



NIAGARA REGIONAL  
**POLICE**  
SERVICE

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT





## Constable Luciano DeSimone

**Hire Date** - Niagara Regional Police Force - Aug. 1, 1972

**Died** - "Cruiser Accident" responding to a disturbance, Niagara Falls - May 2, 1974

**Bridge Dedication Ceremony** – November 8, 2019



On August 1, 1972, Luciano DeSimone joined the Niagara Regional Police Force and was assigned to uniform patrol duties, initially in One Division in St. Catharines and then later out of the detachment in Fort Erie, Ontario. He was 23 years old and resided with his parents in the Town of Fort Erie.

On May 2, 1974, while working the evening shift in Fort Erie, Luciano was dispatched to the downtown area of the City of Niagara Falls. This call was in response to other police officers needing assistance with a major disturbance on Queen Street. Constable DeSimone was driving northbound on the Queen Elizabeth Way from Fort Erie, traveling on the Welland River bridge, when his cruiser struck the rear of a flatbed transport truck that had stopped and was not visible to approaching traffic. The truck driver had stopped his rig in order to render assistance to a motorist who moments earlier had been involved in an accident on the highway. Constable DeSimone was transported to the Greater Niagara General Hospital in Niagara Falls, but prior to arrival succumbed to the injuries he had received in the crash. The Ontario Provincial Police investigated the collision and no charges were laid as a result of the collision.

Constable DeSimone was described as an extremely kind and loving man who enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He enjoyed basketball, fishing and riding his motorcycle. He always wanted to serve as a police officer and looked forward to becoming a motorcycle officer one day. This promising young officer was just 24 years of age when he died and was the first officer of the newly formed Niagara Regional Police Force to die in the performance of his duties. At the time of his death, Constable DeSimone was engaged to be married.



## **Mission Statement**

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.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As Chair of the Niagara Police Services Board, I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS). It is intended to provide you with a snapshot of police activities, major initiatives and crime statistics for the period January 1 to December 31, 2019.

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow Board Members, past and current, for their dedication and hard work. Former Board Members Terry Bonham and Vaughn Stewart completed their provincial appointments in 2019; and the Board received two new Members with the appointment of Henry D'Angela as the community representative appointed by Regional Council and David Eke who was appointed by the Province of Ontario.

This is an important time in policing. Bill 68, *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services (COPS) Act* was passed and received Royal Assent in March of this year. We are pleased to see the passage of these long overdue reforms and we feel they are a step in the right direction in terms of reflecting the needs, values, and expectations of our communities.

When we look back at 2019, it was a year of accomplishments. I was proud to Chair such a committed Board, as it turned its mind to service delivery, upgrading technology, equipment and police facilities. This year marked the beginning of construction of the new 1 District (St. Catharines) facility, a project that was 10 years in the making and instrumental to meet the current and future needs of our police service. The Board and Service also developed its 2019 - 2021 Strategic Plan, which sets out a road map for our organization and establishes goals and objectives for the next three years linked to measurable and meaningful results. We were honoured to close off the year with the NRPS Communications Unit being recognized as an Accredited Centre of Excellence for Police Communications; the first in Ontario, second in Canada and only one of 20 organizations in the world.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Chief of Police Bryan MacCulloch and all members of the Niagara Regional Police Service for their dedication to duty and for their ongoing efforts to protect our citizens. Together we will continue to develop pro-active solutions that will improve policing services, prevent crime and enhance the safety, security and quality of life for all citizens in Niagara Region.

**Kenneth A.W. Gansel, Chair, Niagara Police Services Board, 2019**



## NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

*The Niagara Police Services Board is the governing body and employer of the Niagara Regional Police Service. The Board provides civilian leadership for the NRPS.*

*It is a key link between the police, the community and various government bodies.*

*Four Board Members are appointed by Niagara Regional Council and three by the Province of Ontario.*

*To learn more about the Police Services Board or see the Board's meeting schedule, visit [www.niagarapolice.ca](http://www.niagarapolice.ca)*



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Vice Chair  
Mayor of Port Colborne



Henry D'Angela  
Regional Council  
Appointee



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Provincial Appointee



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Executive Assistant



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Vaughn Stewart  
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Kevin Gibson  
Mayor of Wainfleet



Bill Fordy, O.O.M.  
Deputy Chief of Police



Brett Flynn  
Deputy Chief of Police



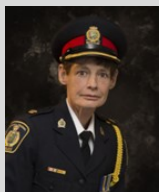
Richard Frayne  
Superintendent



Brian Ash  
Superintendent



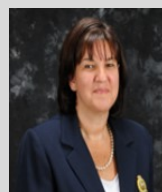
David Meade  
Superintendent



Cindy White, M.O.M.  
Superintendent



Akram Askoul  
Director



Lisa DiDonato-DeChellis  
Director

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

On behalf of the sworn and civilian members of the Niagara Regional Police Service I am pleased to provide you with the Service's 2019 Annual Report. The report provides an overview of the activities of our members, calls for service, crime trends in Niagara, community engagement initiatives, as well as an overview of our 2019 budget and staffing complement.

With the support and oversight of the Police Services Board, we had several accomplishments in 2019. Our Communications Unit received International Accreditation from the Academy of Emergency Police Dispatch for demonstrating compliance to the highest level of standards as set forth in the Academy's Twenty Points of Accreditation. This is a first among emergency dispatch centres in Canada. The Service also conducted a year long comprehensive frontline workload analysis with daily data analytics that led to the funding for 40 new frontline uniformed officers. 2019 also was the first year of our 2019-2021 Strategic Plan highlighting the Service's direction and commitment to deliver the highest standard of policing for all residents and visitors to Niagara. The Strategic Plan is aligned with the passing of the *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act* that supports community collaboration and engagement in all communities across Ontario.

As a Service we endeavor to be transparent and inclusive. I have made myself available to the community for consultation, including but not limited to, the creation of a Chief of Police – Community Inclusion Counsel (COP-CIC), "Coffee with a Cop", as well as newspaper, radio, and television appearances throughout 2019. I have also maintained a desire to be open and responsive to our members through Town Hall meetings, videos, and information briefings.

In 2019 I am pleased to share that our members participated, members from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ontario Provincial Police, Halton Regional Police Service, and Niagara Emergency Medical Services in our second annual "COPS FOR CANCER TOUR DE GOLDEN HORSESHOE" fundraiser. Over 5-days and 500 kilometres cyclists road throughout Niagara to raise money for pediatric cancer research and support programs operated through the Canadian Cancer Society to help support children and their families.

