



# NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

## Police Service Board Report

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

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**Subject:** Annual Report - Criminal Intelligence Unit  
January 1 to December 31, 2024

**Report To:** Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

**Report Date:** 2025-01-23

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### **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 441-2024 – Criminal Intelligence.
- By-Law 441-2024 contains provisions requiring the Chief of Police to report specific information to ensure compliance with the legislative guidelines.
- This report is submitted to provide the Board with the necessary and required information pursuant to the operation of the Criminal Intelligence Unit.

### **Financial Considerations**

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

### **Analysis**

In accordance with By-Law 441-2024, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of Criminal Intelligence. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning Criminal Intelligence;
- b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures; and
- c) Confirmation that members have been trained in accordance with Section 4.3.

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

- a) *"...a summary of the written procedures concerning Criminal Intelligence..."*

Written procedures regarding Criminal Intelligence are found in General Order (GO) 111.10 Special Investigative Services (SIS) Unit and Technical Support Access. This GO was written to familiarize members with the structure, operation, and responsibilities of the Criminal Intelligence Unit within SIS, which is responsible for gathering intelligence, monitoring, and investigating criminal activities, and disseminating information relative to organized crime, vice, drugs, terrorism, gangs, and civil disorders. It also establishes guidelines for accessing specialized resources, equipment, and technical expertise of the Criminal Intelligence Unit.

The GO provides members of the Criminal Intelligence Unit with clear instructions to direct and guide them in the execution of their duties. The GO also provides a clear understanding of any constraints and expectations specific to their assigned duties. It is also to provide such instructions and understanding, where appropriate, in the form of subsidiary manuals directed at members of specific components, areas or functions within the Service.

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

In 2024, SIS included the Criminal Intelligence Unit, Surveillance, Major Drugs and Gangs Unit, Opioid Education and Enforcement Unit, and 10 officers seconded to various Joint Forces Operations including Biker Enforcement Unit, Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit, Provincial Anti-terrorism Team, Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit, Provincial Guns and Gangs Enforcement Task Force, Provincial Joint Forces Cannabis Enforcement Team, Provincial Auto Theft and Towing Team, and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit.

The Criminal Intelligence Unit itself is staffed by one detective sergeant and five detective constables. They are responsible for the collection and dissemination of information on criminal individuals and groups. The Unit shares information internally, as well as with other police agencies in Canada and internationally. They are also responsible for the technical aspect of investigations under Part VI of the *Criminal Code*.

The detection and suppression of organized crime and its activities, as well as terrorism and terrorist activity, are the responsibilities of all members of the Service. All districts and units must carry out this responsibility in conjunction with one another.

The Criminal Intelligence Unit is a support service whose primary function is to enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of other units and functions of the Service. This is achieved by providing specialized investigative assistance in the form of technical support, mobile surveillance, and information relative to criminal organizations, their

members, associates, and enterprises, as well as liaison capabilities with other law enforcement agencies.

This primary function is supported by secondary activities, which consists of tactical and strategic initiatives. These initiatives identify specific targets on a priority basis and formulate the appropriate balance of strategic/tactical response. Where crime, criminals, or the public interest require a more comprehensive response, the Criminal Intelligence Unit ensures that a probe/project is carried out in concert with other districts or units for efficient use of police resources.

Tactical initiatives include the targeting of traditional and non-traditional organized crime groups, terrorist groups, their members, associates and enterprises, criminal organizations, and career criminals, with the intent to disrupt or dismantle criminal activities by way of judicial process.

The Criminal Intelligence Unit will support districts, units, and other law enforcement agencies in all aspects of problem solving by making available the knowledge and expertise of Intelligence Unit investigators.

Where any response or initiative involves another police service or enforcement agency, and a formal Joint Forces Operation is appropriate to deal with the matter, the Criminal Intelligence Unit ensures that suitable funding is sought, as appropriate.

To enhance transnational enforcement and intelligence gathering, the Service routinely shares information/liases with the United States Department of Homeland Security, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigations Buffalo Division's Organized Crime Task Force. In addition, membership in Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario (CISO) serves as a resource for formal and informal partnerships.

The issuance of intelligence bulletins to frontline and investigative members of the Service ensures a timely dissemination of information to ensure a broader understanding regarding activities and trends of criminals and criminal organizations.

In summary, the Service is in compliance with the written procedures outlined in GO 111.10.

- c) *"...confirmation that members have been trained in accordance with Section 4.3..."*

An extensive range of specialized training is provided to members of the Criminal Intelligence Unit. This training is provided through the CISO at the Ontario Police College (OPC) and includes the following courses:

- Human Source Development
- Intelligence Officer
- Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs
- Mobile Surveillance
- Proceeds of Crime Investigations
- Tactical, Intrusion Detection
- Witness Protection
- Public Officer Designation
- Interception of Private Communications
- Undercover Operations
- Video Surveillance
- Investigative Analysis
- Privacy Act
- Technical Orientation
- Technical Surveillance
- Clandestine Lab Investigation

CISO provides additional training in the form of workshops, seminars, and conferences targeting the following:

- Street gangs
- Extortion
- Weapons and cigarette smuggling
- Illegal drug manufacturing
- Auto theft rings
- Money laundering

Where additional positions are available on these courses, workshops, and conferences, they are offered to detectives in other investigative units to ensure that the Service has a complement of trained members for succession opportunities.

CISO also offers Outreach Training courses to provide basic knowledge of the subject matter on some select topics. This enhances the Service's ability to provide training to a larger number of officers at minimal cost to the Service. Outreach training that has been facilitated through the Service includes:

- Mobile Surveillance Introduction – 1 week
- Mobile Surveillance Practical - 2 weeks
- C-24 Lawful Justification – 2 days
- Human Source Development – 3 days
- Confidential Human Source Development and Management – 3 days
- Search Warrant Course – 1 week

Members of SIS instruct on the Technical Support courses and the three-week Mobile Surveillance Course at OPC, along with speaking at numerous other investigative training courses throughout the year.

### **Alternatives Reviewed**

Not applicable.

### **Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities**

To comply with the provisions of Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with Adequate and Effective Policing requirements.

### **Relevant Policy Considerations**

Board By-Law 441-2024 – Criminal Intelligence  
GO 111.10 – Special Investigative Services Unit & Technical Support Access  
Adequacy and Effective Policing Guidelines LE-004 – Criminal Intelligence

### **Other Pertinent Reports**

8.7 - 2024.02.22 Annual Report – Criminal Intelligence Unit - January 1 to December 31, 2023.

*This report was prepared by David Santo, Staff Sergeant, Special Investigative Services, in consultation with Mike Tripp, Inspector, Major Crime. Reviewed by Dave Masotti, Superintendent, Investigative Services. Recommended by Mario Lagrotteria, Acting Deputy Chief, Community Services*



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#### **Submitted by:**

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### **Appendices**

Not Applicable.