



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Niagara Regional Police Service January 1 – December 31, 2023

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2024-06-04

Recommendation(s)

That the Board approve the Niagara Regional Police Service 2023 Annual Report, as appended;

And further, that in accordance with subsection 12 (2) of Ontario Regulation 399/23, the Annual Report be posted on the NRPS website;

And further, that in accordance with Section 41 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 the Board file the Annual Report with Regional Council.

Key Facts

- Pursuant to the Community Safety and Police Act (CSPA) O. Reg 399/23, attached is a copy of the Niagara Regional Police Service's 2023 Annual Report for the Board's approval.
- The report contains an overview of the Service's provision of community-based crime prevention initiatives, community patrol, and criminal investigation services.
- The report also contains information on calls for service, community policing, youth and police, special victims, emergency response, major special investigative activities, public complaints, staffing complement, Public Order Unit, Member Support Unit, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Unit, and the cost of police services in Niagara.
- The Service will ensure that the Annual Report is compliant with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act* prior to uploading to our internet site niagarapolice.ca for public consumption.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendation contained within this report.

Analysis

- There was a 3.89% decrease in all criminal code incidents in 2023 compared to 2022. Violent crime increased 2.04% and property crime violations decreased 4.83%.
- All other criminal code violations, including cyber crime, fraud and breaches of court orders, increased by 19%.
- In 2023, the Service hired an additional 30 police recruits and 17 currently serving members.
- The Service also formed the Public Order Unit in Spring of 2023 to facilitate peaceful demonstrations while allowing citizens to exercise their right to come together and demonstrate in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

The document provides a permanent record of the Service's activities in 2023.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Section 12 of [O.Reg 399/23](#) (Services Annual Report obligation) and [Board By-Law 445-2024](#)

Other Pertinent Reports

Not Applicable

This report was prepared by Stephanie Sabourin, Manager Corporate Communications, and reviewed by Inspector Nilan Davé, Executive Officer to Chief of Police Bill Fordy.



Submitted by:

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

Appendices

Appendix 1 2023 Annual Report



2023

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 Niagara Regional Police Service 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.





POLICE



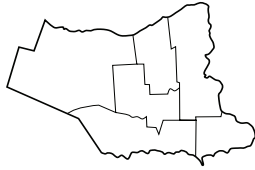
ONTARIO
CPYL 558
YOURS TO DISCOVER

212



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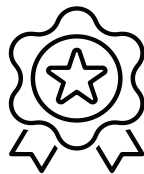
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE POLICE SERVICE BOARD



On behalf of the Niagara Regional Police Service Board, I am proud to acknowledge the accomplishments of the Niagara Regional Police Service in the 2023 Annual Report.

Our Police Service Board has met emerging issues head-on to provide adequate and effective police services to all citizens in the Niagara Region. We remain committed to quality policing and excellence in police governance.

2023 was a year of transition for our Board. During the year, our Board membership changed. As we express appreciation for the valuable contributions of Henry D'Angela, Community Representative and Vice-Chair Dave Eke both whose terms ended during the year, we were pleased to welcome Regional Council's community appointee Nyarayi

Kapisavanhu to the Board and the return of Kevin Gibson this time as a Provincial appointee.

This Annual Report showcases only a fraction of our work to make the Niagara Region a safe community to live, work and visit. This past year was filled with numerous opportunities and many difficult challenges as we worked diligently to provide the citizens of Niagara with continuously improving police service. Together, we implemented solutions to prevent crime and enhance the safety, security and quality of life for all citizens in Niagara Region.

The Board encourages you to read the 2023 Annual Report which highlights the ongoing professionalism, dedication and unwavering commitment from each of our civilian and uniform members to duty and support for one another. Our members and Board remain dedicated to adapting to the evolving and intricate needs of our diverse and growing community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawson." with a period at the end.

Jen Lawson
Board Chair



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICE BOARD



Board Member
Pat Chiocchio



Board Member
Henry D'Angela



Vice-Chair
David Eke



Board Member
Kevin Gibson



Board Member
Laura Ip



Board Member
Nyarayi
Kapisavanhu



Board Member
Tara McKendrick



Board Member
Bill Steele



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



I am pleased to share, on behalf of our members, the Service's 2023 Annual Report. You will see that the report clearly details the work being done to ensure that Niagara remains a safe community to work, live, and visit.

The report provides details with respect to our 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.

In our commitment to providing bias-free policing to all members of our community, we continue to collaborate with community partners to enhance and solidify relationships to ensure that all those who call Niagara home, or who visit our Region, feel safe.

As Chief of Police, I am acutely aware of the expectations of the residents and visitors to Niagara, and especially proud of the professionalism of our members in carrying out their work with compassion and integrity.

As a team, we remain dedicated to ensuring the success of this path forward in serving our community through strong leadership and a commitment to listening to, and working with, our community and our members.

Thank-you for your trust and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Fordy".

Chief of Police Bill Fordy, O.C.M.



Deputy Chief
Luigi Greco



Deputy Chief
Todd Waselovich



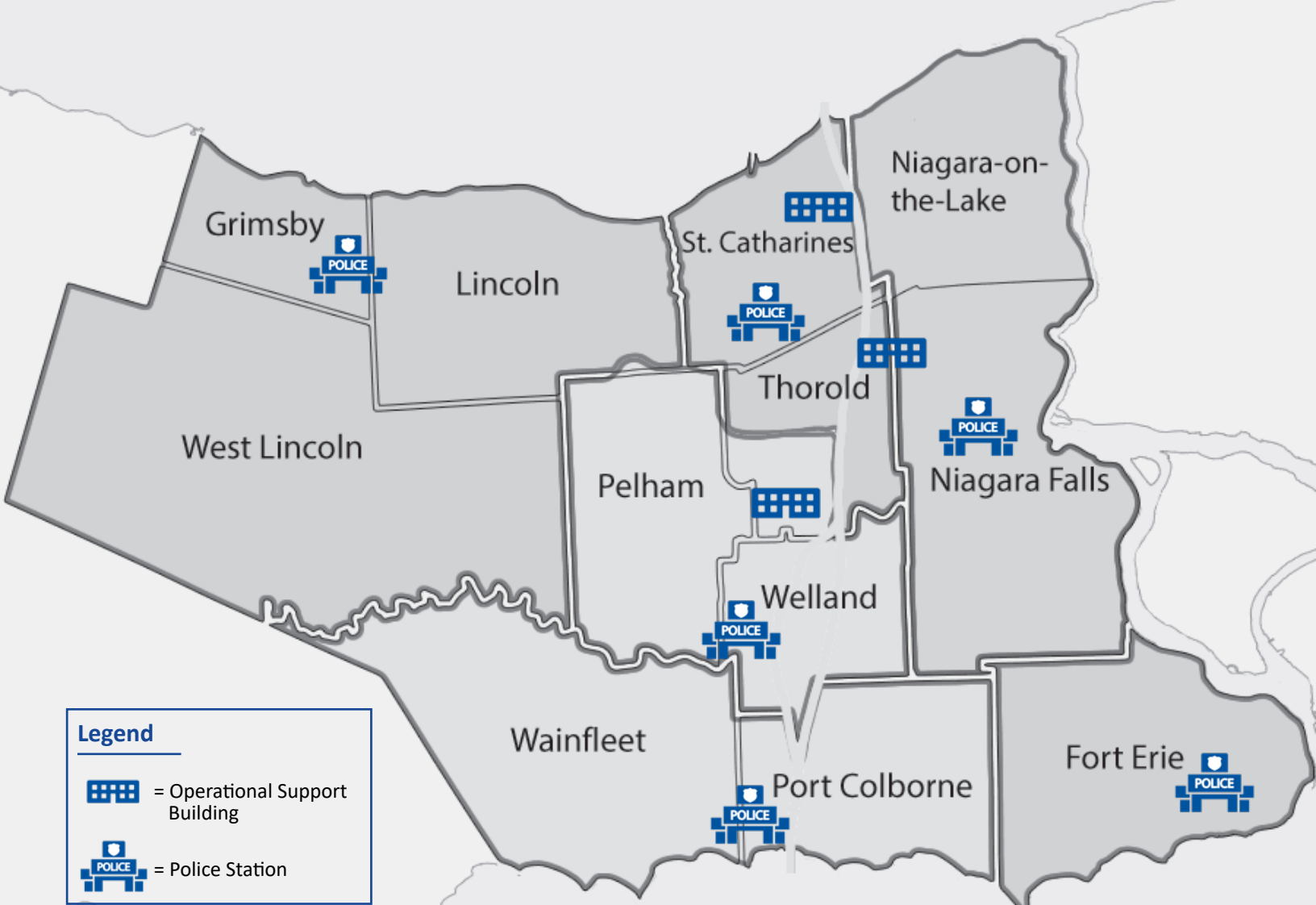


Established January 1, 1971, the Niagara Regional Police Service is the oldest regional police service in Ontario. In an area of 1,852 square kilometres, the Niagara Regional Police Service patrols one of Ontario's largest geographic regions.

