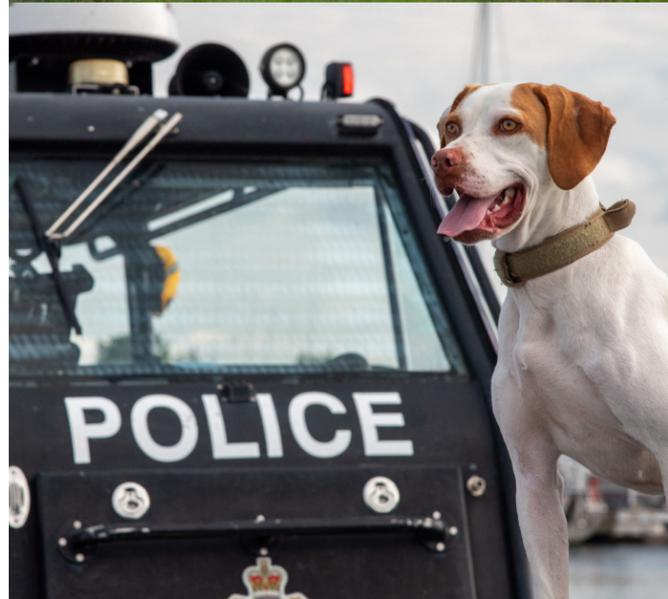
EMERGENCY SERVICES

CANINE UNIT (K9)

In 2022, the K9 Unit continued its commitment to support the frontline uniform patrol and specialty units with a compliment of 6 constables and 1 sergeant. The unit was comprised of 6 general purpose dogs, 4 of which were crossed trained in narcotic detection and 2 with explosive detection. The sergeant of the unit trained and handles NRPS's first Search and Rescue dog that is cross trained in cadaver detection.

K9 teams from the Niagara Parks Police and Peterborough Police Service attended Niagara for monthly training and bi-annual recertification sessions as required by Provincial Adequacy Standards.

In 2022, members of the K9 Unit responded to 1501 calls for service. Police service dogs were utilized in 508 of those calls and tracked 327 suspects. K9 officers also conducted open searches, building searches, and evidence recovery searches. NRPS dogs were utilized in 7 narcotic searches and 11 explosive detection searches.



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 2022, officers from this unit were responsible for issuing 5669 Provincial Offence Notices and Summonses, comprising approximately 23% of the Service's total enforcement efforts. Members also arrested several drivers for driving while disqualified, impaired driving (alcohol & drugs), and other criminal offences.

In 2022, the TEU continued to utilize the 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 476 tickets in 2022. Since the program's inception, a total of 7393 Provincial Offence Notices have been issued.

Once again, the NRPS received grant funding for 2022/23 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 14 scheduled R.I.D.E. spot checks were conducted throughout the year with a significant amount of the dates scheduled during the holiday season. In 2022, approximately 6564 vehicles were stopped and checked, 254 roadside tests were conducted, 27 people had their licences suspended for 3 days or more, 4 people were charged criminally with impaired driving, and 98 Provincial Act charges were issued.



1501
CALLS IN 2022



40%
OF CALLS UTILIZED
SERVICE DOGS

137

ARRESTS WITH CANINE
UNIT ASSISTANCE



66
ARRESTS UTILIZING
SERVICE DOGS

COLLISION RECONSTRUCTION UNIT (CRU)

The Collision Reconstruction Unit is comprised of 6 detective constables and 1 detective sergeant and is mandated to investigate all fatal and serious life threatening motor vehicle collisions that occur within the Niagara Region.

Officers assigned to the CRU are technically trained and dedicated investigators, who specialize in the field of collision investigation. Members assigned to the unit 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.

The 6 members assigned to the CRU are divided into 2 teams and are available to respond to incidents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In 2022, the CRU investigated 36 incidents involving 19 fatal collisions, 4 life threatening injury collisions, and 4 investigative assistance incidents. Additionally, they authored 6 blood warrants for uniform investigations.

Fatal and Life-Threatening Collisions

COLLISION TYPE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fatal Collisions	15	17	19	21	19
MTO Reportable Deaths	13	13	16	21	18
Non-Reportable Deaths	2	4	3	0	1
Life Threatening Injuries	16	12	8	11	4

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Traffic Management, Enforcement, and Road Safety January 1 - December 31, 2022.

