



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada
 Commanding Officer Commandant divisionnaire

October 21st, 2024
 Minister R.J. Simpson
 Department of Justice
 Government of the Northwest Territories
 PO Box 1320
 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Minister Simpson,

Re: Territorial Police Service Agreement – RCMP Annual Report (2023-2024)

Pursuant to Article 7.2 (c) of the 2012-2032 Territorial Police Service Agreement (TPSA), I am happy to provide you with our annual report on the implementation of the Territory's objectives, priorities and goals for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Minister of Justice determined policing priorities were as follows:

- 1) Enhance policing responses to target and disrupt the availability of illicit drugs and alcohol;
- 2) Build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities to understand and establish community driven policing needs and services;
- 3) Provide policing services that are responsive to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families and children experiencing family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence in the NWT; and
- 4) Improve community knowledge and understanding about local policing services.

1) Enhance policing responses to target and disrupt the availability of illicit drugs and alcohol

Over the last year in response to the rise in illicit drugs in the NWT, "G" Division has developed and implemented a Divisional Drug Strategy, which is a proactive approach to disrupt the illicit drug trade. The strategy is comprised of two phases to address the transitory nature of drug trafficking in the Northwest Territories.

In the initial phase this past year, efforts involved training, intelligence gathering, and targeted enforcement measures. The effectiveness of these initiatives was evident from significant seizures of illicit substances and alcohol across various locations, achieving the intended outcome to disrupt illegal activities. The strategic focus on precision law enforcement within "G" Division underscored a cohesive initiative to combat organized crime and disrupt the illicit substance trade.

The second phase of the strategy, scheduled for implementation in fiscal year 2024-2025, will introduce the Territorial Crime Reduction Unit. This specialized team will respond to the evolving dynamics of the illicit drug trade, particularly in light of the transient operations of drug trafficking within the territory.



Furthermore, initiatives such as the leadership workshop and the revitalization of human source and warrant policies within "G" Division signify a commitment to fostering collaboration, sharing expertise, and strengthening enforcement protocols. By providing training on human source

development, search warrant drafting, and search and seizure procedures, "G" Division is increasing investigative efforts to combat illicit drug activities.

Overall, the Divisional Drug Strategy exemplifies a proactive and multifaceted approach towards enhancing policing responses to target and disrupt the availability of illicit drugs and alcohol. By leveraging partnerships, intelligence sharing, specialized units, and enhanced training protocols, "G" Division is better positioned to address the new challenges posed by organized crime.

2) Build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities to understand and establish community driven policing needs and services.

"G" Division recognizes the significance of fostering meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities to enhance community-driven policing needs and services. "G" Division is acutely aware of the diverse sets of cultures, traditions, and beliefs within these communities and is committed to understanding and integrating these various cultural elements into our approach to policing. All "G" Division employees are required to undergo mandatory training in Cultural Awareness and Humility. This training provides comprehensive information about various cultures and self-reflection opportunities to better understand personal biases and perspectives. At the end of the 2023/2024 fiscal year, 89% of all "G" Division employees had completed this course.

Additionally, "G" Division provides educational opportunities for its employees through the NWT History Course. This course delves into the history of the Northwest Territories, covering topics ranging from the retreat of the glaciers to aspects such as culture, and the role played by the RCMP in its history. The Division believes that this course is instrumental in fostering an understanding of the intricate relationship between individuals, communities, and the land, thus strongly encouraging all employees to participate. Besides being available to internal staff, the course is also extended to external employees through an initiative like the Federal Policing Workshop, drawing in RCMP personnel from all over the nation. By offering this course, the division demonstrates its deep pride in and commitment to fostering connections with communities across the Northwest Territories.

"G" Division acknowledges the specific challenges confronted by both youth and adults within Indigenous communities and strives to steer offenders away from formal court processes whenever feasible. Officers work together with community restorative justice programs to arrange meetings between offenders and victims, prioritizing the promotion of community-driven solutions. By utilizing approaches such as healing circles, cultural camps, consultations with elders, and community service, alternative avenues for justice are embraced, aligning with



traditional methods and fostering communal recovery. Active involvement in both the community and school systems plays a vital role in providing support and education on criminal and social issues. This year, the focus is on nurturing relationships and guiding youth away from criminal activities. By maintaining partnerships with public school systems through regular attendance and engagement, trust is built, and essential support is provided to students in need.

Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities is not merely an initiative but a foundational pillar for "G" Division. Through cultural awareness, humility, education, and restorative justice practices, "G" Division aims to build trust and ensure community safety. By continuing to engage

in these efforts and fostering mutual understanding, the RCMP and Indigenous communities work together to create a more inclusive and relevant approach to community safety.

3) Provide policing services that are responsive to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families and children experiencing family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence in the NWT.

Providing police services which are responsive to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, family, and children experiencing family, intimate partner and sexualized violence is crucial in addressing the systemic issues that disproportionately affect these vulnerable populations. By acknowledging and understanding the unique cultural, historical and social factors that impacts Indigenous communities, "G" Division works towards creating a more supportive and effective response to incidents of violence. "G" Division is able to provide focussed attention in these areas by having an officer that is dedicated to focus on Family Violence. The Family Violence Coordinator for "G" Division provides oversight on Intimated Partner Violence investigations throughout the Territory. Their mandate also includes external stakeholder engagement, where they will meet with Victim Services, NWT Native Woman's Society, Alison McAteer House and other similar organizations to discuss issues that may be present and how "G" Division and these organizations can support one another. Through consultation with the Alison McAteer House, the Family Violence Coordinator and Alison McAteer House were able to find a more effective process for serving of Emergency Protection Orders, which has benefited both RCMP and the Alison McAteer House. Developing these partnerships, establishing culturally sensitive approaches, with trust-based relationships, and prioritizing survivor-centred practices are essential steps in ensuring Indigenous women, girls, family, and children, feel safe, heard, and supported when seeking help and justice.

Collaborating with organizations including the NWT Status of Women, YWCA, Alison McAteer House, Family Support Centres, Sutherland House, and School Boards, "G" Division is actively engaged in promoting education on family violence in the NWT. Conducting presentations focusing on healthy relationships play vital roles in educating both adults and youth on identifying both acceptable and unacceptable behaviours necessary to foster successful relationships. These efforts are aimed at strengthening family units within the community.



Throughout our training efforts, the division prioritizes equipping our employees with specialized skills and knowledge tailored to effectively address sexualized based offences within Indigenous communities. For example, the National Sexual Offences Investigators workshop held this past fiscal year, saw candidates engaged, with “G” Division specific content aimed at fostering a trauma-informed approach in their investigative practices. By leveraging insight from both instructor, community leaders, and experts, employees not only enhanced their investigative capabilities but also cultivated a deeper understanding of supporting victims and utilizing available resources within diverse communities. The training emphasized the significance of being trauma-informed, victim-centred, and sensitive to the unique experiences of vulnerable populations, laying a stronger foundation for successful investigations and comprehensive victim support. Additionally, “G” Division Officers from across the Territory attended a Child Phased Interviewing course, which further reinforced the importance of continuous learning and specialized training to ensure our officers are proficient in addressing the complexities of sexual offences and child interviews with competence and sensitivity.

Additionally, the NT Sexual Assault Investigative Review Committee (SAIRC) and the Intimate Partner Violence Review Committee, play a vital role in overseeing sexual assault and intimate partner violence cases within the territory which have not been cleared by charge, including those classified as “unfounded.” Comprised of territorial stakeholders, victim service organizations, and the RCMP, the NT SAIRC and Intimate Partner Violence Review Committee, ensures investigations are thorough, impartial, and properly classified all the while identifying systemic gaps. Among its findings the committees note areas for improvement in documenting victim services and safety planning and highlighting the needs of supervisory oversight to address these gaps. Despite these challenges, the committee praised good communication with victims and mostly unbiased investigations. Through annual reviews and feedback sessions, the SAIRC and the Intimate Partner Violence Review Committee enhances employee awareness and promotes best practices, contributing to more effective and compassionate handling of sexual assault and intimate partner violence cases.

The ongoing efforts of “G” Division highlight the importance of addressing systemic issues affecting Indigenous women, girls and families by providing culturally sensitive and survivor-centred approaches. Collaboration with community organizations, education on family violence, specialized training for members, and emphasis on trauma-informed approaches are essential in promoting safety, support, and justice for vulnerable populations within Indigenous communities.