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

337 CIVILIAN MEMBERS

772 SWORN OFFICERS

1,500 SQ KM WATER POLICING AREA

1,852 SQ KM LAND POLICING AREA

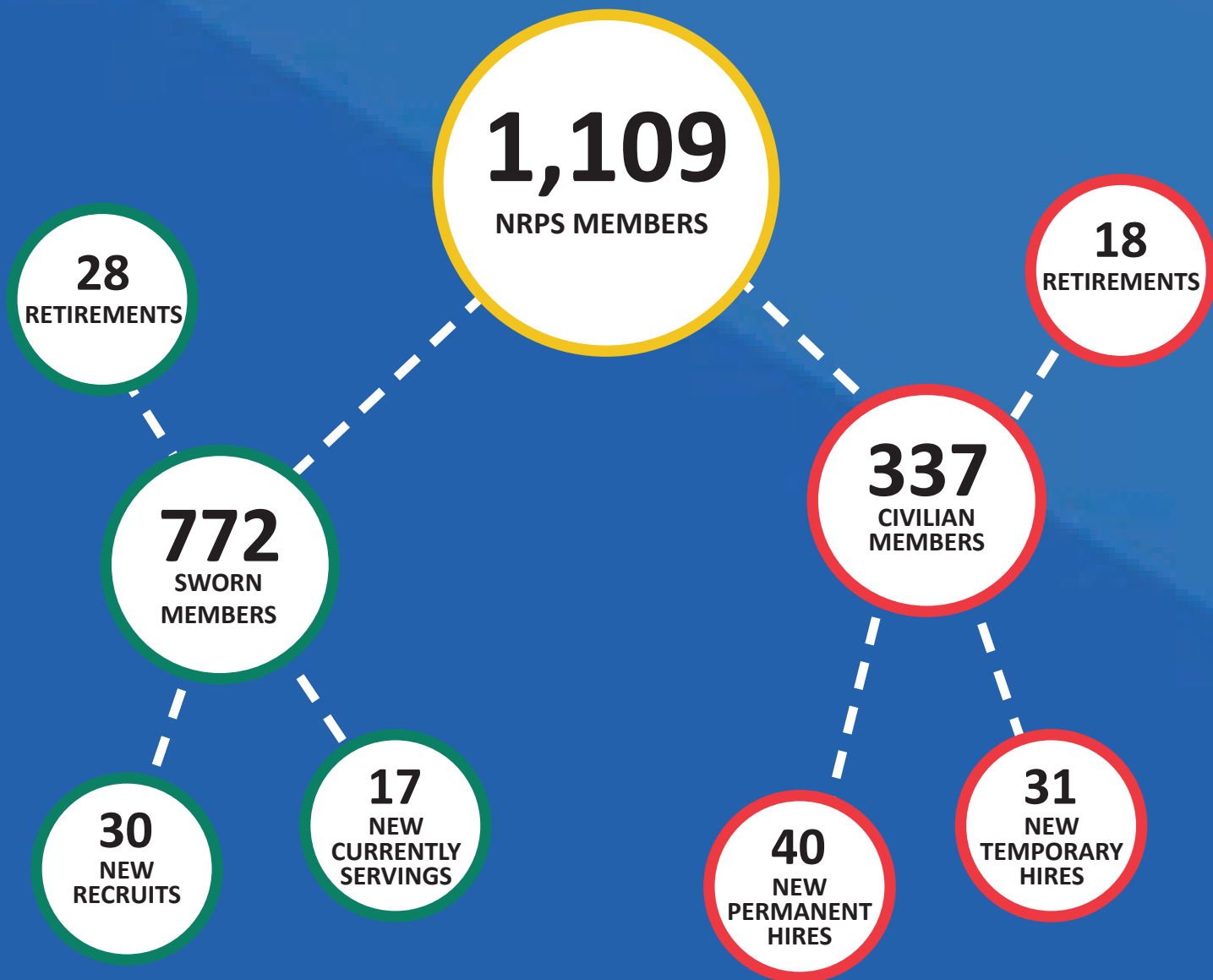
477,941 RESIDENTS*

13,000,000+ TOURISTS ANNUALLY**

* As of December 31, 2021 Source: Niagara Region

** Source: niagaracanada.com





SWORN COMPLEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Chief	1
Deputy Chief	2
Superintendent	5
Inspector	14
Staff Sergeant	30
Sergeant	105
Constable	615
Total	772

2023 HIRES

Uniform- Recruits	30
Uniform- Currently Serving	17
Civilian- Permanent	40
Civilian- Temporary	31
Total Hires	118

CIVILIAN COMPLEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Director	1
Managers	15
Civilian Personnel	321
Total	337



OUR PEOPLE

The Human Resources (HR) Unit continues to support the Service in meeting the strategic objectives identified in the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

The ongoing implementation of the new provisions of the 2021-2026 Collective Agreement continued during 2023, with changes that were effective mid-contract. The number of job postings for internal and external vacancies remained high during 2023, which meant that a significant amount of time and resources were allocated to talent acquisition activities. The ongoing need for temporary emergency call takers, special constables, and administrative staff also remained consistently high, which resulted in continuous staffing activities for temporary staff throughout the year.

In accordance with the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, the implementation of a new applicant tracking system for external candidates was initiated in 2023 and completed ahead of the committed target. The new Talent Acquisition Management System (TAMS), utilizes the existing Human Resources Information System and represents a collaborative effort between the Recruiting Unit and the HR Unit.

The shift toward designing a more contemporary HR operating model following a review by an external consultant in 2022, continues to be a priority. Advancement during 2023 centered around aligning specialized services within the Member Health and Safety and Total Rewards areas.



