



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Drug Investigations
January 1 to December 31, 2024

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2024-02-03

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 443-2024 - Drug Investigations.
- This By-Law 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 relating to Drug Investigations.

Financial Considerations

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

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 443-2024, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year with respect to drug investigations. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the procedures for the investigations into drug related offences other than simple possession;
- b) The status of Service compliance with said procedures; and
- c) A summary of Service assistance to other police services in respect of drug investigations.

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

- a) *“...a summary of the procedures for the investigations into drug related offences other than simple possession...”*

The Service has 5 General Orders (Orders) that address the requirements of the Adequate and Effective Policing Guidelines (LE-031) and Board By-Law 443-2024.

- GO 117.11 - Search and Seizure;
- GO 120.08 - Major Drugs and Gangs Unit;
- GO 141.07 - Informants and Agents;
- GO 199.04 - Grow Operations and Clandestine Labs; and
- GO 208.06 - Drug Related Offences.

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

The Orders provide members of the Service with clear instructions to direct and guide them in the execution of their duties. The Orders also provide a clear understanding of any constraints and expectations specific to their assigned duties. They 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.

Training relative to drug investigations is conducted at the Ontario Police College and provides training for drug investigations at both an introductory, and an advanced level. The Canadian Police College also provides Advanced Drug Investigator Training and Clandestine Lab Investigative Training.

- c) *“...a summary of Service assistance to other police services in respect of drug investigations...”*

Members of the Service liaise, assist, and work with various other Municipal/Provincial Police Agencies, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), as well as American Law Enforcement Agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Border Patrol, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. These partnerships have resulted in international arrests, drug seizures, cash seizures, as well as the exchange of valuable information.

In 2024, the Special Investigative Services (SIS) Unit had 10 members seconded to various joint forces operations. These operations included the Ontario Provincial Police led Biker Enforcement Unit, the Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit, the Provincial Anti-Terrorism Section, the Provincial Joint-Forces Cannabis Enforcement Team, the Provincial Guns and Gangs Enforcement Team, the Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit, the Provincial Organized Crime Towing and Auto Theft Team, and the RCMP Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit.

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 the Adequate and Effective Policing requirements. On an on-going basis, members of SIS liaise with police partners provincially, nationally, and internationally for the purpose of information sharing. This is key to the mandate of this unit, in that the maximum amount of quality drug information is gathered, analyzed, and shared with officers in investigative units and frontline policing.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-Law 443-2024 – Drug Investigations

GO 117.11 - Search and Seizure

GO 120.08 - Major Drugs and Gangs Unit

GO 141.07 - Informants and Agents

GO 199.04 - Grow Operations and Clandestine Labs

GO 208.06 - Drug Related Offences

Adequate and Effective Policing Regulation, LE-031 - Drug Investigations

Other Pertinent Reports

8.9 - 2024.02.22 Annual Report – Drug Investigations – January 1 to December 31, 2023

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



Submitted by:

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Acting Chief of Police

Appendices

Appendix 1 Drug Seizure Statistics

APPENDIX 1

Drug Seizures	2022	Value	2023	Value	2024	Value
Marihuana Dry	See below	See below	See below	See below	See below	See below
Marihuana Plants	See below	See below	See below	See below	See below	See below
Hashish	301.16 grams	\$6,023.20	1340.81 grams	\$13,408.10	926.7 grams	\$9267.00
Cocaine	11,022.85 grams	\$1,102,285.00	17353.34 grams	\$1,735,334.00	12496.93 grams	\$1,249,693.00
MDMA	1110 grams	\$138,750.00	393.12 grams	\$49,140.00	242.20 grams	\$30,275.00
Oxycodone	1256 pills	\$6,280.00	1850 pills	\$9,250.00	6146.5 pills	\$30,732.50
Heroin	203 grams	\$40,600.00	252.08 grams	\$50,416.00	70.6 grams	\$14,120.00
Methamphetamine	8458 grams	\$1,057,250.00	124.71 grams	\$15,588.75	373.7 grams	\$46,712.50
Fentanyl (including Carfentanil)	2,453.06 grams	\$858,571.00	16382.61 grams	\$5,733,913.50	9451.67 grams	\$3,308,084.50
Hydromorphone	1,742 pills	\$34,840.00	2618 tabs	\$52,360.00	723 pills	\$14,464.00
Morphine	1,561 pills	\$23,415.00	4 pills	\$60.00	290 pills	\$4350.00
Psilocybin	305 grams	\$3,050.00	9589.40 grams	\$95,894.00	334.7 grams	\$3347.00

Due to the NRPS' involvement in the Provincial Joint-Forces Cannabis Enforcement Team (PJFCET) Central-West, statistics related to cannabis have been provided accordingly.

CENTRAL-WEST WARRANTS EXECUTED BY PJFCET IN NIAGARA REGION

TYPE	TOTAL
Total Warrants Executed	1 Cannabis Production Sites 11 Illegal Cannabis Storefronts 12 Total
Location of Warrants Executed	St. Catharines (2) Niagara Falls (3) Thorold (2) Fort Erie (2) Welland (3)
Total Estimated Value of Drugs Seized	\$8,935,199.00
Total Duty (Profit) Loss	\$7,974,746.83
Total Arrests	29

Investigations within the Niagara Region accounted for approximately 38% of the total investigations where PJFCET executed warrants.

PJFCET STATISTICS – PROVINCE WIDE

2024 - PJFCET ENFORCEMENT ACTION TYPE	TOTAL
Total Warrants Executed	31
Total Value of Drugs Seized	\$47,472,494.20
Total Duty (Profit) Loss	\$ 34,511,977.45
Total Arrests	47
CHARGES	124
Provincial Charges	0
Federal Charges	63
Criminal Code Charges	54

SEIZED ITEMS	AMOUNT
Dried Cannabis	2,687 kilograms
Cannabis Plants	38,711
Cannabis Clones	491
Cannabis Shake	420 kilograms
Hashish	5282 grams
Vape Pens	3130
Pre-Rolled Cannabis	12,163
Cannabis Oils	1210 grams
Shatter	0 grams
Edible Cannabis Products	7743 packages
Cocaine	71 grams
Fentanyl	0
Psilocybin	395 grams
Psilocybin Edible Packaged Products	118
Other Cannabis Packaged Products	987
Canadian Currency	\$115,125.90
Value of Seized Vehicles	\$ 0
Value of Other Seized Items	4 vehicles (value not indicated)