As Chief I am proud of the hard work and personal sacrifices made by members of our Service to deliver the highest quality of policing with integrity, diligence and sensitivity that is expected by the community we serve.

Chief of Police B. MacCulloch



**Bryan MacCulloch, M.O.M.**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**



*NIAGARA REGIONAL*  
**POLICE**  
*SERVICE*

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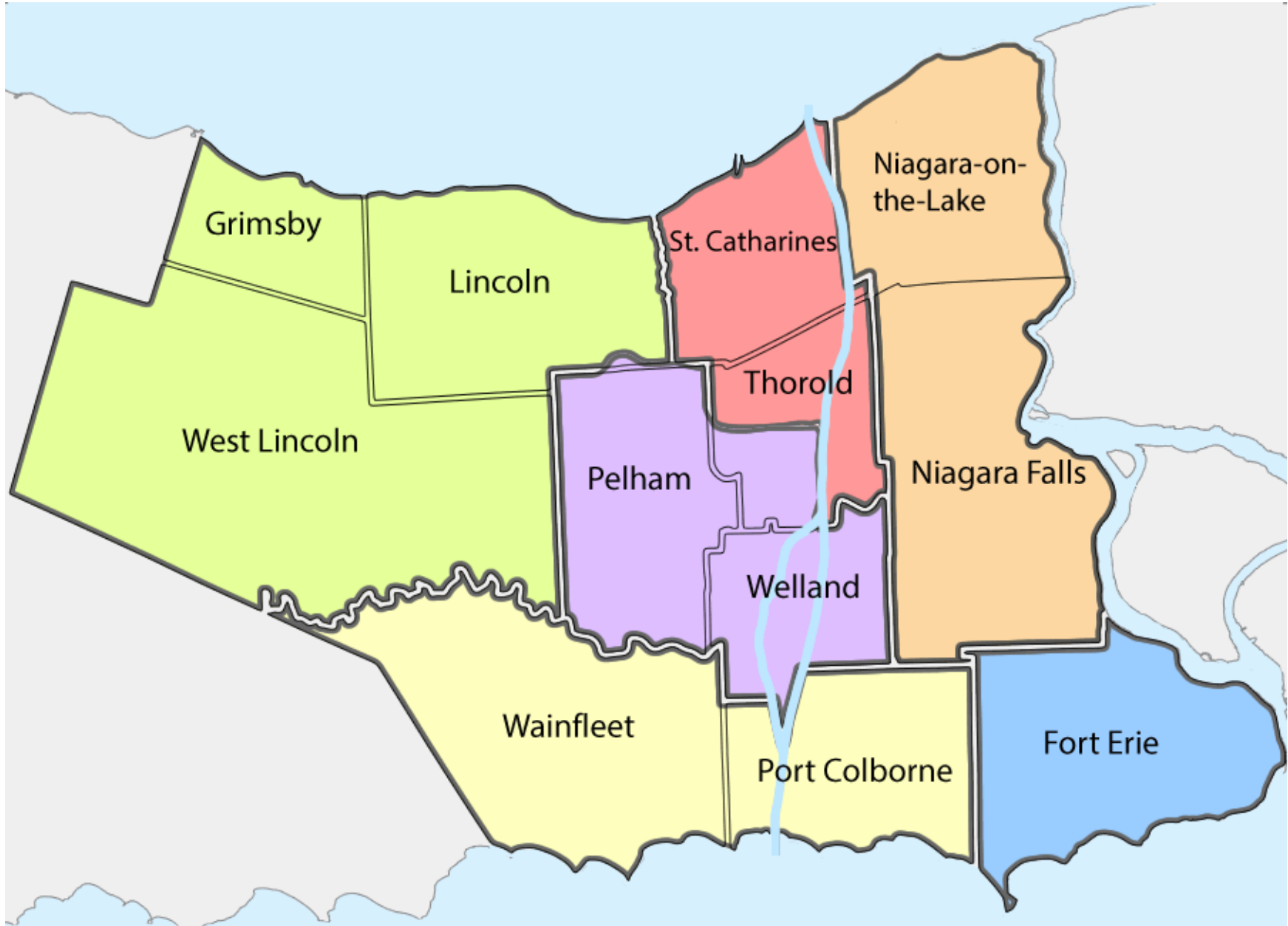
Editor-in-Chief: Paul P. Divers, Ph.D., Corporate Analyst  
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**This document is also available in PDF format on our website at [niagarapolice.ca](http://niagarapolice.ca).**

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# Niagara Region





## Calls for Service

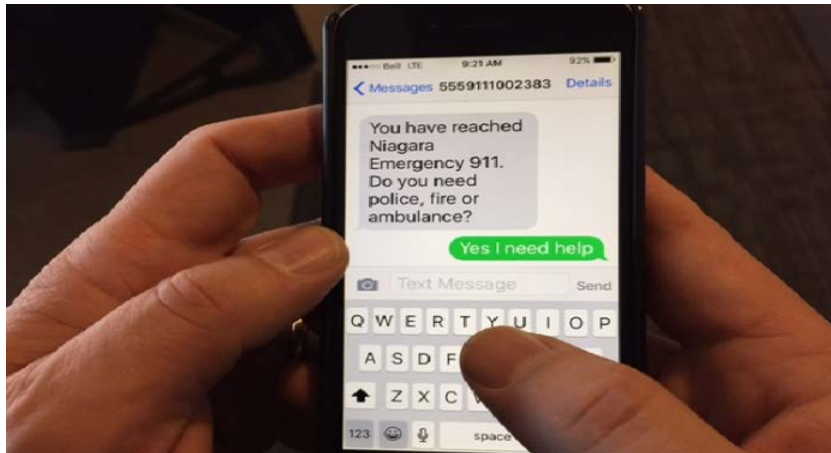
Police calls for service originate from a number of sources including 911 calls, calls received through the police service non-emergency number, in-person reporting or "walk-ins", as well as officer generated or officer identified incidents. These numbers do not represent police workload as they do not portray other duties such as traffic safety and enforcement, proactive policing nor the length of time that specialty units spend on an investigation due to the seriousness and/or nature of the incident.