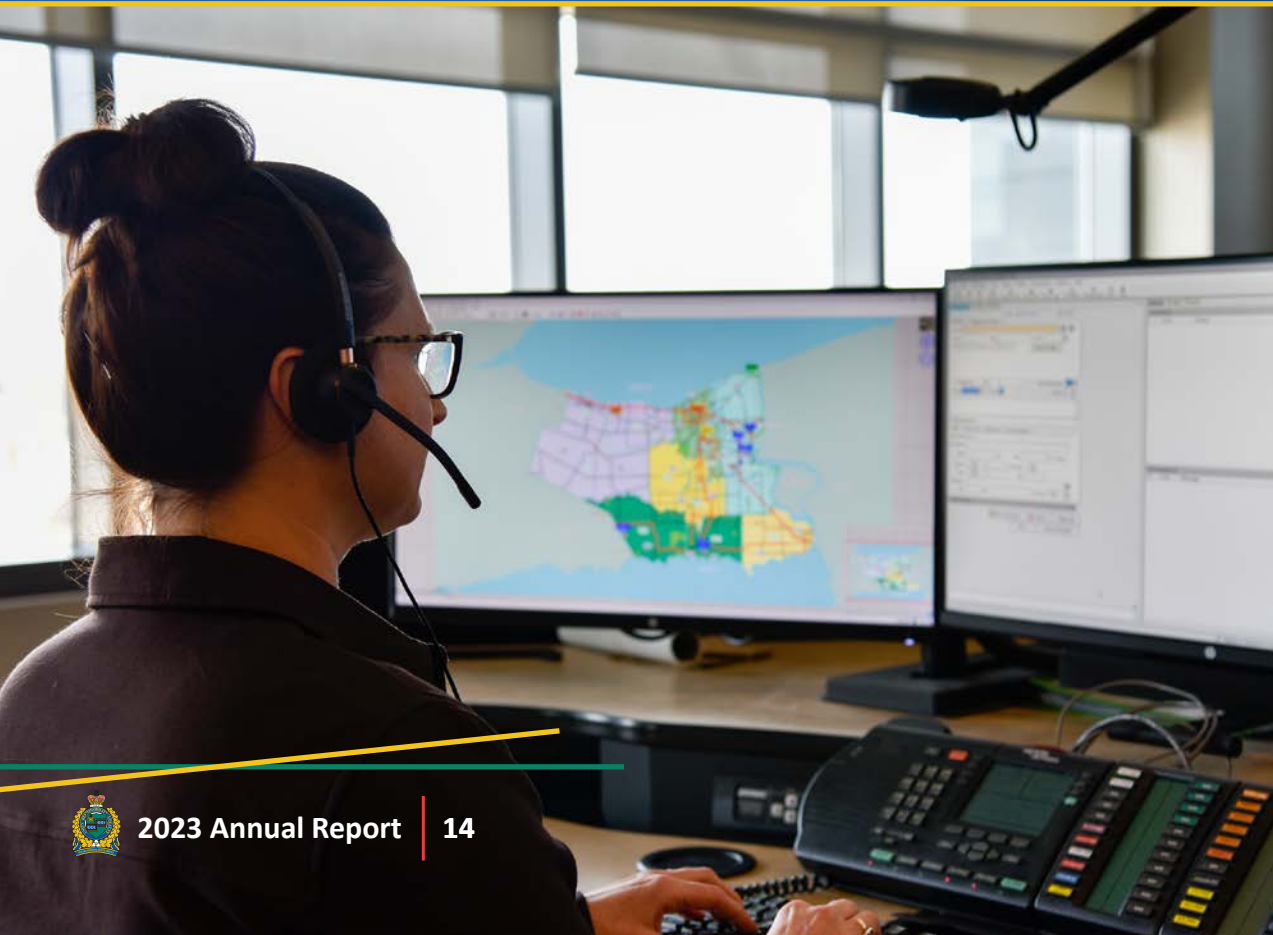
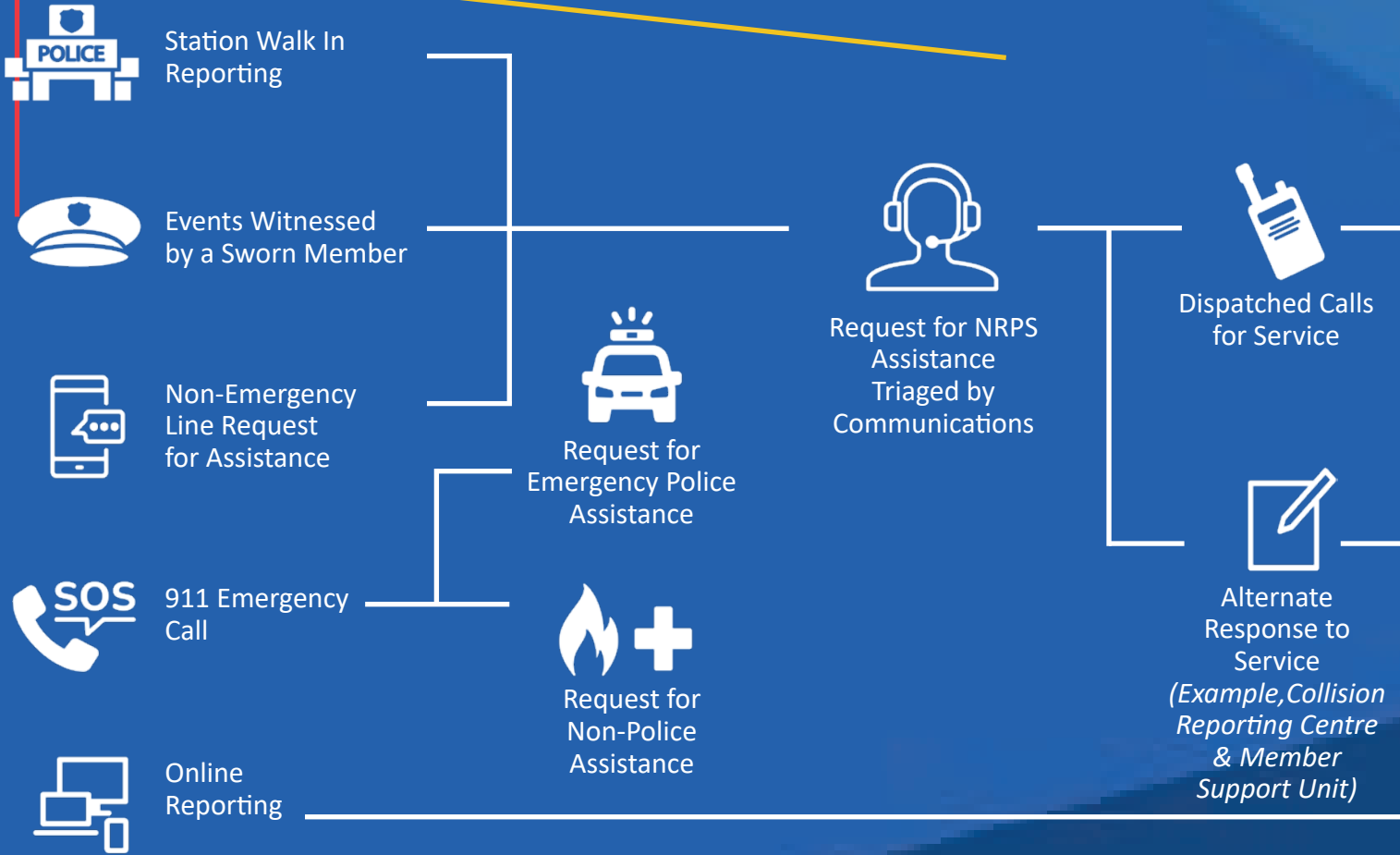
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:



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



COMMUNICATIONS & DISPATCH



EMERGENCY CALLS (P1 AND P2)

25,322

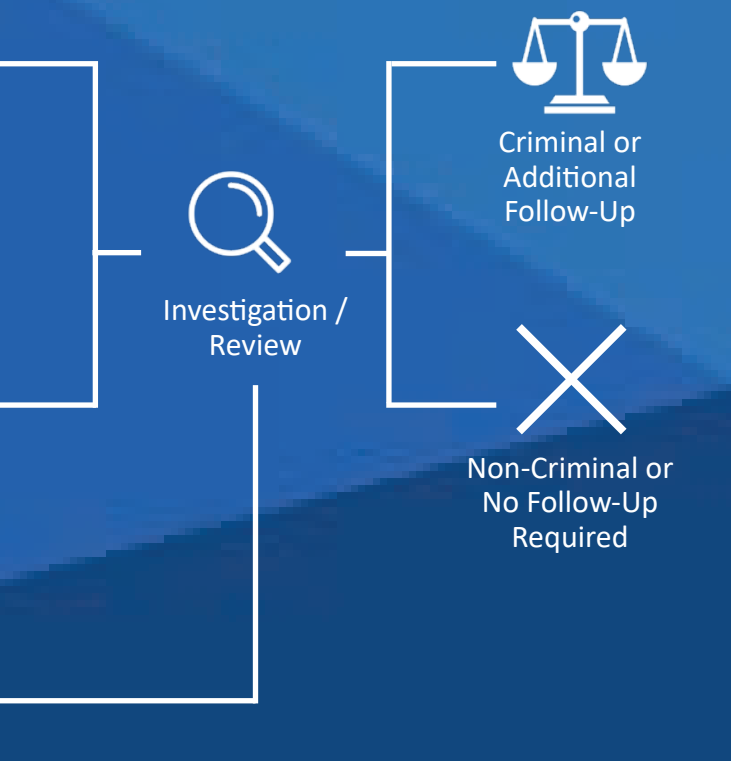
**PRIORITY 3
49,273**

**PRIORITY 4
30,352**

**PRIORITY 5
22,595**

**PRIORITY 6
16,434**





**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)**

The Communications Unit is the largest civilian 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 Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

In 2023, the NRPS Communications Unit, maintained the “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.

* (excludes Niagara Parks Police calls for service)
Source: MPP CAD Dashboard



COMMUNICATIONS & DISPATCH |

CALLS FOR SERVICE

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

Includes duplications and calls received for other agencies.

515,350

EMERGENCY 911 CALLS RECEIVED
214,966

NON-EMERGENCY CALLS RECEIVED
300,384

911 CALLS REQUESTING POLICE
150,994

DISTRICT	CALLS*
1 DISTRICT ST. CATHARINES THOROLD	55,493
2 DISTRICT NIAGARA FALLS NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE	41,699
3 DISTRICT WELLAND PELHAM	21,761
5 DISTRICT FORT ERIE	7,138
6 DISTRICT PORT COLBORNE WAINFLEET	6,364
8 DISTRICT GRIMSBY LINCOLN WEST LINCOLN	10,264

TOTAL CALLS RESPONDED TO BY NRPS

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

144,333



* Excludes Priority 6 classified calls for service
Source: MPP CAD Dashboard

REAL TIME OPERATIONS CENTRE (RTOC)



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

RTOC plays a pivotal role in enhancing public safety and law enforcement efforts in the Niagara Region. The RTOC operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The scope of RTOC's activities is extensive, ranging from assisting frontline officers to specialized units such as those dealing with criminal investigations, traffic management, child abuse, sexual assault, and homicides. Moreover, its involvement in Project Lifesaver underscores its commitment to community welfare beyond law enforcement.

Project Lifesaver assists police response by helping to locate wandering and disoriented people due to dementia, autism, or other mental/physical conditions.

In 2023, two RTOC analysts were trained in Open Source Intelligence (OSINT). The incorporation of OSINT for analysts reflects a forward-thinking approach in leveraging technology and data for investigative purposes. By actively participating in numerous incidents, including, missing persons cases, and welfare checks, RTOC demonstrates its versatility and effectiveness in handling diverse scenarios.

In 2023, RTOC was utilized and assisted in approximately 5,130 incidents, a 29% increase from 3,976 incidents the previous year. RTOC was activated on a wide array of calls such as robberies, weapons, missing persons, impaired driving, and homicides.