4) Improve community knowledge and understanding about local policing services.

Active involvement in the community is crucial to maintain positive relations and provides people with an opportunity to learn more about the employees serving in the community and the RCMP as an organization. Every informal and formal interaction people have with the RCMP is an opportunity to increase awareness of the various roles police undertake in their respective communities. Employees are highly visible and accessible throughout the NWT and take proactive steps to involve themselves in community cultural events, volunteering, coaching, and serving as a role model and provide leadership daily. Community involvement acts as an opportunity for



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members to develop or reaffirm strong partnerships and acquaint themselves with the culture of the people they serve. Examples of the RCMP involvement within the communities include:

- Yellowknife Detachment positive ticket program, where members reward youth with a coupon for ice cream for wearing helmets while riding bicycles, scooters and other forms of active transportation.
- Officers from all of "G" Division were present during hand game tournaments throughout the territory. "G" Division is acutely aware of the significance of the hand games and the importance of the games to build community and reinforce bonds.
- Community & Indigenous Policing Officers in Yellowknife, assisted the friendship centre with setting up the honoring of Mother Earth feeding ceremony.
- Officers from across the Territory were present during community and high school career fairs, as well as commerce tradeshow.
- Tuktoyaktuk RCMP hosted a bike rodeo and community BBQ.
- Fort Smith RCMP Officers volunteered their time to coach youth soccer.

Thank you for reviewing our report on the actions we have taken to meet the established priorities for the previous fiscal year. Attached with this report is an appendix containing a snapshot of policing activities to build knowledge and understanding of the work undertaken by RCMP on policing our priorities.

Sincerely,

C/Supt. Dyson Smith
"G" Division Commanding Officer



APPENDIX A:
2023-2024 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
POLICING PRIORITY ACTIVITY AND
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Prepared by G Division

Data Sources and Limitations

The information in this report provides a point in time snapshot of the law enforcement and community policing activities of the RCMP that live and work in the NWT from April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024. Information was retrieved from the police records management system, or PROS, and monthly policing reports.

It is important to keep in mind that information in this report is a sample of policing activities that will change as criminal proceedings progress and should not be used to accurately interpret trends, conduct comparisons with national statistical data or describe year-over-year changes in crime or crime rates.

The intended purpose of this report reflects the commitment to improve community knowledge and understanding about local policing services.

The report is structured by each Policing Priority and includes corresponding quantitative information for each performance measure related to law enforcement and policing activities.

Law enforcement activities are called occurrences, which include any type of police-related event, activity or call for service RCMP attend to or receive. Each member is trained to enter occurrences using a Uniform Crime Reported code (UCR) into the police records management, or PROS.

A single occurrence may encompass several offences. Depending on officer discretion only the most serious offence is usually reported. This means that many offences are under reported and not reflected in the information contained in this report.

It is important to know when RCMP are required to intervene, it is complex, constantly evolving and requires an officer's individual risk assessment of the situation and determines what information an officer enters as into the system.

The information about community policing activities is often very under reported as officers are not able to document the countless daily interactions with communities (community meetings, school liaison officer functions, regular patrols, recruiting, etc.). Some measures related to community policing activities are not yet formally documented and so reporting is not yet available.