### Police Calls for Service by Month:

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Calls for Service
<b>2018</b>	9,315	8,491	9,553	9,620	12,422	12,083	12,465	12,324	11,261	10,408	10,032	9,720	127,694
<b>2019</b>	9,652	8,617	9,574	9,574	11,091	11,898	12,546	12,854	12,243	11,559	10,484	9,949	130,462

### Calls for Service by Policing District in 2019:

1 District St. Catharines Thorold	2 District Niagara Falls Niagara-on-the-Lake	3 District Welland Pelham	5 District Fort Erie	6 District Port Colborne Wainfleet	8 District Grimsby Lincoln West Lincoln
50,149	37,921	19,848	7,721	5,693	9,130
(38.4%)	(29.1%)	(15.2%)	(5.9%)	(4.4%)	(7.0%)



# Top 25 Calls for Service, 2019

Rank	Final Call Type *	Description	2019
1	WELF2	Welfare Check	8,704
2	UNWP2	Unwanted Person	8,257
3	MVCCR3	MVC – Collision Reporting Centre	5,633
4	THFT3	Assist Ambulance	5,535
5	ASSA2	Theft	5,144
6	DISTR2	Disturbance – Fight	4,817
7	INFO3	Information	4,587
8	DRIV3	Driving Complaint	4,486
9	DOMES2	Domestic Violence	3,408
10	MVCP3	MVC – Property Damage	3,199
11	IMPD2	Impaired Driver	3,112
12	NOIS3	Noise Complaint	3,014
13	FOLL3	Follow up	2,692
14	FRAU3	Fraud	2,574
15	WELF3	Welfare Check – Non Urgent	2,311
16	MHA2	Mental Health Act	2,190
17	PROF3	Property – Found	2,075
18	WARR2	Warrant	1,927
19	HAZD3	Hazard	1,924
20	U9112	Unknown 911	1,864
21	ALRNV3	Alarm – Not Verified	1,750
22	KTP3	Keep the Peace	1,685
23	SUSP2	Suspicious Person	1,671
24	NUIS3	Nuisance	1,548
25	MVC12	MVC – Personal Injury	1,536

## \* Final Call Type

**PRIORITY 1: Very Urgent** – Immediate dispatch. There is a major incident or incident in progress that requires an immediate police presence, assistance or service. Involves the report of a loss of life or a need for police to prevent a loss of life i.e., homicide, robbery in progress, assault, domestic, etc. (i.e., ASSA1)

**PRIORITY 2: Urgent** – Dispatch as soon as possible. There is an urgent need for police presence, assistance or service. While there is no loss of life involved, the potential for escalation of violence exists, i.e., assault, vehicular collision, etc. (i.e., DOMES2)

**PRIORITY 3: Routine** – Dispatch as soon as reasonably possible. Reports that do not require immediate police presence, assistance or service i.e., belated break and enter, theft, shoplifting, etc. (i.e., KTP3)

## All Criminal Code Offences and Other Violations in Niagara

Offences	Reported	Unfounded	Actual	Cleared		Persons Charged			
				By Charge	Otherwise	Adult		Young Offender	
						Male	Female	Male	Female
Crime Against Persons	3,835	360	3,475	1,722	392	1,019	203	109	40
Crime Against Property	14,865	400	14,465	2,591	821	1,281	521	59	20
Other Criminal Code Violations	4,542	133	4,409	3,791	158	1,963	671	59	23
Narcotic Control Act	519	5	514	479	23	304	106	2	1
Food and Drug Act	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Federal Statute Violations	377	3	374	341	3	5	--	6	1
Provincial Statute Violations	7,996	9	7,987	6,632	--	--	--	--	--
Municipal By-law Violations	205	--	205	187	--	--	--	--	--
Traffic Violations	73,078	160	72,918	29,155	36,850	369	132	1	2
<b>Total Offences</b>	<b>105,417</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>104,347</b>	<b>44,898</b>	<b>38,247</b>	<b>4,941</b>	<b>1,633</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>87</b>



## Crime Against Persons – Selected Offences

Select Incidents	2018 Incidents	2019 Incidents	Cleared By Charge	Cleared Otherwise
Murder – 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	1	1	1	--
Murder – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	1	5	4	--
Manslaughter	--	1	1	--
Criminal Negligence Cause Death	1	--	--	--
Murder – Attempt	13	2	1	1
Sexual Assault – Aggravated	--	--	--	--
Sexual Assault – Weapons/Bodily Harm	3	5	3	--
Sexual Assault	355	430	126	35
Sexual Interference	65	76	61	3
Total Sexual Violations Against Children	89			
Invitation To Sexual Touching	3	26	20	1
Sexual Exploitation	1	7	6	1
Lure Child Via Computer	16	5	2	--
Assault – Aggravated	33	48	44	--
Assault – Weapon or Cause Bodily Harm	393	376	290	17
Assault – Minor Harm	1,070	1,118	609	170
Assault – Police/Peace Officer	96	73	67	6
Criminal Negligence Cause Bodily Harm	1	2	2	--
Assault – Other	10	22	16	4
Robbery	179	150	55	3
Extortion	79	38	8	3
Criminal Harassment/Stalking	162	145	57	19
Threats – Person Death/Harm	517	562	222	81
Indecent/Harassing communications	142	355	74	55
<b>Total Crimes Against Persons (All Incidents)</b>	<b>3,178</b>	<b>3,475</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>392</b>

Percent Change 2018-2019: 9.3% increase



## Crimes Against Property – Selected Offences

Select Property Incidents	2018 Incidents	2019 Incidents	Cleared by Charge	Cleared Otherwise
Arson	65	56	5	4
Break & Enter	2,113	2,033	301	26
Theft Over \$5,000	180	112	20	5
Theft Under \$5,000	2,351	2,557	271	129
Theft of Motor Vehicle	842	764	60	11
Theft from Motor Vehicle Over \$5,000	46	63	2	--
Theft from Motor Vehicle Under \$5,000	2,132	2,227	69	14
Shoplifting Under \$5,000	1,458	1,770	639	413
Shoplifting Over \$5,000	3	5	2	--
Possession Stolen Property	175	280	232	21
Fraud	1,614	1,925	338	57
Fraud – Identity Theft	30	54	29	--
Fraud – Identity Fraud	220	340	30	4
Mischief	1,801	2,125	467	125
<b>Total Crimes Against Property</b>	<b>13,016</b>	<b>14,465</b>	<b>2,591</b>	<b>821</b>

Percent Change 2018-2019: 11.1% increase



## Other Criminal Code Violations – Selected Offences

**HOTLINE FOR VICTIMS OF  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
IN CANADA**

**1-833-900-1010**

CONFIDENTIAL ACCESSIBLE  
IN 200 LANGUAGES AVAILABLE 24/7

### CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

IN CANADA,  
CHILD  
PORNOGRAPHY  
REFERS TO:

a picture...that shows a person under 18 engaged in intimate sexual activity  
OR  
a video...that depicts a sexual organ or the anal region of a person under 18.  
To qualify as child pornography, the depiction of a sexual organ or anal region must be the dominant characteristic of the image or recording, and the depiction must be for a sexual purpose.  
or another visual representation

Creating, possessing, and distributing child pornography are all criminal offences in Canada. If you are under 18, it is illegal for another person to be in possession of a traded or sexually explicit picture of you, even if you consent to it.

