

Niagara Regional Police Service

Major Crime/Homicide Unit
Police Service Board Meeting
June 2025

DUTIES / RESPONSIBILITIES

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.

Homicide Unit Mandate:

- All homicides within the Region of Niagara
- Suspicious sudden deaths
- Assaults where death is imminent
- In-custody deaths
- Suspicious missing persons
- Police involved shootings where death or injury has resulted
- Shooting incidents involving Canada Border Services Agency & Niagara Parks Police where death or injury has resulted
- Sudden deaths of children under 5 years of age
- Any other investigations assigned by the Chief or designate
- Provide functional expertise to support District operations

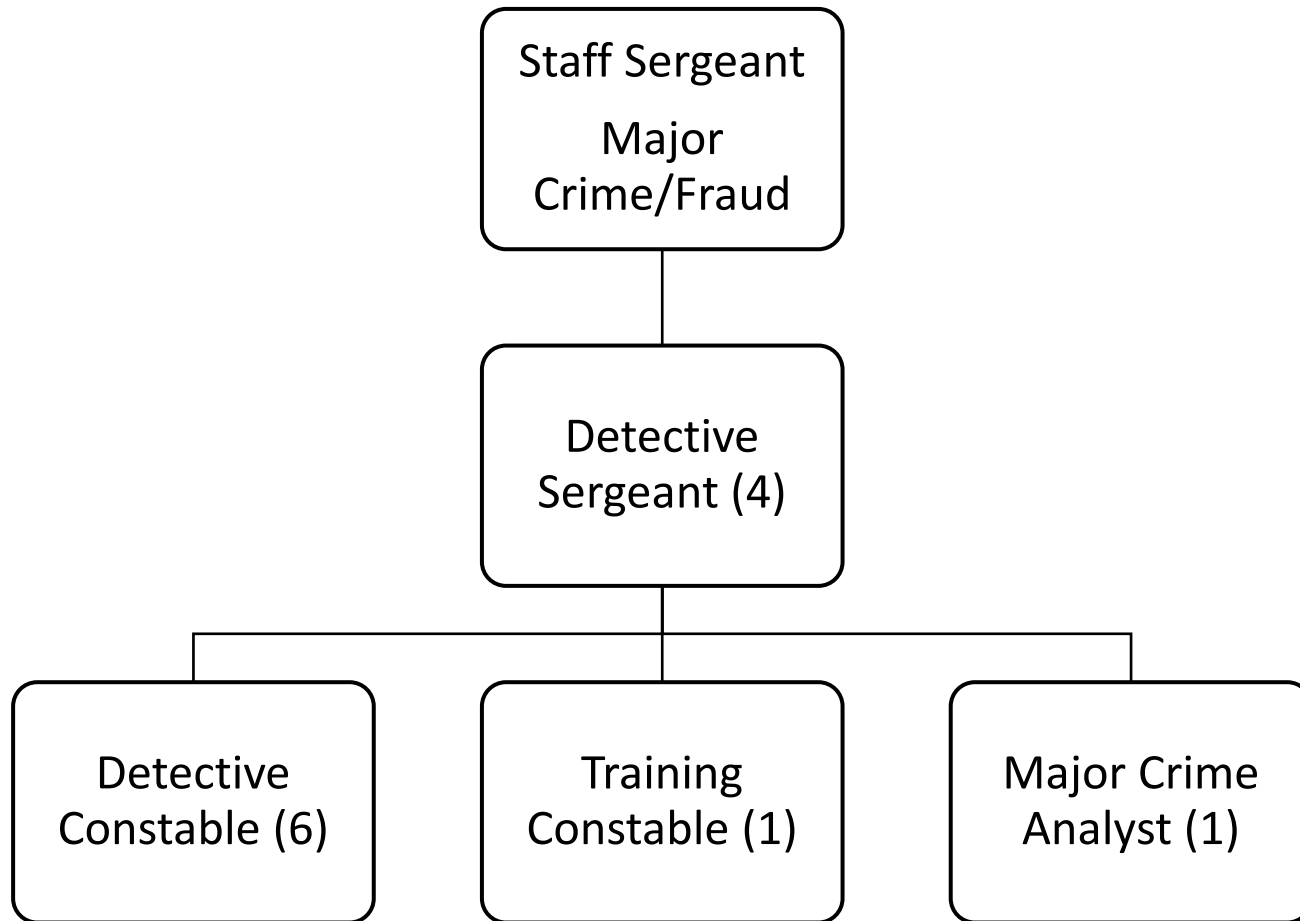
2024 OVERVIEW

- In 2024, the Homicide Unit investigated a record 15 Homicides and 4 Infant Sudden Deaths.
- Since 2023, the Homicide Unit has 4 unsolved homicide investigations, two of which involved a firearm.
- In 2024, the Homicide Unit was notified/consulted on 19 Sudden Death Investigations.
- The Unit is currently managing 24 Homicide investigations through various court processes with 30 accused persons facing murder charges.
- Homicide numbers have consistently risen over the years.
 - Between 2016 – 2021 there was an average of 4 per year.
 - Since 2021 that average has risen to 11 per year.

WORKLOAD DEMANDS

Year	Homicides	Concluded	Before the Courts	Unsolved
2021	7	3	3	1
2022	6	2	2	2
2023	12	3	5	4
2024	15	1	14	0
Total	40	9	24	7

HOMICIDE UNIT



DISSECTION OF AN INVESTIGATION

- The Unit is mandated to conduct investigations using the guidelines of the Major Case Management System (MCM).
- The MCM sets an investigative standard, training and common case management technology (PowerCase), used by all police services within Ontario. Legislated under CSPA O.Reg. 394/23.
- In every investigation, there is a major case manager (typically a Staff Sergeant), a Primary Investigator, and a File Coordinator, known as the “Command Triangle”.
- Each investigation includes multiple mandated roles such as: Field Investigators, dedicated Affiant, Family Liaison, Scene Coordinator, Canvass Coordinator, among others.
 - Everyone reports directly to the MCM Triangle.

DISSECTION OF AN INVESTIGATION CONTINUED

- Each investigation presents its own unique challenges and complexities. It is common for numerous interviews to be conducted throughout the investigative process, including those with witnesses, victims, and accused individuals.
- Multiple judicial authorizations are required to obtain and secure a variety of evidence; crime scenes, vehicles, digital data sources.
- The amount of cell phones and CCTV footage that is collected during a typical homicide investigation has grown exponentially.
- This data must be systematically analyzed, a process that requires hundreds of hours and the full-time dedication of specialized investigators.
- Technology presents a significant challenge for modern investigations. A single cellular device can store an overwhelming volume of data, ranging from location mapping and photos to conversations and digital links between victims and accused persons, making it both a critical source of evidence and a complex task to analyze.

DISSECTION OF AN INVESTIGATION CONTINUED 2



Each Homicide investigation often requires a 2-3 year commitment from detectives before the case is fully resolved.

Questions?

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