The NRPS Special Investigative Services Unit (SIS) provides support and information on organized criminal activity to the frontline 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 Provincial Guns and Gangs Enforcement Unit (OPP).

INTELLIGENCE UNIT

The Intelligence Unit is responsible for the monitoring and investigating 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 investigational operations including the use of interception of private communications under Part VI of the Criminal Code of Canada.

In 2022, the Intelligence Unit initiated and led Project Gateway, a joint forces investigation involving Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Peel Regional Police, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). The project resulted in the seizure of 20,000 lbs. of processed cannabis, 81 kilograms of cocaine and numerous restricted and non-restricted firearms. In addition to controlled drug trafficking, the Project also exposed human smuggling across the Niagara River, exportation of stolen vehicles, and the dismantling of 2 cocaine extraction labs.

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 units to develop investigative strategies and initiate projects to address drug crime trends within the Niagara Region.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES (SIS)

OPIOID ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION UNIT (OEEU)

The objective of the Opioid Enforcement and Education Unit is to investigate the circumstances surrounding opioid-related deaths, drug overdoses, and opioid trafficking. Where possible, the OEEU hold those persons who traffic illegal substances that cause harm and death accountable for their actions, and support the families impacted by the opioid epidemic. The OEEU provides support to investigators and critical education to first responders regarding the

recognition, safe handling, and enforcement relating to opioids. Additionally, the OEEU raises public awareness and provides education regarding the dangers of opioid misuse through community partnerships including Niagara Regional Public Health, Community Addiction Services of Niagara (CASON), the Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN), and Niagara Health Program Advisory Committee (PAC).

PROVINCIAL ANTI-TERRORISM SECTION (PATS)

The Provincial Anti-Terrorism Section (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 Section serves to collect, evaluate, analyze, and disseminate intelligence, identify suspected terrorist groups and individuals suspected of supporting terrorist organizations in efforts of anticipating and preventing criminal acts; and provide investigative support to Police agencies involved in terrorism and hate crime-related investigations.

JOINT FORCES OPERATIONS

BIKER ENFORCEMENT UNIT (BEU)

The Biker Enforcement Unit (BEU) is an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) led Joint Forces Operations 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 Region and to enforce applicable laws, when necessary, regarding any illegal activity of gang members and associates.

PROVINCIAL WEAPONS ENFORCEMENT UNIT (PWEU)

The Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit (PWEU) is an 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 2022, the unit was involved in 20 Niagara based investigations along with 9 investigations in other jurisdictions resulting in the arrests of 9 individuals.

SPECIAL INVESTGATIVE SERVICES (SIS)

PROVINCIAL ASSET FORFEITURE UNIT (PAFU)

The Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit (PAFU) is an OPP led Joint Forces Operation that has active participation from all the major Police services in Ontario including the NRPS. 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 frontline investigators in the preparation of applicable court documents and subsequent forfeiture of seized proceeds, assets, and offence-related property.

The unit 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.

As a participant in Project Gateway, PAFU seized \$468,352.15 in Canadian currency, seized offence-related property valued at approximately \$1,180,000.00 and restrained two properties with an estimated value of \$30,000,000.00.

PROVINCIAL JOINT FORCES CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT TEAM (PJFCET)

The Provincial Joint Forces Cannabis Enforcement Team (PJFCET) is an 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 2022, the PJFCET Unit members were 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 20 warrants in the Province of Ontario, 1 of which was in the Niagara Region. Their drug seizures were valued at \$75,405,956.88 (CAD) and a total of \$1,518,988.00 (CAD) was seized.



PROJECT GATEWAY

LENGTH OF INVESTIGATION
10 MONTHS

SEARCH WARRANTS EXECUTED
12

CHARGES LAID
120

VALUE OF CASH AND
DRUGS SEIZED (APPROX.)
\$67,578,000



A 10-month, multi-agency, international operation leads to multiple arrests and millions worth of drugs seized

In the fall of 2021, investigators from the NRPS, Peel Regional Police, and the Hamilton-Niagara Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police commenced a joint investigation dubbed “Project Gateway”. “Project Gateway” was supported through funding provided by the Government of Ontario, Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO).