#### THERE ARE A FEW EXCEPTIONS TO THIS LAW:

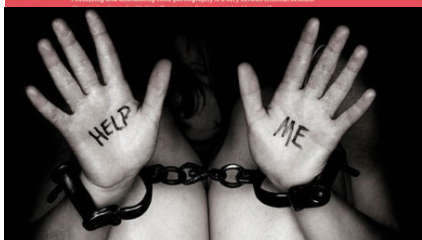
If you are under 18, it is legal for you to take a photo or video of yourself and your partner engaged in lawful and consensual sexual activity, as long as (1) you both agree to the recording, (2) it was created together, and (3) you keep the image or video private between the two of you.

Visual material depicting only casual sexual contact, like touching, kissing, or hugging, is considered legal since these are not depictions of nudity or intimate sexual activity.

Visual material that is not for a sexual purpose – like pictures of naked kids playing in the bath, for example – may be considered legal. The context of the material is very important.

Material made for an artistic, educational, scientific, or medical reason, may be accepted by the courts as well. Again, the context of the material is very important.

Processing and distributing child pornography is a very serious criminal offence.



Incident	2018 Incidents	2019 Incidents	Cleared	Cleared Otherwise
Trafficking in Persons	1	6	6	--
Explosives – Possess	--	--	--	--
Weapons – Possess	99	150	113	15
Unsafe Storage of Firearms	1	5	4	--
Fail to Comply	678	1,139	1,063	43
Counterfeit Money	231	219	17	4
Extortion	28	38	8	3
Indecent Act	71	38	12	7
Sexual Exploitation of a Person with a Disability	2	4	4	--
Child Pornography	32	38	12	9
Incest	6	4	5	--
Obstruct Resist Peace Officer	35	122	110	9
Unlawfully at Large	25	26	25	1
Breach of Probation – Adult Only	606	1,252	1,247	3
Threats – Person Death/Harm	523	562	222	81
<b>Total Other Criminal Code Violations</b>	<b>3,686</b>	<b>4,409</b>	<b>3,791</b>	<b>158</b>

Percent Change 2018-2019: 19.6% increase



# Niagara Regional Police Service Community Safety & Directed Patrol



## Community Safety & Directed Patrol

In 2019 there were numerous initiatives conducted by officers throughout the Region to address areas of concern reported by business, community members and visitors. These concerns ranged from traffic safety to disrupting criminal activity as well as coordinating efforts with other agencies to positively address public safety. Strategies to address community problems require flexibility, identification of the affected community, and the evaluation of initiative results in order to solve problems. The success of these initiatives has been documented and clearly validates both the operational compliance and the effectiveness of our Community Patrol and Directed Patrols within the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

### Region Overview

#### 1 District – St. Catharines, Thorold

**St. Patrick's' Day 2019** – This initiative was planned and implemented as a cost shared project between Brock University Off-Campus Housing and the #1 District Community Policing Office. Uniform officers identified student party houses in the south end of St. Catharines and Thorold well in advance of the event. Residents were visited and issued verbal warnings that inappropriate behaviour would not be tolerated. By days end, 26 Provincial Offence Notices were issued and 2 arrests were made under the Liquor Licence Act. Six charges were laid in the aftermath under the City of St. Catharines Nuisance By-Law for promoting and the carrying out of a Nuisance Party. Uniform officers also conducted patrols of Brock University off campus housing areas before moving into the downtown core to deal with St. Patricks' Day revelers.

**South End Noise Patrol** – This initiative was planned and implemented as a cost shared project between Brock University Off-Campus Housing and the #1 District Community Policing Office. This annual initiative coincides with the return in the fall and the spring departure of University students who live in residential neighbourhoods in south St. Catharines and Thorold. Uniformed officers respond to house parties and noise complaints where underage drinking usually takes place. The initiative sends a clear message that there will be zero tolerance of this behavior. Residents in the affected areas are very appreciative of the police presence.

**Project Impact** – This partnership program with Brock University and the DSBN, encourages teenaged youths to attend St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School on a bi-weekly basis throughout the school year where they interact with officers, enjoy sports as well as participate in lectures and demonstrations conducted by #1 District School Resource Officers and NRPS members from other Units. On any given night, on average 165 to 175 students participate in this



program. The attendees also earn volunteer hours. This partnership between Brock University, the DSBN and the NRPS has proven beneficial for youths at risk and shall continue into the 2020 year.

**Operation Welland Canal Truck Stop** – This initiative was created in 2017 to address concerns by residents living in neighbourhoods adjacent to the Welland Canal Parkway between Queenston Street and Glendale Avenue. The City of St. Catharines has posted an increased number of "No Heavy Trucks" signage along this stretch of roadway covered by STC By-Law 89-2000. Due to the success of the program over the years, the number of provincial offence notices and warnings decreased significantly in 2019. The initiative continues into 2020.

**Project APPLE CORE (Alleys, Parking Lots, Parks, Laneways, Entrances)** – Members of 1 District specifically patrolled these areas in the downtown core due to an increase in foot traffic as a result of the addition of the Meridian Center, Performing Arts Centre and new streetscape initiative. The purpose of the project was to increase police visibility and to provide a safe and desirable environment for citizens, tourists and business owners. Due to shift constraints, and lack of resources, the project ran for approximately seven days. During that time, police responded to 15 calls for service, made 3 arrests and issued 4 Provincial Offence Notices.

**Project Offender** – This initiative was developed and implemented by #1 District Uniform Officers working in concert with members of C.I.B. in an effort to deal with an increase in repeat offenders showing complete disregard for the justice system imposing conditions of release. Offenders found throughout #1 District were identified; located and arrested for breaching conditions of their release. The project proved very effective and shall continue into 2020.

**Operation Yates Street** – Break, Enter & Thefts This initiative was developed as a direct result of residents' concern over the perception of an increase in Break-ins along Yates Street and adjacent streets in the City of St. Catharines. Increased officer presence using an unmarked vehicle with officers in plain clothes during night shifts was available when staffing resources permitted. Day light uniform officer presence was provided using bicycle patrols; foot patrol and in marked cruisers. The project also involved community meetings between residents; members of the NRPS and City of St. Catharines employees. The presentation of police statistics and discussions confirmed that residents should become more security conscious of their homes, out buildings and property. Many simple and useful crime prevention security tips were provided to residents which should act as deterrents for future criminal acts.