**CALLS ASSISTED IN 2023:
5,130**



RECRUITING UNIT

In keeping with the Service's goal to hire the best candidates, the NRPS Recruiting Unit continues to seek recruitment from diverse communities in Niagara through information sessions in partnership with community services. One of the highlights for the Recruiting Unit this year was the launch of a new online Applicant Tracking System (ATS). This new system, which had been identified in the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, provides a user-friendly interface for applicants and creates greater efficiencies for processing applicant files through the recruitment process.

In 2023, the Recruiting Unit received a total of 269 applicants for the position of police constable, with 40 being female (15%) and 229 being male (85%). About 15% appeared to be from diverse groups. It should be noted that the number of applicants that have been provided by the Recruiting Unit are based on observations or disclosed by the applicant. The Recruiting Unit has discontinued requesting gender identification from any applicant.

There were 47 new police constable recruits hired in 2023, including 12 females (25.5%) and 35 males (74.5%). Within the 47 new hires, there were 5 (11%) recruits from diverse groups. Experienced officers from other police services made up 36% of the total recruit hires. The Recruiting Unit also hired 13 new special constables and 15% of the special constables hired were women and 31% identified as being part of a diverse group. There were 15 new auxiliaries hired as well in 2023, of which 27%



were women and 13% identified as being part of a diverse group.

As of December 31, 2023, the NRPS employed 772 sworn officers, with 142 being female which equated to 18.4% of our authorized strength.

Recruitment efforts in 2023 included attending career fairs at numerous secondary and post-secondary institutions, multicultural centers, and employment agencies from across Niagara and Southern Ontario. NRPS members of diverse groups assisted the Recruiting Unit at a number of recruitment events, such as the ABLE Conference, Women In Policing recruiting events, South Asian job fairs, and connecting with youth in our Indigenous communities. A large part of our recruitment efforts focused on educating our growing diverse community about policing in Canada and the requirements for being successful through the hiring process. In September 2023, the Recruiting Unit hosted our first Police & Security Career Expo in cooperation with Niagara College.



2023 Recruit Applicants

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER	NOTES
Number of Applicants	269	
Number of Male Applicants	229	
Number of Female Applicants	40	
Number Hired	47	17.5% of applicants were hired
Experienced Officers Hired	17	36% of new hires were experienced officers from other police services
Hired Male	35	74.5% of hired applicants were male
Hired Female	12	25.5% of hired applicants were female
Hired Diverse Group	5	11% of hired applicants were part of a diverse group

2023 Special Constable Applicants

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER	NOTES
Number of Applicants	98	
Number Hired	13	13% of applicants were hired
Hired Male	11	85% of hired applicants were male
Hired Female	2	15% of hired applicants were female
Hired Diverse Group	4	31% of hired applicants were part of a diverse group

2023 Auxiliary Applicants

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER	NOTES
Number of Applicants	84	
Number Hired	15	18% of applicants were hired
Hired Male	11	73% of hired applicants were male
Hired Female	4	27% of hired applicants were female
Hired Diverse Group	2	13% of hired applicants were part of a diverse group

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





Thank you
for keeping
us safe.
we love you

GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



2022 - 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

1 PUBLIC SAFETY



2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION



3 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT & ORGANIZATIONAL CONTINUITY



4 MEMBER WELLNESS



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



2023 INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PATROLS

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.

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. Wendy's, with the assistance of officers, gave away 500 bicycle helmets at 3 different locations in Niagara. Officers also assisted in the delivery of a 2-week long Safety Village bicycle camp in Welland.

Bicycle and Foot Patrol Initiatives

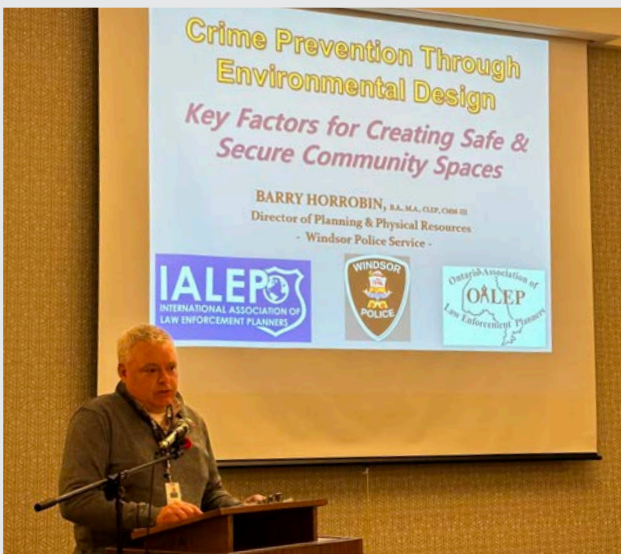


Throughout the year, to adopt a stronger focus on community policing and visibility, bicycle and foot patrols were initiated in the downtown cores and recreational areas across the Region. While walking the beat, officers routinely engaged with local shopkeepers and citizens identifying problem areas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



2023 INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PATROLS

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)



Across the Region, 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. Specialized training has been provided to our service members and that training was also extended to those working in planning and development units with the Region and municipalities.

High School Beach Day



District officers along with Community Oriented Response and Engagement (CORE) Unit members planned for, and were present, during the annual high school unsanctioned beach day across the Region. Officers utilized ATV patrols, foot patrols, and bike patrols to engage with the thousands of students who attended this event. Police enforced the Criminal Code, Liquor Licence Act, and the Trespass to Property Act throughout the day.

Beach & ATV Patrols



The beaches of Niagara remained popular destinations in 2023 and 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. Officers used ATVs to patrol beaches in various municipalities across Niagara, to deal with the influx of people and call volumes. ATVs were also utilized to patrol local trails and in high complaint areas, to address community concerns.

Overweight Trucks

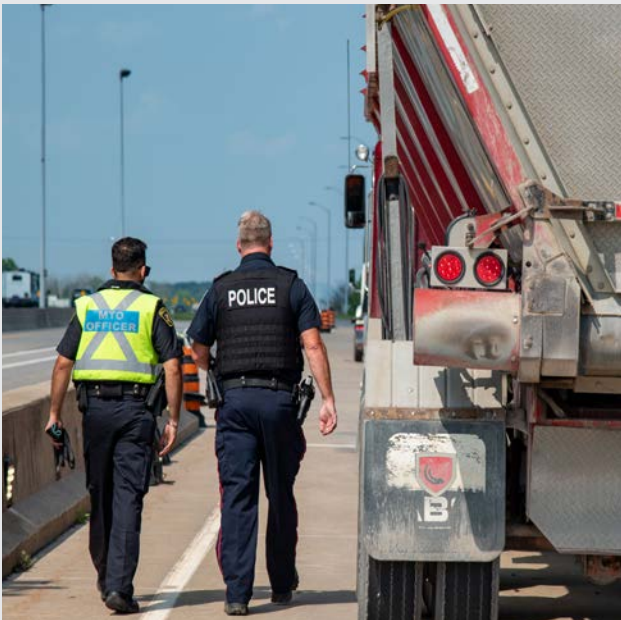


Initiated in 2022, this project continued through 2023. Officers along with members from the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) responded to complaints regarding overweight trucks on West Niagara roadways. Education was pushed out using social media, leading to a heightened awareness of the approved truck routes within West Niagara. Charges were laid under the HTA, and a significant reduction in the number of commercial motor vehicles travelling on restricted roadways has been observed.



2023 INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PATROLS

Truck Safety Blitz



Officers with 8 District (Lincoln/West Lincoln/Grimsby), the Traffic Enforcement Unit, and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) conducted 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”.

Traffic Safety Initiatives



These initiatives were implemented by our recruit officers, deployed to St. Catharines, Thorold, Niagara Falls, and Niagara-on-the-Lake, to address high complaint areas and community concerns related to traffic safety. Several initiatives occurred throughout the year, focused on speeding, distracted driving, and unnecessary noise to name a few.



COMMUNITY ORIENTED RESPONSE AND ENGAGEMENT UNIT (CORE)



Community and youth engagement is a priority for our CORE Officers

In April of 2022, the NRPS undertook a fulsome review of our community engagement model and moved forward with launching a refocused model of community policing. This focus continued into 2023.

The CORE Unit started as a 12-month pilot project that ensured that we, as a Service, are better positioned to facilitate youth engagement and community outreach, with a focus on problem-oriented policing through a district level CORE Unit to directly address community issues.

This includes CORE officers dedicating a lot of their time working with those experiencing

homelessness, while working closely with community partners who support the homeless population.

CORE members do not function as school resource officers to offer a uniform response to schools. Rather, they work with partners across our community, including school boards to proactively and reactively build and support those relationships to identify, strategize, and solve community problems. An example of this is demonstrated by CORE officers in Welland who engage with students when providing daily support to the Niagara Safety Village. The CORE Unit further seeks to maintain relationships with the





youth of the Niagara Region by leading the Youth in Policing Initiative that sees four local high school students working with the NRPS and participating in various projects.