The 10-month investigation identified that this organized group was engaged in a number of alleged criminal enterprises including:

- Conspiring to smuggle cocaine from Mexico and Los Angeles into Canada by transport truck (via various ports of entry) and boat across the St. Clair River;

- Operating cocaine extraction labs in rural properties located in South Western Ontario designed to transform smuggled cocaine from an altered state (used to conceal the substance) to powder cocaine for resale;
- Smuggling cannabis and cannabis derivatives from Canada to the United States and other countries internationally by transport truck and registered shipping services;



- Smuggling large amounts of tobacco from the United States into Canada by transport truck. Some of the smuggled tobacco was kept in Canada, while some was smuggled overseas from Canada;
- Smuggling people across the Niagara River into New York State by boat;
- Possessing stolen vehicles and shipping them overseas;
- Firearms possession;
- Employing undocumented foreign workers to work at cannabis production sites and to clean chain hotels;
- Production of cannabis on a massive scale and smuggled into the United States using transport trucks; and
- Production of illegal cigarettes.

Over a 10-month span, a variety of seizures were made while collecting evidence relating to alleged smuggling activities. Some of these seizures included the following:

- A shipment of cannabis weighing 339.5 lbs that was destined for Europe. (estimated value of \$1,356,000.00 CAD);
- 22 skids of undeclared tobacco with an approximate weight of 33,000 lbs. (estimated value of \$230,000.00);
- 45,000 cannabis plants and over 20,000 lbs. of processed cannabis (estimated value of \$62,792,000.00); and
- 80 Kilograms of cocaine (valued at approximately \$3,200,000.00) was seized by authorities in Canada and the United States.

On September 14, 2022, the active joint-Services project came to a conclusion with the execution of 12 search warrants, executed with the assistance of approximately 175 Police officers from Police agencies across Southern Ontario and 10 CBSA/Immigration officers. The project culminated in the arrest of several individuals along with the seizure of large quantities of cocaine and cannabis, with over 120 charges laid thus far.

The NRPS will continue this concerted effort, working alongside our law enforcement partners, to disrupt and dismantle organized crime groups while combatting the negative effects that opioids and illicit drugs are having on the safety and well-being of our communities.

PARTNER AGENCIES



Ontario Provincial Police - RCMP - Peel Regional Police



STATISTICS

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

COMPLAINT TYPE	2020	2021	2022
Conduct Complaints	115	136	153
Service Complaints	4	13	9
Total Public Complaints	119	149	162
Complaint Conclusions			
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	91
Withdrawn	19	14	8
Early Resolution (Before Investigation)	3	7	10
Informal Resolution (During Investigation)	10	9	2
Unsubstantiated Complaints (Following Investigation)	29	34	37
Substantiated Complaints	7	4	7
Pending/Open Investigation	0	0	0
Substantiated Complaint Resolutions		4	
No Further Action	0	10	1
Action Taken	0	1	0
Informal Resolution	2	1	6
Disposition Without a Hearing	2	2	3
Awaiting Disposition	3	0	2
Disciplinary Hearing	0	1	0
Total Substantiated Complaint Resolutions	7	5	11

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service Professional Standards Unit January 1 - December 31, 2022.

TOTAL, ALL CRIMINAL CODE VIOLATIONS

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Actual Incidents	18,885	19,882	18,388	21,352	21,347
Rate per 100,000	4,000.1	4,157.7	3,817.1	4,403.9	4,303.3
Percent Change	+7.2	+3.9	-8.2	+3.69	+2.48

TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME VIOLATIONS

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Actual Incidents	3,188	3,260	3,648	4,166	4,158
Rate per 100,000	675.3	681.7	757.3	859.2	838.2
Percent Change	+15.4	+0.9	+11.1	+7.0	-2.36

TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME VIOLATIONS

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Actual Incidents	13,003	14,465	12,148	13,140	13,382
Rate per 100,000	2,754.2	2,825.6	2,521.8	2,710.2	2,697.7
Percent Change	+4.8	+2.6	-16.0	+7.96	-0.23

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Crime Analysis January 1 - December 31, 2022.

STATISTICS

TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE VIOLATIONS

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Actual Incidents	2,694	3,110	2,592	2,233	2,974
Rate per 100,000	570.6	650.4	538.1	460.6	599.5
Percent Change	+10.4	+13.9	-17.2	-15.05	+30.46

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Crime Analysis January 1 - December 31, 2022.