**Foot Patrol** – In 2019 two officers from #1 District were dedicated to Foot Patrol in the downtown core, targeting identified areas between the hours of 0700- 1700 hours daily. Officers working the initiative responded to 88 calls for service; arrested 22 persons and issued 21 Provincial Offence Notices. In addition, persons aggressively soliciting the community for spare change on public roadways continue to be enforced by police under the Safe Streets Act in an effort to deter this type of activity.



## **2 District – Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake**

**Project Bicycle Anti-Theft (B.A.T.)** - The goal of this project was to reduce and prevent bicycle thefts as well as to prosecute offenders within the City of Niagara Falls under the Criminal Code of Canada. This project operated between July 1 and August 31, 2019 in response to a seasonal concern. A large number of stolen bicycles were identified which resulted in the identification of suspects, accused parties, and the return of property to the rightful owners. This project resulted in 40 arrests, 62 charges laid, 44 bicycles seized, 7 bicycles returned to owners, a 65% reduction in bicycle thefts from the previous year, as well as numerous business contacts and relationships created. Providing businesses with education in relation to this concern resulted in some of the larger hotel chains offering a secure area within the building to secure guest's bicycles in order to prevent thefts. This also allowed Uniform members to educate the public on how to properly store bicycles. A secondary project, which stemmed from this, was Project Cycle Saver that aimed at educating the public on proper bicycle storage as well as the proper way to list identifying information pertaining to their bicycles, allowing the proper information to be available for a potential investigation.

**“Check In” Niagara Initiative** – This project initiated in 2018 in response to public complaints and an increase in calls for service stemming from the closure of an establishment providing lodging to a large number of persons in Niagara Falls. This closure resulted in a rise in displaced individuals. Due to the initiatives success the project was expanded in 2019 to evolve away from addressing specific residential tenancy issues to more of a community policing aspect. One uniform member worked in conjunction with community stakeholders to address strategies relevant to our local issues including incidents involving homelessness, vagrancy, mental health concerns as well as others. Collaboration with community agencies included the City of Niagara Falls Municipal Enforcement, Local Business Improvement Associations as well as Community Outreach Services and others. The project provided a reduction in calls to frontline officers by addressing long standing community concerns involving transient persons; therefore, allowing Officers to be available for priority calls, proactive policing, and traffic enforcement. With the expansion of the project to include the entire 2 District geographical zone stats could not be derived to compare to the 2018 initiative.

**Niagara Falls Public Library Initiative** – In response to numerous reports and complaints from staff and concerned citizens this initiative was created by liaising with the manager of the library. The complaints to Police ranged from vagrants loitering to aggressive solicitation, and to drug use and paraphernalia being around the building. The goal was to build a rapport with staff and citizens who felt unsafe or uncomfortable and to create a safer environment as well as to offer assistance to those in need. This included foot patrols inside and outside. As a result of the success of this initiative the staff and citizens felt more comfortable and safe, the number of complaints dropped, and the amount of drug paraphernalia, including syringes, decreased a considerable amount. Each time that officers proactively attended the library a report was submitted that identified concerns, 12 text documents were authored to address the ongoing public complaints.

### 3 District – Welland, Pelham

**Downtown Core Visibility** – Platoons continued to set initiative goals to address the illicit drug activity, loitering and trespassing around the area of East Main Street, during the second quarter. The aim was to minimize vagrants from congregating around shops and businesses, as Store owners had advised that potential consumers felt unsafe.

**Chippawa Park Visibility Project** – This initiative was established to provide extra patrols and visibility in Chippawa Park and surrounding areas to address issues ranging from drug use, loitering, trespassing and thefts from vehicles.

**Foot Patrol Initiatives** – Throughout 2019, officers from 3 District got out of their cars and spent some time on foot patrol initiatives. They walked the beat, meeting patrons and business owners; visiting new businesses and already established businesses, walking downtown in both Welland and Pelham. They engaged with the public at the library and on the Merritt Trail, in the Mall and at the Market. Citizens and business owners appreciated interacting with officers and welcomed an officer presence.

**ATV Patrols of St. Lawrence Seaway Property and Surrounding Areas** – This initiative was jointly funded by the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation and 3 District. The targeted areas included Hunters Point, Seaway service roads and both East and West sides of the canal. Uniformed Officers drove ATVs along Seaway property enforcing HTA and Trespass to Property Act violations. As a result, 1 Provincial Offence Notice was issued as well as verbal warnings.

**Thefts from Vehicle Project** – In June of 2019, the 3 District Criminal Investigation Branch commenced a detailed investigation as a result of an influx of thefts from vehicles and property damage. An accused party was identified and charged with numerous Criminal Code offences.

**Bicycle and Backpack Initiative** – Uniform members and Detectives from 3 District worked together to combat an increase in Break and Enters. Through increased patrols and police visibility, offenders were identified charged.

**Niagara College Directed Patrol** – This initiative was jointly funded by the partnership between the City of Welland and 3 District. Uniformed officers performed crime prevention patrols throughout the neighbourhoods surrounding the Niagara College Campus during the school year. Visible Uniform presence demonstrated a zero tolerance for problematic and criminal behavior.

### 5 District - Fort Erie, Stevensville, Ridgeway and Crystal Beach

**5DistrictNRPS@5Nrps** – A twitter social media account was created in 2019 to provide the residents of Fort Erie, Stevensville, Ridgeway, Black Creek and Crystal Beach with information related to District activities. Included in this

messaging was crime prevention through education, community events, and traffic education. The site has 271 followers and is accessed by the Town of Fort Erie staff and citizens to share information on police activities being done in their communities.

**Beach Patrol** – This initiative was planned and implemented as a cost sharing measure between the Town of Fort Erie and 5 District. This yearly initiative takes place with the opening of Crystal Beach and continues from the May long weekend through to Labour Day. The patrols ensure that the public properly uses the beach areas in accordance with municipal and provincial legislation prohibiting the consumption of alcohol and preventing vandalism to both public and private property. This has been a highly effective approach in addressing many challenges faced during the peak season. Area businesses and both permanent and seasonal residents are appreciative of the police presence.

**Beach Day / Skip Day** – This unsanctioned event takes place yearly during the first weekend in June and consists of area high schools organizing plans to attend Crystal Beach and skip a day of school. This event is not supervised by school staff and to ensure public safety and order members of the Niagara Regional Police are assigned to monitor the gathering. This year's event saw nearly 3000 students attend Crystal Beach. Students were aware of the zero tolerance approach set in place regarding the consumption or possession of alcohol, disturbances, property damage or inappropriate behaviour. The working partnership between the NRPS, Town of Fort Erie Parks and Recreational Staff along with the neighbouring residents made for a successful day.