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.



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 2023, 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 continued a pilot expansion for the City of Welland and Town of Pelham, following increased funding from the Ministry of the Solicitor General in 2022. This pilot expansion ended in April of 2023 after much success. Later in 2023, a grant was received to initiate a civilian-led pilot project (Civilian Crisis Response Team) that saw 2 CMHA staff members responding to low risk mental health calls for service in South Niagara without uniformed police.

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

MCRRT has proven to be an effective approach to de-escalate 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
5,749

ST. CATHARINES
2,288 calls

3 Mental Health Workers

NIAGARA FALLS
1,456 calls

2 Mental Health Workers

SOUTH NIAGARA
1,394 calls

PILOT - 1 Mental Health Worker

% DIVERTED FROM HOSPITAL
78.5%

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board Annual Report, Police Response to Persons who are Emotionally Disturbed or have a Mental Illness or Developmental Disability. January 1-December 31, 2023.



MEMBER SUPPORT UNIT



Supporting our members' mental health and wellbeing

Since its establishment in 2017, the Member Support Unit has consistently taken proactive measures to bolster the wellbeing of both sworn and civilian within the Service. Since 2023, the unit not only maintained, but also enhanced its efforts by implementing various programs and initiatives aimed at supporting member welfare as well as having a full staffing complement including new Service Psychologist. Safeguarding and New Officer Wellness Evaluation has been reinitiated with the Service Clinicians now hired.

The unit introduced new criteria incidents and thresholds for the Early Intervention Program, establishing clear triggers for alerts that prompt the Member Support Unit to reach out to Service members to ensure their wellbeing. As a result of using the Early Intervention Program, 256 contacts with members who have met the designated thresholds have been completed. This alert system has already shown promising data to reflect the work that is being done around critical incident stress management reflecting 16 group debriefs conducted. A list of mental health care providers with specialized knowledge of the policing environment was updated

to ensure that members have access to appropriate resources and feel that they are given the care and compassion they deserve when being supported in our community.

Meanwhile, the Peer Support Team, comprised of 24 Service members, provided invaluable support through 970 recorded contacts with NRPS members, offering assistance and additional resources as needed.

During the calendar year, no members of the Service were involved in the mandatory short-term reintegration program. There were 6 members that engaged in the long-term reintegration program, with 1 of the members continuing in the program from the 2022 year. To expand the knowledge in our community and beyond, the NRPS Reintegration Officer assisted in facilitating 5 courses across Ontario, which included 11 NRPS service members to better assist colleagues facing prolonged absences from the workplace due to physical or psychological reasons. The Service also maintained a cadre of specially trained members to support with reintegration and have wrapped around care with ongoing support from 2 mental health clinicians.

Additionally, the Wellness Committee introduced 7 initiatives aimed at promoting overall healthy lifestyles among Service members throughout 2023. These initiatives align with the objectives outlined in the NRPS Mental Health Strategy, which underscores the Member Support Unit's ongoing commitment to enhancing mental health literacy and reducing stigma surrounding seeking assistance for mental health concerns.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION UNIT (EDI)



Working to support positive relationships within the Niagara Region

EDI Unit builds and fosters relationships with Indigenous and diverse groups in the Niagara Region. The unit facilitates the Chief of Police – Community Inclusion Council, formed to enhance the relationship between the police and the increasingly more diverse communities of the region we serve.

The EDI Unit facilitates the use of interpreter services, diversity guides and resources, and hosts learning events for all members; in 2023 these included: Autism Awareness, Black History in Niagara, Islam and Ramadan, Asylum Seekers, and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Unit participates in the Internal Inclusion Committee, comprised of civilian and sworn members who foster equity, diversity, and

inclusion in the workplace and in our interactions with the community.

In collaboration with community partners, the unit delivers diversity tours for all recruits, and beginning in 2023, to members of the Senior Leadership Team. This tour allows for experiential learning, interaction, and relationship-building with community members and leaders at faith-based, cultural, Indigenous, and diverse community group sites in the Region. Along with learning opportunities, the EDI Unit fosters the development of member-led Internal Support Networks (ISNs), assisting with their creation, and supporting and promoting ISN events and initiatives.





In 2023, the Women in Policing Internal Support Network (ISN) was formalized, and this group has proactively reached out to all personnel within the Service and provided knowledge regarding challenges, achievements, and progress achieved by women in the Service.

In partnership with the Recruiting Unit, the EDI Unit attends strategic recruitment events, attracting individuals from underrepresented groups through focused efforts. The EDI Unit initiates and facilitates sporting events and engagement between newcomer youth and members of the service and provides newcomer orientations for international students at both Niagara College and Brock University.

The EDI Unit proactively facilitates “StopHateNiagara” presentations to Indigenous and diverse community members, aimed at eliminating barriers to reporting hate-motivated crimes and incidents.

The unit completes follow-up with all victims of hate-motivated crimes and incidents to ensure that they receive support, reassurance, and any necessary community referrals.

The unit provides support to investigators dealing with crimes targeted towards any of the diverse communities within the Region by facilitating language services and culturally specific resources made available through built fruitful relationships with community members.

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



EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT UNIT (EMU)



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

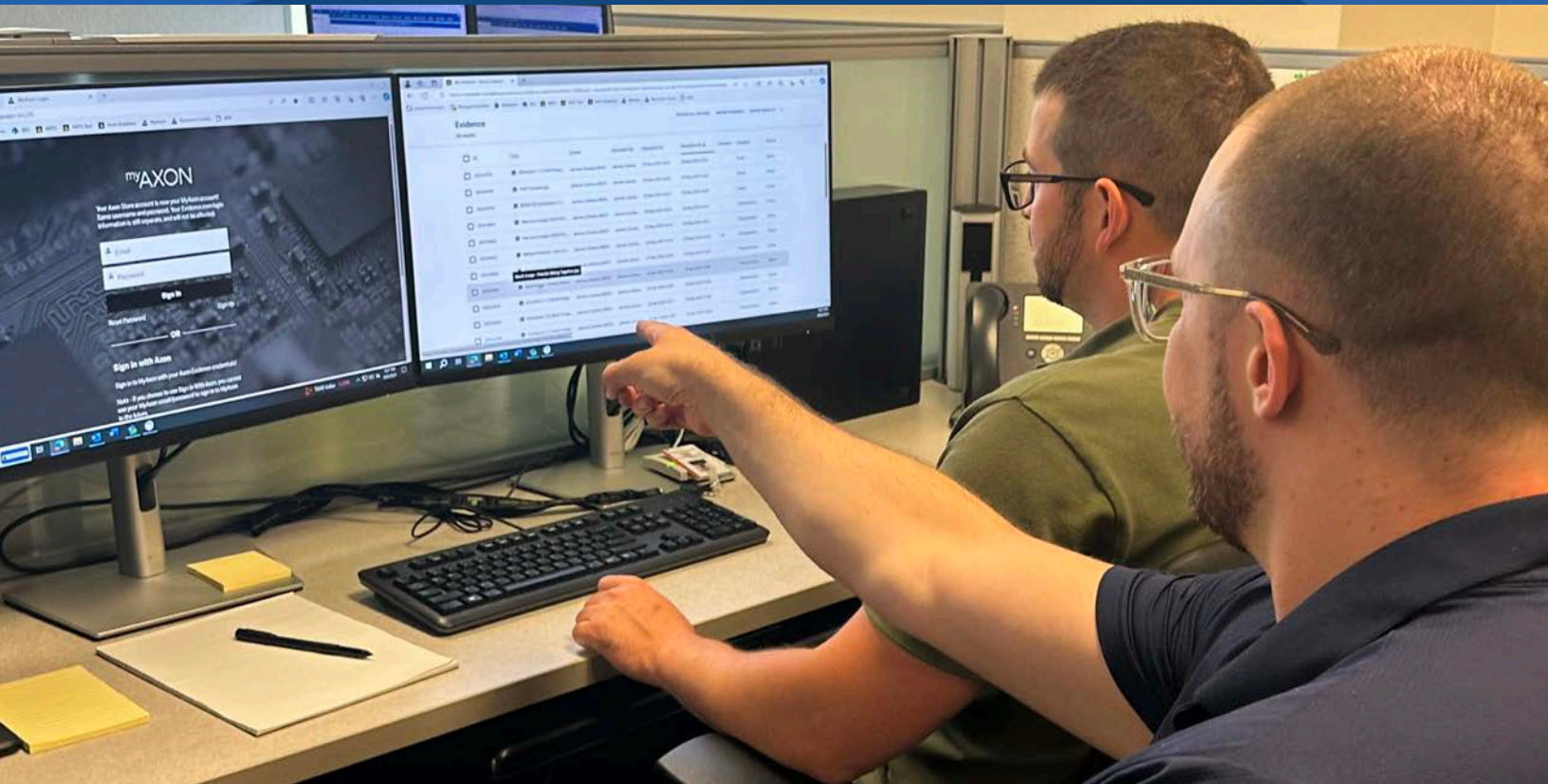
Members of EMU oversee the inventory of general evidence and property, firearms, drugs, and cash in accordance with applicable general orders, statutes, and industry best practices. EMU staff ensures that all evidence/property entering the care of the Service is properly packaged and, where necessary, 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.