3-YEAR CRIME SEVERITY INDEX (CSI) AND RANK AMONG THE BIG 12 POLICE SERVICES

NIAGARA	TOTAL CSI	RANK	VIOLENT CSI	RANK	NON-VIOLENT CSI	RANK
2022	56.9	7	66.5	7	53.5	6
2021	62.4	6	64.2	8	62.2	5
2020	58.8	6	58.8	7	58.7	5

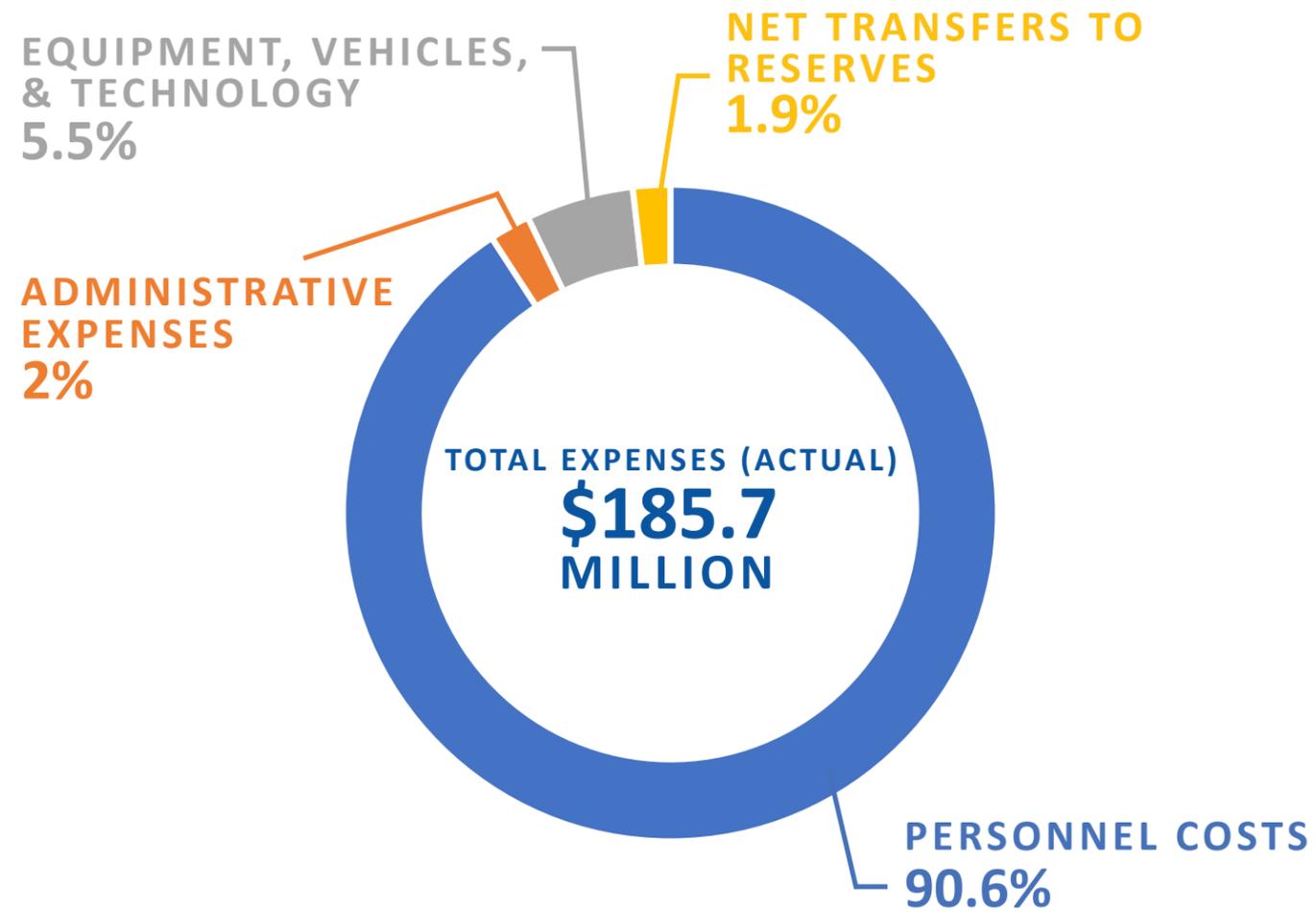
A rank of "1" is the **safest** community, while a rank of "12" is the **least safe** community across the Big 12 Police Services (Durham, Greater Sudbury, Halton, Hamilton, London, Niagara, Ottawa, Peel, Toronto, Waterloo, Windsor, York). Violent CSI includes: homicide, murder assault, manslaughter, criminal negligence cause death, all assaults – 1, 2 and 3) all sexual assaults – 1, 2 and 3, negligence cause death, sexual violations against children, internet luring of child, pornography, endangerment, robberies, utter threats, kidnapping (abduction), extortion, harassment, assault peace officer, etc. Non-Violent CSI includes fraud, theft over \$5,000, theft under \$5,000, shoplifting over and under \$5,000, breaking and enter, weapons violations, possess stolen property, mischief, disturbing the peace, etc.

