



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Proceeds of Crime
January 1 to December 31, 2023

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2024-03-19

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) receive this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Niagara Regional Police Service (Service) is in compliance with By-Law 233-2000 – Proceeds of Crime.
- By-Law 233-2000 contains provisions requiring the Chief of Police to report specific information in order to ensure compliance with the legislative guidelines.
- This report is submitted to the Board with the necessary and required information relating to the Service's response to proceeds of crime investigations.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations relating to the recommendations contained within this report.

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 233-2000, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of investigations into proceeds of crime. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning proceeds of crime investigations;
- b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures; and
- c) The amount of proceeds of crime seized, and the disposition of such proceeds.

The following is a detailed response to each of the above-noted requirements:

- a) *“...a summary of the written procedures concerning proceeds of crime investigations...”*

General Order (GO) 110.08 – *Proceeds of Crime and Offence Related Property* addresses the requirements of Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulations LE-041 and Service By-Law 233-2000. It establishes definitions, duties and responsibilities as well as the internal reporting process.

- b) *“...the status of Service compliance with the said procedures...”*

GO 110.08 is scheduled to be reviewed every 2 years to ensure continued compliance with By-Law 233-2000 and the corresponding Adequacy Standards.

The mandate of the Service’s Proceeds of Crime/Asset Forfeiture Unit is to prosecute persons associated with the accumulation of assets derived from criminal activity throughout the Niagara Region and elsewhere in the Province of Ontario; to identify, seize, and cause those criminal assets to be forfeited.

The Proceeds of Crime Program is an essential component to successfully identify and seize assets associated to criminal organizations and individuals who profit substantially from criminal acts. To enhance this component of major criminal investigations, a budgeted Proceeds of Crime investigator was assigned to Special Investigative Services (SIS) in September 2018. Shortly thereafter, this officer became part of the Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit (PAFU) led by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

- c) *“...the amount of proceeds of crime seized, and the disposition of such proceeds...”*

In 2023, the Service’s SIS – PAFU member was involved in 1 major investigation; an OPP-led, money laundering investigation involving organized crime in the Greater Toronto Area. Niagara-based drug trafficking investigations resulted in the seizure of proceeds of crime totalling \$424,206.15 (CAD) and \$319.00 (USD). PAFU is responsible for the collection and submissions to the Seized Property Management Directorate (SPMD) of smaller assets seized during local investigations within Niagara and other investigations across of Ontario. Niagara’s PAFU member was involved in the following project, which concluded in court in 2023:

Project Woolwich – a Niagara-led organized crime investigation that resulted in the seizure of currency and other proceeds of crime or offence-related property. The conclusion of the project resulted in the following forfeitures to the Crown:

- \$2,471,670.00 (CAD);
- \$18,578.00 (USD);
- \$379,383.00 (Chinese and South Korean funds); and
- 7 vehicles seized: total appraised value of \$188,000.00 (CAD).

Two real estate properties seized during the project totalling an appraised value of \$3,615,000.00 (CAD) are subject to forfeiture and are still before the courts.

In addition to current ongoing investigations, the PAFU member also submitted currency from concluded offence-related property investigations totalling \$387,136.44 (CAD) to SPMD because of judicially authorized forfeiture orders.

The SPMD administers all seized property, and after disposition hearings (or other judicial orders), the property is liquidated. At times, police services can apply for various federally and provincially administered grants in an effort to access some of the funds for various enforcement or community safety initiatives. Seizures of cash, and other assets forwarded to the SPMD by each police service, are taken into consideration when decisions on granting funds are made.

The Proceeds of Crime/Asset Forfeiture portfolio for the Service has met its performance objectives in accordance with the Provincial Adequacy Standards.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the provisions of Police Service Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with the Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulations.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-Law 233-2000 – Proceeds of Crime
GO 110.08 – Proceeds of Crime and Offence Related Property
Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulation, Law Enforcement 041 – Proceeds of Crime

Other Pertinent Reports

8.8.2023.04.27 Annual Report – Proceeds of Crime - January 1 to December 31, 2022

This report was prepared by Mike Tripp, Staff Sergeant, Special Investigative Services, in consultation with and reviewed by Steve Magistrale, Inspector, Investigative Support Services. Reviewed by Dave Masotti, Superintendent, Emergency and Investigative Services. Recommended by Todd Waselovich, Deputy Chief, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

Bill Fordy, O.O.M. #9615
Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.