DIGITAL EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (DEMS)



The DEMS Unit is responsible for redacting, storing, and sharing various forms of digital evidence for the court process through a secure platform.

This unit was created to drive efficiencies in the processing of evidence in alignment with the Police Service Board's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. Using specialized software, DEMS Unit personnel efficiently prepare and redact portions of digital evidence from sources including police holding cell video, audio evidence from 911, calls, and police radio transmissions.

Additionally, the DEMS Unit reviews digital evidence from photographic and CCTV footage provided by citizens from residences and businesses in the community. The DEMS Unit maintains the veracity of the Evidence.com platform to ensure the integrity of digital evidence for the court process.

In 2023, the DEMS Unit processed 1,894 pieces of digital evidence.



SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (SVU)

SVU 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, Major Crime Unit (Homicide), Forensics Unit, Central Fraud 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)

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 2023

CLASSIFICATION	2022	2023
Investigations – Total	1,143	1,149
Domestic Violence – Criminal Charges	954	803

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board Annual Report, Domestic/Family Violence January 1 - December 31 2023.



CHILD ABUSE UNIT (CAU)

CAU 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.

CAU 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, 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 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.

CAU Investigations in 2023

CLASSIFICATION	2022	2023
Investigations – Total	291	245
Total Charges Laid	155	88

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board Annual Report, Child Abuse and Neglect January 1 - December 31, 2023.



SPECIALTY UNITS | SPECIAL VICTIMS

SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT (SAU)

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 meeting 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, Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Centre, the Victim Witness Assistance Program, Victim Services Niagara, and the Crown Attorney - Ministry of the Attorney General.

SAU Investigations in 2023

CLASSIFICATION	2022	2023
Investigations – Total	357	398
Cleared by Charge	28	53
Cleared Unfounded*	1	0
Investigation Suspended**	304	291

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board Annual Report, Sexual Assault Investigations January 1 - December 31, 2023.

* 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)

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 the predatory behaviour of human trafficking on our communities.

HTU Investigations in 2023

CLASSIFICATION	2022	2023
Investigations – Total	114	97
Arrested – Total	10	17
Charges Total	65	88

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service Special Victims Unit, 2023.



SPECIAL VICTIMS

MAJOR CRIME UNIT (HOMICIDE UNIT)

The Homicide Unit (originally named the Major Crime Unit) was established in 1993, in response to the need for a more centralized approach to major investigations, including homicide, that utilized the expertise of highly trained criminal investigators. The unit employs a provincially mandated investigative methodology called the Ontario Major Case Management System that emphasizes a standardized investigative response to major cases that can be utilized within a single jurisdiction or combined with other police services in a multi-jurisdictional operation, governed by a unified leadership team.

The Homicide Unit is supervised by one Staff Sergeant and consists of five detective sergeants, including one dedicated to cold case investigations, six detective constables, and one detective constable in a one-year training position.

In addition to being responsible for all homicide investigations, the Homicide Unit also manages missing persons investigations with suspicious circumstances, all police involved shootings, including incidents involving the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) where injuries or death has occurred, investigations involving the Niagara Parks Police where the SIU mandate has been invoked, death investigations involving a child under five years old, and any other investigation at the direction of the Chief of Police.

In 2023, the Homicide Unit was responsible for seven murder investigations and provided guidance in several other major investigations.



FORENSICS UNIT (FSU)

The use of forensic science in policing has become a vital component of any serious investigation. The FSU applies scientific principles and modern technology to law enforcement to identify and hold those responsible to account. The unit is comprised of 1 Detective Sergeant, 12 Detective Constables, and 2 civilian Special Constables.

The FSU provides support and crime scene expertise to all Units across the Service. Forensic personnel record crime scenes through a variety of methods including digital photography, videography, overhead drones, and a 3D scanner – a highly technical device that uses a laser to capture millions of data points that when meshed can recreate the crime scene with extreme levels of detail and accuracy.

Specialized software is then applied to bring greater clarity. This technology has come to be expected and assists greatly when presenting the case to the courts. Forensic investigators will then meticulously locate, seize, and process all relevant items of physical evidence using the results to determine how the crime was committed and determine who could and who couldn't have done as it is equally important to

exclude suspects of a crime. FSU can do this by following proven methods and using the latest technologies available. More often, evidence may be processed in-house within the FSU lab, or it may require further expert analysis by the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto.

FSU provides specialized and expert services to the NRPS, which includes consultation and assistance to police officers with search warrants and exhibits. FSU also utilizes resources that are available through other law enforcement agencies. Members have a close working relationship with organizations like the Ontario Provincial Police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who provide AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System), and the National DNA Data Bank (NDDDB), the Centre of Forensic Sciences, and the Regional Coroner's Office. This provides FSU with access to forensic experts, not available at the local level.

In 2023, the Unit was involved in over 660 calls for service resulting in over 2,300 forensic reports. Of those calls for service, 333 were for sudden death investigations, along with 7 homicide investigations.



SPECIAL VICTIMS

CENTRAL FRAUD UNIT

In 2006, the Central Fraud Unit was established in order to manage and investigate financial complaints throughout the Niagara Region. Prior to moving to a centralized unit, all frauds were investigated by divisional detectives who specialized in financial crimes. There has been an increase in reported financial crimes which have also become more sophisticated given the technological advances over the years. The Central Fraud Unit consists of 1 Detective Sergeant and 7 Detective Constables. The Central Fraud Unit is responsible for the investigation of complex fraud related offences, typically with losses over \$5,000 including:

- (a) Fraud over \$5,000
- (b) Employee Theft/Fraud
- (c) Identity Theft/Fraud
- (d) Theft by Power of Attorney, and
- (e) Counterfeit Currency

In 2023, there were 3,132 fraud related incidents with losses resulting in \$25.5 million. The Central Fraud Unit investigated 614 reported incidents that were classified as fraud over \$5,000, with total losses of \$20 million. Local statistics and types of fraud reported in Niagara are consistent with national reporting identified by the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

Education is a key factor to reducing victimization. The Central Fraud Unit is committed to developing initiatives and working with public/private agencies to reduce fraud incidents in Niagara. In 2023, the Central Fraud Unit performed 13 presentations across the Niagara Region at community events, retirement homes, and places of worship. Recent programs developed by the Central Fraud Unit include the banker education initiative, resulting in a 50% reduction of reported incidents in 2022 when compared to 2023.





SPECIAL VICTIMS

OFFENDER MANAGEMENT UNIT (OMU)

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 98.6% 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 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)

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.

ICE Unit Investigations in 2023

CLASSIFICATION	2022	2023
Investigations – Total	70	103
Arrests	16	16
Criminal Charges	61	52

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board Annual Report, Child Pornography January 1 - December 31, 2023.



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)

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.

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, 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)

EDU is trained and equipped to render safe improvised chemical, biological, radiological, and explosives devices (CBRNE), military ordnance, and provide technical support to ETU. Additionally, EDU provides investigative support to other Service units primarily in the context of post blast investigations. 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 (URSU)

The members of the URSU 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 URSU provides water borne response to both sanctioned events such as Canal Days in Port Colborne and unsanctioned events that are typically year-end school parties. Working with community partners and units within the Service, the URSU promotes waterway safety through education and enforcement. By conducting vessel checks both on the water and at boat launches the officers are able to assist the public with understanding all the safety equipment and its use. The URSU, with members of the Traffic Enforcement Unit, conduct RIDE checks on the waterway to increase public safety during the boating season.

Marine Unit Calls for Service

CLASSIFICATION	2023
Calls for Service – Water-Related	76
Calls for Service – Frontline	570
Provincial Offence Notices – Water Related	259
Arrests	9
Community Public Safety Events	8
Search and Rescue Calls	28
TSG Calls for Service	35
Explosives Disposal Calls	2

USRU Deployments

CLASSIFICATION	2023
Search for Missing Persons	2
Body Recoveries	17
Investigations Involving Vehicle/ Vessel Investigations	1
Evidence and Property Recovery	8
Assisting other Police Services	14
Public Relations Events	2



EMERGENCY SERVICES

CANINE UNIT (K9)

In 2023, the K9 Unit continued its commitment to support the frontline uniform patrol and specialty units with a complement of 6 constables and 1 sergeant.

The unit is 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' 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 2023, members of the K9 Unit responded to 1,873 calls for service. Police service dogs were utilized in 461 of those calls and tracked 322 suspects. K9 officers also conducted open searches, building searches, and evidence recovery searches. NRPS dogs were utilized in 10 narcotic searches and 3 explosive detection searches.