Terms

PROS	Police Reporting and Occurrence System (PROS) is a police records management system database.
UCR Codes	The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey collects information on crimes that come to the attention of the police. UCR data do not contain a count of all crimes in Canada. Some crimes are never detected or brought to the attention of the police.
Occurrences	An occurrence is any type of police-related event or activity entered the police records management systems (PROS), including a call for service or self-generated by a police officer, like stopping a driver they believe is impaired.
Investigations	Synonymous with occurrences each occurrence must be investigated.
Charge	When a person has been formally accused of committing a crime by the laying of charges by Crown counsel.
Activities	Activities are formal or informal RCMP interactions with community or community leadership.
Restorative Justice	The RCMP or Crown may <i>divert</i> selected criminal matters away from the traditional court system to be handled by community justice committees. When a matter is diverted, the offender does not receive a criminal record.
Pre-charge diversions referrals	The RCMP or Crown may divert selected criminal matters away from the traditional court system to be handled by community justice committees. When a matter is diverted, the offender does not receive a criminal record.
EPOs	An <i>emergency protection order</i> (EPO) is a legal order that provides emergency protection to victims of family violence. An EPO provides emergency protection that lasts up to 90 days, and can order the abusive person to stay away from you and your children; allow you to stay in your home without the abusive person being there; and/or require the RCMP to take away any weapons the abusive person may have.
Proactive patrols	Proactive policing patrols prevent and deter crime from occurring.
SAIRC	Sexual Assault Investigation Review Committee (SAIRC) includes RCMP and stakeholders representing victim services organizations and victim/community advocates. Committee tests the protocol for reviewing sexual assault investigations and provide observations and recommendations to the RCMP to improve investigations.
Crimes against persons	The term "crimes against the person" refers to a broad array of criminal offenses which usually involve bodily harm, the threat of bodily harm, or other actions committed against the will of an individual, including battery, assault, and domestic violence.

Policing Priority Activities and Performance Measures

Priority 1: Enhance policing responses to target and disrupt the availability of illicit drugs and alcohol.		
Activities	Performance Measures	Results
a) Law enforcement efforts to target and disrupt organized crime, illicit drugs, and alcohol.	Number of drug and organized crime investigations undertaken.	1,018 occurrences.
	Number of people charged with drug trafficking.	67 individuals charged with trafficking offences.
	Number of people charged with bootlegging.	4 individuals charged with <i>Liquor Act</i> offences indicating bootlegging.
	Number of calls related to bootlegging and drug trafficking by community.	126 occurrences related to bootlegging. 797 occurrences related to drug trafficking ⁱ .
b) Work collaboratively to support social programs with partners to recognize and work with at-risk people, including youth, who may be vulnerable to the influence of the drug trade and other serious crime ¹ .	Report on activities undertaken with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Justice Committees • Victim Services programs • Community Safety Officer • Shelters and other housing related social programs² 	31 activities with Community Justice Committees. 27 activities with Victim Services programs. 20 activities with Community Safety Officer program. 9 activities with Shelters and other housing related social programs.
Anticipated Outcomes		
NWT residents have up to date information and confidence that the RCMP are responding to drug and alcohol occurrences.		

¹ Retrieved from G Division monthly policing reports, often under reported.

Priority 2: Build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities to understand and establish community driven policing needs and services.		
Activities	Performance measures	Results
a) RCMP members receive cultural awareness and safety training and apply cultural awareness and cultural safety to their service delivery.	Number and type of members trained in cultural safety, awareness cultural competency training for RCMP employees and trauma informed practices.	89% of G Division members are trained in Cultural Awareness and Humility training.
	Frequency of use of Restorative Justice Practices by age and offense: Number of pre-charge diversion referrals	58 pre-charge diversion referrals.
	Number of Restorative Justice activities and training completed by members ³	10 restorative justice activities.
b) RCMP attends and participate in regular meetings to discuss, set and report on policing services, priorities, and orientation of new officers with key stakeholders ⁴ .	Number of policing priority setting meetings with stakeholders, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Justice Committees • Municipal and Indigenous governments and organizations • Number Letters of Collaboration and policing priorities in place 	32 meetings with Community Justice Committees. 84 meetings with Municipal and Indigenous governments and organizations. 8 Letters of Collaboration signed, 17 meetings have taken place. 100% of communities have community policing priorities in place.
c) Community safety and critical incidence response discussions and information sessions without detachments.	Number of information sharing meetings in communities without detachments.	38 meetings
	Number of pro-active patrols and meetings with leadership in communities without detachments.	Total reported pro-active patrols in communities without detachments: 3,772 ⁱⁱ Meetings, events, and activities: 1064.
Anticipated Outcomes		
Community leaders and members share community-based and cultural knowledge and participate in community-based crime prevention and community safety activities with RCMP. RCMP visibility is increased. RCMP are learning about and respect cultures of NWT Indigenous communities.		

³ Retrieved from G Division community based monthly policing reports.

⁴ Retrieved from G Division community based monthly policing reports.