**Project Check'em Out** – An operational plan had been developed and implemented by officers from 5 District involving the use of ATV patrols to provide officer presence and enforcement in rural areas, opened areas and those trails normally accessed by members of the public. Utilizing the ATV'S officers would conduct Cottage Checks along the Lake Erie shoreline, patrols along the Friendship Trail and local golf courses to address concerns about snow machines and off road vehicles that may be causing damage to them. Officers would enforce offences under the Trespass to Property Act and the Off Road Vehicles Act. The cottage checks consisted of ensuring doors were locked with no obvious signs of damage or break in. Cottage check placards were left behind for owners to inform them that NRPS officers conducted a premise check of the dwelling and served notice that officers were active in the area conducting these patrols.

**School Crossing Guard Complaints** – The Niagara Regional Police Service received correspondence from the Town of Fort Erie Traffic Coordinating Committee in relation to traffic violations in the area of school zones where motorists were not observing and yielding to crossing guards within the school zones. Officers attended different locations within the District to provide education and enforcement issuing Provincial Offence Notices under the Highway Traffic Act. This initiative was well received by the school board and the Traffic Coordinating Committee reported on progress being made at the schools zones providing safety to the school crossing guards and the children using them.



Leplanta

PARTICIPOTE

**Licensed Premise Checks** – Proactive inspection and enforcement of licenced establishments are conducted by frontline officers throughout the year. A dedicated approach was conducted during the months of July and August centering in the area of licenced establishments in Crystal Beach. With the addition of hundreds of seasonal residents in this area some underage drinking takes place and incidence of property damage, intoxicated individuals and impaired drivers are reported. This proactive initiative was very well received by licenced establishment owners in Crystal Beach and compliments on the officer’s presence, enforcement and education were received by the District Commander.







## 6 District Port Colborne & Wainfleet



**41st Annual Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival** – The annual Port Colborne Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival occurs annually on the Civic Holiday in August and continues to bring large crowds to the City of Port Colborne. A large contingent of police officers are deployed throughout the weekend to ensure the event is safe and enjoyable for the local residents and festival participants. This assignment includes uniform officers conducting foot patrols in and around the festival, as well as, officers stationed at intersections to ensure the safe and orderly movement of pedestrians and vehicles. Officers from across the Service assist in staffing the event, in addition to a large contingent of Auxiliary Officers. The Niagara Regional Police Marine Unit is also deployed to the local waterways, including Lake Erie, to provide an enforcement and safety aspect to persons operating watercraft who are enjoying the festival. The Service does incur an undetermined cost during the pre-planning phase and during the event, however the majority of costs are recovered through special duty agreements with the City of Port Colborne.

**6 District Twitter “6DistrictNRPS@6Nrps”** – In an effort to localize our presence on social media, 6 District officially started a Twitter account in August 2018. Throughout 2019, the 6 District account has witnessed a steady increase of followers, reaching an addition 470+ community members through this interactive medium. The 6 District account has sought to improve community relations by pro-actively communicating local crime trends, District crime prevention / enforcement initiatives and police participation in local community events. **Foot Patrol Initiative** – Throughout 2019, 6 District Officers conducted high visibility day time/night time foot/bicycle patrols providing officers an opportunity to engage with both business owners/pedestrians. Patrols were conducted at various locations throughout Port Colborne including but not limited to the Vale Center, the Downtown core and the East Village. Officers engaged with local residents and business owners all of whom were appreciative of police presence. This was a community engagement initiative with its primary goal to strengthen community/police relations. Enforcement being the secondary goal did result in the issuance of several provincial offence notices, criminal arrests in addition to intelligence gathering. Social Media was used to highlight these foot patrols in efforts to bring additional community awareness to police efforts. No costs were associated to this initiative as on-duty personnel were utilized. This initiative will continue into 2020.

**Community Engagement Presentations** – Throughout 2019, 6 District Officers attended local elementary and secondary schools and community businesses to present information on various topics such as policing responsibilities, youth safety (Stranger Danger), proper use of 911 and community safety tips. Community presentation requests were received through local District enquiries and were also self-generated by 6 District members. The majority of these requests were completed during officer’s regular tour of duty however the District did cover those instances where presentations were requested during off-duty hours.

**Cottage Checks – ATV Patrols** – During the month of January 2019, 6 District members conducted ATV patrols of seasonal and residential properties along the shores of Lake Erie in Port Colborne and Wainfleet. Officers covered approximately 36km of shoreline over 5 days during adverse weather conditions. These patrols were well received by the residents and seem play a role in proactively and reactively addressing criminal activity. The Cottage Check initiative required additional manpower above and beyond our daily contractual minimums; overtime costs incurred estimated at \$4500.00. Throughout 2019, Uniform police officers utilize ATV's to access various trails and parkland within 6 District in response to citizen complaints of illegal ATV use. Officers provided proactive and targeted enforcement patrols of the numerous public walking trails, railway properties, and City of Port Colborne and St. Lawrence Seaway owned properties in order to enforce the provisions of the Trespass to Property Act, Off-Road Vehicles Act and Highway Traffic Act. No additional cost incurred as these additional ATV patrols were conducted during officers regular tour of duty.

**Traffic Enforcement – Speeding** – During the month of February 2019, 6 District Officers lead a speed enforcement initiative in Port Colborne and Wainfleet. In an effort to curb speeding on local roads, targeted traffic enforcement was conducted in areas prone to a high incidence of vehicles travelling at excessive speeds, as identified through citizen complaints and input from the Municipal offices of the City of Port Colborne and the Township of Wainfleet. Enforcement efforts were focused on school zones, rural roads and high traffic areas. In many instances, a noted decrease in the incidence of vehicles travelling at excessive speeds was observed shortly after this enforcement was initiated and offence notices for speeding were issued. Officer activity in these areas received positive feedback from local citizens and officials. A total of 44 Provincial Offence Notices (PONS) was issued during this initiative with no additional costs incurred by the service.

**Licensed Premises Inspections** – During March 2019, Uniform members of 6 District conducted proactive inspections to establishments licensed under the Liquor License Act. During this initiative, a number of the licensed establishments in Port Colborne were visited in efforts to educate community stakeholders and enforce provincial legislation if required. This initiative was well received and believed to have had significant impact in reducing any incidents associated to these establishments moving forward. Officers conducted inspections during regular patrol hours with no additional costs incurred by the Service. No infractions were noted during police visits.