1,873
CALLS IN 2023



24%
OF CALLS UTILIZED
SERVICE DOGS

87



10

ARRESTS WITH K9 UNIT
ASSISTANCE

ARRESTS UTILIZING
SERVICE DOGS

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT UNIT (TEU)

Members of 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 2023, officers from this unit were responsible for issuing 7,417 Provincial Offence Notices and Summonses, comprising approximately 27% of the NRPS' total enforcement efforts. Members also arrested several drivers for driving while disqualified, impaired driving (alcohol and drugs), and other criminal offences.

In 2023, TEU continued to utilize the Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) 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 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 354 tickets in 2023. Since the program's inception, a total of 7,803 Provincial Offence Notices (PONS) have been issued.

Once again, the NRPS received grant funding for 2023/24 from the Ministry of the Solicitor General as part of the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E) program. A total of 15 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 2023, approximately 9,090 vehicles were stopped and checked, 257 roadside tests were conducted, 30 people had their licences suspended for 3 days or more, 18 people were charged criminally with impaired driving, and 103 Provincial Act charges were issued.

CLASSIFICATION	2023
ALPR generated tickets	354
ALPR total PONS since inception	7,803
R.I.D.E. spot checks (number of events)	15
R.I.D.E. number of vehicles checked	9,090
R.I.D.E. roadside tests	257
R.I.D.E. licence suspensions (3 or more days)	30
R.I.D.E. criminal impaired charges	18
R.I.D.E. Provincial Offences issued	103



EMERGENCY SERVICES

COLLISION RECONSTRUCTION UNIT (CRU)

CRU 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 2023, the CRU investigated 36 incidents involving 20 fatal collisions, 12 life threatening injury collisions, and 4 investigative assistance incidents. Additionally, they authored 8 blood warrants for uniform investigations.

Fatal and Life-Threatening Collisions

COLLISION TYPE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fatal Collisions	17	19	21	19	20
MTO Reportable Deaths	13	16	21	18	19
Non-Reportable Deaths	4	3	0	1	1
Life Threatening Injuries	12	8	11	4	12
Assist Other Investigative Unit	12	7	5	4	4
Blood Warrants for Other Unit	5	11	10	6	8

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board Annual Report, Traffic Management, Enforcement, and Road Safety January 1 - December 31, 2023.



SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES (SIS)

SIS provides support and information on organized criminal activity to the frontline policing units of the NRPS and includes the 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 Unit (OPP), Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (RCMP), Provincial Anti-Terrorism Section (OPP, RCMP), Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit (OPP), Provincial Guns and Gangs Joint Enforcement Team (OPP), Provincial Joint Forces Cannabis Enforcement Team (OPP), and Provincial Weapons 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 communications under Part VI of the Criminal Code.

MAJOR DRUGS AND GANGS UNIT (MDGU)

MDGU was established with the mandate to take enforcement action on mid to high-level drug traffickers. 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 OEEU 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. OEEU provides support to investigators and critical education to first responders regarding the

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

JOINT FORCES OPERATIONS

BIKER ENFORCEMENT UNIT (BEU)

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 (OMGs) through shared policing

expertise throughout the Province of Ontario. The main objective of this unit is to monitor the activities and movements of OMG members within the Region and to enforce applicable laws, when necessary, regarding any illegal activity of gang members and associates.



COMBINED FORCES SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT (CFSEU)

The Golden Horseshoe CFSEU was established in 2023. It is a collaborative partnership between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Niagara Regional Police Service, Brantford Police Service, Six Nations Police Service, and the Canada Border Services

Agency. The objective of this partnership is to investigate and prosecute organized crime figures and/or associates and increase enforcement actions on criminal activity and/or infractions supporting organized crime groups.

PROVINCIAL ANTI-TERRORISM SECTION (PATS)

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 with 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.



SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES (SIS)

PROVINCIAL ASSET FORFEITURE UNIT (PAFU)

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.

In 2023, the Niagara PAFU member was involved in 1 major investigation; an OPP-led, money laundering investigation involving organized crime in the GTA, along with proceeds of crime investigations related to drug trafficking locally within the Niagara Region that included \$424,206.15 (CAD) and \$319.00 (USD) in total seized currency.

PROVINCIAL GUNS AND GANGS JOINT ENFORCEMENT TEAM (PGGJET)

PGGJET is an investigative unit that focuses on the prosecution of complex criminal investigations related to guns and gang activity. Their mandate is to disrupt and/or dismantle gun and gang-related activity in the Province of Ontario.

In 2023, the Niagara member assigned to this unit was involved in 10 provincial gang-related investigations throughout the province. In May 2023,

PGGJET members, in conjunction with NRPS members, conducted a proactive investigation in Niagara related to the trafficking of fentanyl and cocaine. The project resulted in the execution of 4 search warrants, the arrest of 2 individuals, the seizure of controlled substances and offence-related property exceeding \$150,000.00.



PROVINCIAL JOINT FORCES CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT TEAM (PJFCET)

PJFCET has been established with the mandate to provide specific policing services with respect to the dismantling of organized crime groups, the elimination of illegal cannabis supply, the removal of illegal cannabis enterprises such as storefronts and online, as well as targeting the proceeds of crime and assets in Ontario.

In 2023, PJFCET members were involved in several investigations, throughout the province, 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.

In 2023, PJFCET members, executed 4 search warrant in the Niagara Region. There were 8 arrested people in total and \$12,062,282.00 in controlled substances seized.

PROVINCIAL WEAPONS ENFORCEMENT UNIT (PWEU)

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 2023, the unit was involved in 22 Niagara Region related investigations along with 15 investigations in other jurisdictions.



PUBLIC ORDER UNIT (POU)



In October 2021, the Police Service Board approved the creation of a POU for the Service.

In the Spring of 2023, the Service's POU was formed. The initial members of the unit were trained by members of the Hamilton Police Service POU during a 2-week course and have been operational since June 2023.

The POU's mission is to facilitate peaceful demonstrations allowing citizens to exercise their right to come together and demonstrate in accordance with Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The creation of the unit additionally had to do with the fact that the Service recognizes the importance of being able to effectively contain, isolate, and disperse individuals creating disorder, and minimize the risk of personal injury and/or property damage.

Members of the POU are trained in various crowd management techniques and have been deployed at events where large gatherings of people are anticipated. Members are also trained in ground search and are capable of conducting searches for evidence and/or missing and vulnerable individuals. A number of officers within the unit are also trained on the ARWEN, which is a less lethal weapons system.

In 2023, the unit deployed five times in a POU capacity for events such as the Grey Cup in the City of Hamilton, as well as New Years Eve festivities in Niagara Falls.



STATISTICS

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

COMPLAINT TYPE	2021	2022	2023
Conduct Complaints	136	153	172
Service Complaints	13	9	11
Total Public Complaints	149	162	183
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)	70	91	92
Withdrawn	14	8	8
Early Resolution (Before Investigation)	7	10	1
Informal Resolution (During Investigation)	9	2	1
Unsubstantiated Complaints (Following Investigation)	34	37	55
Substantiated Complaints	4	7	8
Pending/Open Investigation	0	0	0
Substantiated Complaint Resolutions	4		
No Further Action	10	1	0
Action Taken	1	0	0
Informal Resolution	1	6	2
Disposition Without a Hearing	2	3	6
Awaiting Disposition	0	2	0
Disciplinary Hearing	1	0	0
Total Substantiated Complaint Resolutions	5	11	8

Source: Niagara Regional Police Service Professional Standards Unit January 1 - December 31, 2023.



TOTAL ALL CRIMINAL CODE VIOLATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Actual Incidents	19,882	18,388	21,352	21,347	20,517
Rate per 100,000	4,157.70	3,817.10	4,403.90	4,303.30	4,554.26
Percent Change	3.9	-8.2	3.69	2.48	-3.89

TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME VIOLATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Actual Incidents	3,260	3,648	4,166	4,158	4,243
Rate per 100,000	681.7	757.3	859.2	838.2	941.8
Percent Change	0.9	11.1	7	-2.36	2.04

TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME VIOLATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Actual Incidents	14,465	12,148	13,140	13,382	12,735
Rate per 100,000	2,825.60	2,521.80	2,710.20	2,697.70	2,826.85
Percent Change	2.6	-16	7.96	-0.23	-4.83

**Statistics were compiled and accurate as of June 3, 2024

*Note: Completed investigations are subject to change pending an audit by the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS) requirements to comply with Statistics Canada crime reporting. As such, the final statistic may vary from the published report issued by CCJCSS.



STATISTICS

TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE VIOLATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Actual Incidents	3,110	2,592	2,233	2,974	3,539
Rate per 100,000	650.4	538.1	460.6	599.5	785.6
Percent Change	13.9	-17.2	-15.05	30.46	19.00

**Statistics were compiled and accurate as of June 3, 2024

*Note: Completed investigations are subject to change pending an audit by the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS) requirements to comply with Statistics Canada crime reporting. As such, the final statistic may vary from the published report issued by CCJCSS.