CRIME AGAINST PERSONS- SELECTED OFFENCES

SELECT INCIDENTS	2021 INCIDENTS	2022 INCIDENTS	CLEARED BY CHARGE	CLEARED OTHERWISE
Murder – 1st Degree	5	2	0	0
Murder – 2nd Degree	1	4	3	0
Manslaughter	--	2	2	0
Criminal Negligence Cause Death	2	1	1	0
Murder – Attempt	5	8	8	0
Sexual Assault – Aggravated	1	1	0	0
Sexual Assault – Weapons/ Bodily Harm	3	5	2	0
Sexual Assault	379	372	36	9
Sexual Interference	83	92	33	9
Total Sexual Violations Against Children	96	110	46	12
Invitation to Sexual Touching	4	8	6	2
Sexual Exploitation	--	3	2	0
Lure Child Via Computer	5	5	4	0
Assault – Aggravated	50	44	36	0
Assault – Weapon or Cause Bodily Harm	432	484	328	28
Assault – Minor Harm	1,071	1066	576	161
Assault – Police/ Peace Officer	107	117	103	10
Criminal Negligence Cause Bodily Harm	3	1	1	0
Assault – Other	32	58	31	5
Robbery	177	196	93	5
Extortion	128	160	2	1
Criminal Harassment/ Stalking	333	294	93	15
Threats – Person Death/ Harm	682	689	236	69
Indecent/ Harassing Communication	537	415	21	23
Total Crimes Against Persons (All Incidents)	4,177	4,158	1,695	344
Arson	47	53	22	1
Break & Enter	1,846	1,390	293	33
Theft Over \$5000	117	148	17	5
Theft Under \$5000	2,269	2,453	149	117
Theft of Motor Vehicle	882	894	95	9
Shoplifting Under \$5000	1,081	1,269	268	254
Shoplifting Over \$5000	12	10	3	0
Possession Stolen Property	165	126	100	12
Fraud	1,892	2,172	295	50
Fraud – Identity Theft	36	40	4	0
Fraud – Identity Fraud	722	575	28	3
Mischief	1,952	2,220	305	114
Total Crimes Against Property	13,156	13,382	1,611	625

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Crime Analysis January 1 - December 31, 2022.

ANNUAL BUDGET



ACTUAL EXPENDITURE
▼ **0.65%**
UNDER BUDGET

ACTUAL REVENUE
\$18.3
MILLION

EXPENDITURE	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Personnel Costs	\$170,915,710	\$170,453,194
Administrative Expenses	4,036,655	3,781,305
Operational & Supply	2,447,750	2,564,826
Occupancy & Infrastructure	298,450	168,998
Equipment, Vehicles, Technology	7,716,539	7,259,269
Financial Expenditures & Regional Chargebacks	(1,944,696)	(1,973,333)
Net Transfers to Reserves	3,470,000	3,459,006
Total Gross Expenditure	\$186,940,408	\$185,713,265

REVENUE DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Ontario/Canada Grants	\$9,546,391	\$10,021,691
Fees & Service Charges	5,940,500	4,964,458
Other Revenue	3,075,829	3,353,513
Total Revenues	18,562,720	18,339,662
Net Operating Budget before Indirect Allocations	\$168,377,688	\$167,373,603

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board Annual Report, Finance Variance Overview January 1-December 31, 2022.

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