**Beach Day June 7, 2019** – A joint initiative between 5 District and 6 District developed a safety plan to address the presence of large numbers of students attending beaches in these Districts on an unsanctioned day of absence from school. In the past, the antics of this group generated a negative impact to local residents and members of Council. Uniform officers and Municipal By-law officers were present at the public beaches in Port Colborne and Wainfleet to proactively address community concerns. 6 District officers were able to utilize ATV's for this event to safely access all areas of the beach. Attendance at Port Colborne and Wainfleet's beaches were substantially reduced

compared to year's past with no significant incidents to report. A joint occurrence number was generated. Redeployed SRO assisted with this joint enforcement effort; no additional costs incurred by 6 District.

**Traffic Initiative – Be Seen, Be Heard** – In September 2019, 6 District members conducted a dedicated traffic initiative focused on ensuring motor vehicles and bicycles were equipped with proper vehicle lighting, horns and bells. Officers carried out this initiative during regular working hours therefore no additional costs were incurred. No charges were laid during enforcement efforts and all police contacts offered an opportunity to educate the public on equipment requirements under applicable legislation and supported the Services overall road/traffic safety goals.



**Lock it or Lose it** – Leading up to the December holiday season, 6 District members conducted the "Lock it or Lose it" it campaign. Officers attended local arenas, shopping plazas, residential apartment buildings and local hotels/motels in an effort to educate the public about the importance of removing/securing valuables within motor vehicles. Officers engaged with the community through face-to-face conversations and via pamphlet handouts. Community members were appreciative of the information provided and the extra efforts police were undertaking to ensure the community and their property were safe.

**Port-al Situation Table** – In February 2018, the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS), along with several community agencies representing a variety of human services sectors, launched “Port-al”, the first Situation Table in the Niagara Region. Since the creation of "Port-all", the NRPS has collaboratively worked with various subject matters experts from different community agencies, effectively assisting persons suffering acutely elevated risk of harm within the Port Colborne community. Participating agencies look forward to the benefits that “Port-al” brings to the Port Colborne community, specifically as it relates to community safety and well-being.

### 8 District – Grimsby, Lincoln, West Lincoln

**Clean Sweep** – In the summer of 2019 8 District officers conducted a proactive crime prevention initiative attending various parks in Lincoln, West Lincoln and Grimsby. Officers conducted foot patrol, bicycle patrol and vehicle patrols to heighten public safety, interact with our community in a positive environment and investigate offences related to bylaws and other provincial statutes. The initiative was overwhelmingly embraced by the community with 14 provincial offences issued (LLA and TPA) and will continue in 2020.

**Overweight Trucks** – Members of 8 District assisted by members of the Traffic Enforcement Unit conducted enforcement activities relating community concerns with overweight trucks utilizing roadways in West Niagara with specified weight restrictions. The 8 District twitter account (8District@8Nrps) was utilized to educate and inform commercial motor vehicle drivers of the existence of weight restricted roadways and the offence of Disobey Sign. This activity led to a heightened awareness of the approved truck routes within 8 District, numerous charges being laid under The Highway Traffic Act (60 PONS issued) and a significant reduction in the number of commercial motor vehicles travelling on restricted roadways. This initiative will continue in 2020.

**Corridor and Community First** – In 2019 these two high visibility crime prevention initiatives were conducted at various times of the year. The "Corridor" initiative involved uniformed officers being highly visible in the downtown core areas in the early morning hours as a crime deterrent. The "Community First" initiative involved uniform officers being highly visible conducting foot patrol, bicycle patrol and vehicle patrol in specified neighborhoods and times as determined by community concerns. These activities were reinforced through the 8 District twitter account (8District@8Nrps). These initiatives will continue in 2020.

**Meet and Greet** – In 2019 the "Meet and Greet" crime prevention and community engagement initiative involved foot patrols in the various down town cores (Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln). The foot patrol allowed officers to interact with business owners and the public in a positive setting with the goal of educating vendors in regards to alarms and cameras. It also allowed officers to glean valuable environmental design information (lighting, camera positioning, fencing, access points) and update key holder information. These activities were reinforced through the 8 District twitter account (8District@8Nrps). This initiative will continue in 2020.

**Crossing Guard** – In 2019 officers from 8 District addressed community concerns with road safety relating to motorists not yielding to crossing guards and speeding within school zone. Throughout the school year officers attended various school zones in 8 District (Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln) and conducted both education and enforcement activities within this area with various provincial offence notices issued under The Highway Traffic Act. These initiatives were reinforced through the 8 District twitter account (8District@8Nrps) which were well received by members of the public and both school boards. This initiative will continue in 2020.



**Fake Taxman** – In 2019 "Fake Taxman" was a pro-active educational crime prevention initiative that had uniform officers, auxiliary officers and Niagara College 3rd year Police Foundation students attend 14 gift card retailers in West Niagara. The initiative educated retailers on what can be done to prevent customers (often elderly) from falling victim to gift card fraud (fraudulently requesting to pay outstanding CRA bills with gift cards). These activities were reinforced through the 8 District twitter account (8District@8Nrps). This initiative will continue in 2020.

**Monster Truck** – In 2019 "Monster Truck" was a traffic initiative targeting safety issues identified with recent trends of modifying (lifting the vehicle overall height) full size pickup trucks which may compromise road safety and be contrary to the Highway Traffic Act (e.g. Improper braking systems HTA 64(1), No mud guards HTA 66(3)). This initiative led to several provincial offence notices issued under the Highway Traffic Act.





MOTHER GOOSE

POLICE



J. DiMartino

HERE GEORGE

I Love You Because You're You



## Community Engagement with Youth

### *School Resource Officers*

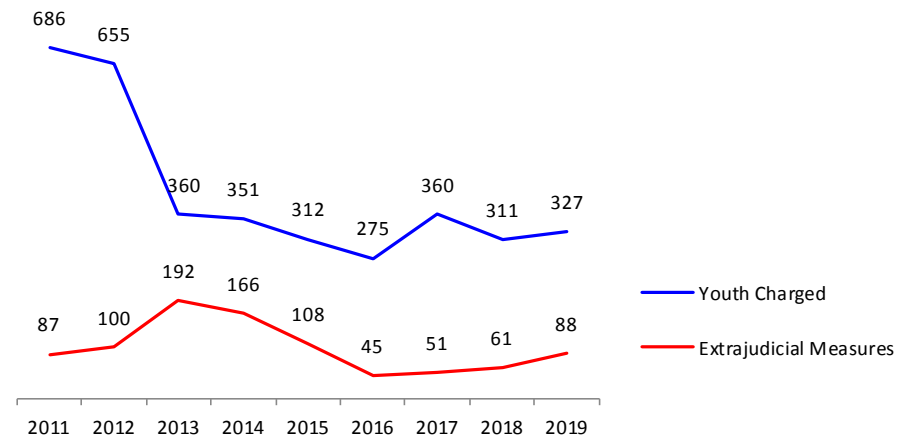
The Niagara Regional Police Service has developed a strong relationship with the District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud and Conseil scolaire Viamonde. This relationship has seven School Resource Officers (SROs) working within the school environment. The SROs work closely with staff and administrators in the development of proactive and reactive programs within the school for youth, provide a professional and positive role model and act as a resource in conflict situations.