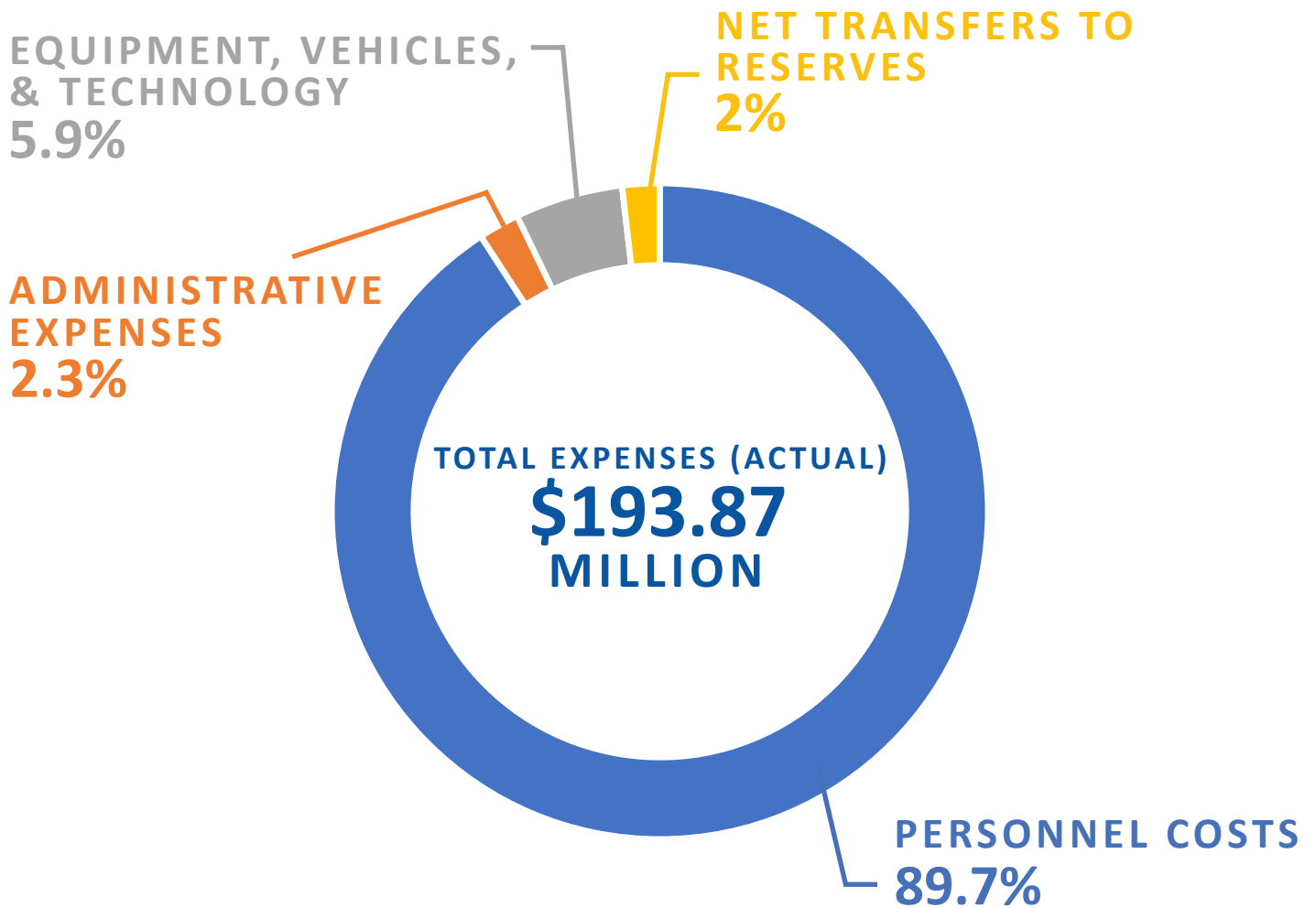


CRIME AGAINST PERSONS - SELECTED OFFENCES

SELECT INCIDENTS	2022 INCIDENTS	2023 INCIDENTS	CLEARED BY CHARGE 2023	CLEARED OTHERWISE 2023
Murder – 1st Degree	2	4	3	0
Murder – 2nd Degree	4	3	3	0
Manslaughter	2	3	1	0
Criminal Negligence Cause Death	1	1	1	0
Murder – Attempt	8	2	2	0
Sexual Assault – Aggravated	1	0	0	0
Sexual Assault – Weapons/ Bodily Harm	5	3	2	0
Sexual Assault	372	263	50	2
Sexual Interference	92	97	16	4
Total Sexual Violations Against Children	110	77	6	2
Invitation to Sexual Touching	8	6	3	1
Sexual Exploitation	3	4	3	0
Lure Child Via Computer	5	7	5	0
Assault- Aggravated	44	32	28	0
Assault – Weapon or Cause Bodily Harm	484	468	326	23
Assault – Minor Harm	1,066	1,074	572	113
Assault – Police/ Peace Officer	117	84	75	7
Criminal Negligence Cause Bodily Harm	1	1	1	0
Assault – Other	58	57	42	1
Robbery	196	163	76	4
Extortion	160	256	5	0
Criminal Harassment/ Stalking	294	393	81	21
Threats – Person Death/ Harm	689	626	186	67
Indecent/ Harassing Communication	415	363	7	15
Total Crimes Against Persons (All Incidents)	4,158	4,243	1,560	268
Arson	53	37	9	0
Break & Enter	1,390	1,254	183	23
Theft Over \$5,000	148	135	23	2
Theft Under \$5,000	2,453	2,386	166	120
Theft of Motor Vehicle	894	771	54	10
Shoplifting Under \$5,000	1,269	1,481	279	129
Shoplifting Over \$5,000	10	16	2	0
Possession of Stolen Property	126	50	32	10
Fraud	2,172	2,368	220	40
Fraud – Identity Theft	40	27	10	0
Fraud – Identity Fraud	575	413	6	1
Mischief	2,220	1,830	228	101
Total Crimes Against Property	13,382	12,735	1,308	471



ANNUAL BUDGET



ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

▼ 2.08%
UNDER BUDGET

ACTUAL REVENUE

\$19.7
MILLION



EXPENDITURE	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Personnel Costs	\$179,123,614	\$176,242,127
Administrative Expenses	4,259,210	4,493,476
Operational & Supply	2,692,622	2,681,118
Occupancy & Infrastructure	375,000	293,411
Equipment, Vehicles, Technology	9,359,588	8,318,751
Financial Expenditures & Regional Chargebacks	(2,239,424)	(2,109,237)
Net Transfers to Reserves	3,955,000	3,955,000
Total Gross Expenditure	\$197,525,610	\$193,874,646

REVENUE DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Provincial Grants	\$(10,195,162)	\$(11,051,240)
Fees & Service Charges	(5,792,890)	(4,936,930)
Other Revenues	(3,679,803)	(3,735,927)
Total Revenues	(19,667,855)	(19,724,097)
Net Expenditures Before Indirect Allocation	177,857,755	174,150,549
Indirect Allocations	17,148,037	17,007,225
Net Expenditures After Indirect Allocation	\$195,005,792	\$191,157,774

BREAKDOWN OF REGIONAL CHARGEBACKS	2022	2023
Personnel Costs	\$(2,333,127)	\$(2,343,679)
Equipment, Vehicles & Technology	93,703	234,442
Financial Exp. & Regional Chargebacks	\$(2,239,424)	\$(2,109,237)

Source: Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board
Annual Report, Finance Variance Overview
January 1-December 31, 2023.



CONTACT US

HEADQUARTERS

5700 Valley Way
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 1X8
Tel. 905-688-4111
Twitter: @NiagRegPolice
Facebook: NiagaraRegPolice
Instagram: @NiagregPolice

5 DISTRICT

650 Gilmore Road
Fort Erie, ON L2A 5M4
Tel. 905-871-2300
Twitter: @5NRPS

1 DISTRICT

198 Welland Avenue
St. Catharines, ON L2R 3C6
Tel. 905-688-4111
Twitter: @NRPS1District

6 DISTRICT

501 Fielden Avenue
Port Colborne, ON L3K 4T9
Tel. 905-735-7811
Twitter: @6NRPS

2 DISTRICT

5700 Valley Way
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 1X8
Tel. 905-688-4111
Twitter: @2NRPS

8 DISTRICT

45 Clarke Street
Grimsby, ON L3M 1Y5
Tel. 905-945-2211
Twitter: @8NRPS

3 DISTRICT

5 Lincoln Street
Welland, ON L3C 5H9
Tel. 905-688-4111
Twitter: @NRPS3District





MEDIA INQUIRIES?

**NRPS CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**

mediainquiry@niagarapolice.ca





WWW.NIAGARAPOLICE.CA