Priority 3: Provide policing services that are responsive to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families, and children experiencing family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence in the NWT.		
Activities	Performance Measures	Results
a) RCMP Increase knowledge, partnerships and referrals to safety programming and services for families, women, girls, and children.	Number of Victim Services Workers accompanying RCMP to calls to support victims.	Not currently tracked
	Number of RCMP referrals to safety programming, including Victims Services, Shelters, Emergency Protection Order (EPO), and Independent Legal Advice and Representation Programs.	3,686 total referrals 2,485 Victim Services referrals 963 Child and Family Services /Social Services referrals 169 EPO referrals
	RCMP provides bi-annual reporting on policing data for NWT family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence.	1,746 Crimes against persons 80 are sexual assault occurrences ⁵
b) RCMP conduct Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Investigative Review Committees.	Number of reviews completed by the Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Investigative Review Committees.	Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Investigative Review Committee meet annually and have reviewed 12 files.
	Number of RCMP members who participated and are trained in courses to increase knowledge and awareness about family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence	35 members trained in National Sexual Offence Investigators Course, and Child Interviewing.
Anticipated Outcomes		
RCMP are providing policing services that are responsive, culturally safe, and sensitive to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families, and children. Stakeholders and resident express confidence in the RCMP in dealing with the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families, and children experiencing family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence in the NWT.		

⁵ Retrieved from Bi-Annual CROPS January 1 - December 2023 all districts

Priority 4: Improve community knowledge and understanding about local policing services.		
Activities	Performance Measures	Results
a) Increase knowledge about RCMP programs and services through online tools, in person activities, social media, radio and other forms of communication mechanisms, and ensure RCMP members are visible and approachable to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of online, in person, social media, radio, and other communication on RCMP programs and services about policing in the NWT. • Number of community events and activities where RCMP participate and/or share information⁶ 	<p>165 Facebook posts.</p> <p>1,064 events and activities.</p>
b) RCMP work with the Department of Justice to ensure there is up to date and publicly available policing services information to ensure the public are aware of emerging trends	Number of public reporting of RCMP policing information.	26 Media Releases that highlight significant calls for service and trends.
c) Ensure RCMP members are visible and approachable to the public.	Number of community patrols, community meetings, events activities	<p>Total reported pro-active patrols: 3,772.</p> <p>Due to the mass evacuation during August and September, data is missing from some communities during this time.</p> <p>Meetings/events/activities: 1064</p>
Anticipated Outcomes		
NWT residents have an increased awareness of the RCMP's role and their programs and services. RCMP presence is visible to community members.		

⁶ Retrieved from G Division monthly policing reports, often under reported.

Expanded Information

Table 1: Priority 1, Activity A: RCMP Calls for Bootlegging and Drug Trafficking.

Community	Bootlegging	Drug Trafficking
Aklavik	0	17
Behchoko	35	116
Colville Lake	0	1
Deline	6	12
Dettah	1	2
Enterprise	0	3
Fort Good Hope	8	28
Fort Liard	5	2
Fort McPherson	16	48
Fort Providence	5	43
Fort Resolution	1	67
Fort Simpson	1	47
Fort Smith	0	33
Gameti	1	6
Hay River	0	87
Inuvik	2	104
Jean Marie River	1	1
Kakisa	0	0
Katlocheeche First Nation	0	0
Lutsel K'e	0	1
Nahanni Butte	0	0
N'dilo	0	0
Norman Wells	2	14
Paulatuk	2	0
Sachs Harbour	0	2
Saamba k'e	0	0
Tsiigehtchic	1	1
Tuktoyaktuk	3	4
Tulita	10	13
Ulukhaktok	11	3

ii **Table 2:** *Priority 2, Activity C: Number of Pro-Active Patrols in Communities Without Detachments.*

Community	Number of Proactive Patrols
Colville Lake	N/A
Enterprise	159
Gameti	58
Wekweeti	12
Jean Marie River	22
Kakisa	73
K'Atlodeeche First Nation	1,278
Nahanni Butte	18
Saamba K'e	5
Tsiigehtchic	66
Dettah	473
N'Dilo	1,584
Wrigley	24
Total	3,772