



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Illegal Gaming
January 1 to December 31, 2024

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2025-02-24

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 448-2024 – Illegal Gaming.
- The Chief is required to make an annual written report to the Board concerning illegal gaming.
- This report is submitted to provide the Board with the necessary and required information, pursuant to the By-Law, relating to illegal gaming investigations.

Financial Considerations

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

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 448-2024, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of investigations into illegal gaming. The report shall include:

- a) a summary of the written procedures concerning investigations into illegal gaming; and
- b) the status of Service compliance with the said procedures.

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

- a) *“...a summary of the written procedures concerning investigations into illegal gaming...”*

General Order (GO) 162.08, Illegal Gaming Investigations addresses the requirements of the Adequate and Effective Policing Regulation (LE-032) and Board By-Law 448-2024.

- Section 2.0 deals with definitions of gaming terminology and Ontario Gaming governing bodies;
- Section 3.1 deals with information sharing and details on how information will be shared and with whom;
- Sections 3.2 to 3.4 deals with primary investigation function, member's duties, and responsibilities;
- Sections 3.5 and 3.6 deal with licensing of certain lotteries by municipalities;
- Section 3.7 deals with provincial gaming licenses;
- Section 3.8 deals with licensing First Nations communities;
- Sections 3.13 to 3.16 deals with licensing for carnivals, agricultural fairs, and exhibitions; and
- Section 3.17 to 3.19 deals with Monte Carlo applications at the divisional level.

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

GO 162.08, Illegal Gaming Investigations, was established in order to comply with the Adequate and Effective Policing Regulations and the Board By-Law. The Order provides clear guidelines for officers who become involved in illegal gaming complaints. All illegal gaming investigations in Niagara will be addressed through the Special Investigative Services (SIS) Unit. If an investigation requires gambling and gaming expertise, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation will be consulted.

There were no illegal gaming investigations conducted by the Service in 2024. Although gaming investigations are directed to the SIS Unit, the Unit has not had a dedicated Illegal Gaming investigator since December 2009, when the Service terminated their secondment position with the Ontario Provincial Police.

These procedures and a biennial review of GO 162.08 – Illegal Gaming Investigations ensure the Service is compliant with Board By-Law 448-2024 – Illegal Gaming, as well as Adequate and Effective Policing Regulation LE-032 – Illegal Gaming.

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.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-Law 448-2024 – Illegal Gaming
GO 162.08 – Illegal Gaming Investigations
Adequate and Effective Police Regulation, LE-032 – Illegal Gaming

Other Pertinent Reports

8.10 – 2024.03.28 – Annual Report – Illegal Gaming – January 1 to December 31, 2023

This report was prepared by David Santo, Acting Inspector, Major Crime and reviewed by Dave Masotti, Superintendent, Investigative Services. Recommended by Mario Lagrotteria, Acting Deputy Chief, Community Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.