During the summer of 2019, the School Resource Officers were re-deployed to the Marine Unit to conduct general patrol duties in parts of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, the Niagara River and other water sanctuaries within or bordering the Niagara Region. Working with the Marine Unit the SROs provided enforcement of the marine and navigation laws as well Criminal Code, Controlled Drug and Substances Act and Liquor License Act offences.

The following is a summary of the School Resource Officers (SROs) activities for the 2019 calendar year:

- Occurrences 327
- Provincial Offence Notices 36
- Computer Assisted Dispatch Calls 463
- Arrests 15
- Criminal Charges 15
- PBOM's (youth) 22

### Youth Involved Criminal Incidents



### ***Extrajudicial Measures Program (EJM)***

In 2019 School Resource Officers (SROs) patrolled all the high schools in the Niagara Region. The positive impact of police officers being fully involved in the local high school communities has led to a decrease in the number of criminal charges laid against young persons. SROs and school administrators are proactive in engaging students to identify and address issues before they become criminal offences. The effective and positive relationships established between the Niagara Regional Police Service, the school boards and partner agencies continue to yield positive results.

The Niagara Regional Police Service relies upon the services of community partners such as Contact Niagara, John Howard Society, Family and Children Services, Port Cares, Pathstone, Youth Probation and Parole and Youth Resources Niagara to provide not only extra judicial programs but also for assistance regarding all youth related concerns. Our partnerships allow for extra judicial measures that not only provide accountability for criminal acts but also provide support for the youth involved.

#### **Summary of 2019 EJM    Total: 88**

- John Howard Society    31
- Pathstone Mental Health 6
- Youth Justice Committee 34
- Youth Resources Niagara 17

These continued relationships help build on community safety through information sharing. The establishment of these community partnerships has benefited the Niagara Regional Police Service's efforts to increase police visibility and crime prevention throughout the Niagara Region. The development of monthly meetings with Youth Probation and Parole officers has proven to be profitable for information sharing.

### ***Community Partners***

The Niagara Regional Police Service endeavors to optimize relationships with community partners to improve service delivery to youth, victims, vulnerable persons and at-risk persons. Working with our community partners and stakeholders NRPS is better able to address the needs of youth in the Niagara Region.



Our community partners include the following: Contact Niagara, Port Cares Youth Justice Committee, Family and Children Services (FACS), Pathstone Mental Health, Ministry of Children & Youth Services – Youth Justice Services, Youth Resources Niagara, TAPP – C (The Arson Prevention Program for children) and the John Howard Society.

**Project Impact:** This program is organized by SROs where youth are transported to St Catharines Collegiate from around the region to participate in learning and physical activity with various NRPS units and motivational speakers.

**Chili Cook off:** The Chili Cook off teamed SROs and youth in a fun atmosphere while developing a skill and working as a team. SROs and youth worked together to prepare their selected chili recipes. The entire student body had the opportunity to taste the chili at lunch and vote for their favourite while interacting with the teams. This was a very successful program.

**Students Rock:** Students Rock partners students, police and the community where police mentors support and act as a life coach to local high school kids in the Niagara Region. Students learn to play in a safe environment and, at the end of the initiative, they showcase their talents in a stage performance with a local rock band. 2019 was the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the competition and 19 students from across the Niagara Region worked

with their police mentors for the guitar competition which was held on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Greg Frewin Theater in Niagara Falls. We also took this opportunity to collect donations for Project Share.

**Camp Medeba:** Camp Medeba is a comfortable setting for police and youth to make connections and build bridges of trust and understanding. This not-for-profit camp is located in Haliburton County specializing in using adventure activities to facilitate learning and growth in personal development, leadership, communication and cooperation. One female and one male student from each high school are selected to attend this leadership camp with police. From May 6 to 8, 2019 forty six students were engaged in rope climbing events, team building exercises, zip lining during the day and enjoy a camp fire in the evening.



**Kids Cooking with Cops:** This program was designed to teach children kitchen skills and nutrition under the supervision of police. Police taught the students basic skills including how to follow a recipe. The children proudly prepared the recipes and took the food home to their families. The children enjoyed working closely with the police strengthening a positive relationship.

**Film Festival:** This program allows students to work closely with police officers in a small group setting and discuss relevant topics that challenge young people. This year, 62 students participated in the research and development of a PSA on the topic of Domestic Violence. Students, teachers and police attended the Landmark Cinema to view the PSAs on the big screen. The winning team attended CHCH Morning Live Show where they were interviewed and their video was played.

**Cop Shop:** On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the 12th Annual Cop Shop event in partnership with the Pen Centre in St Catharines was held where 45 students, ranging in age from six to 12 years old from every grade school from St. Catharines and Thorold participate. Each student received a \$200 gift card from the Pen Centre to go shopping with their police officer shopping partners. This event creates high police visibility while encouraging local students to build valued relationships with members of the Niagara Regional Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police, Niagara Parks Police, CN Police and RCMP.





NRPS  
BASKETBALL

AGAR  
RIVER LIONS

NO LIMIT  
ON CHAMPIONS

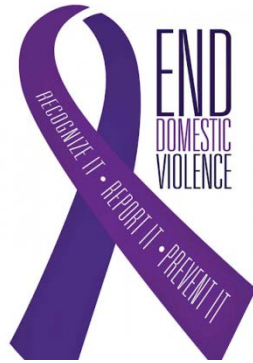
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BASKETBALL

POLICE

## Special Victims



The Special Victims Unit is a combined investigative office focusing on providing services to victims of violent crime, and it includes the following units: Domestic Violence Unit, Child Abuse Unit, Sexual Assault Unit, Human Trafficking Unit, Offender Management Unit, Internet Child Exploitation, Cybercrime Unit and Technological Crimes Unit. The office is supported by Violent Crime Analysts responsible for daily review and tracking of relevant incidents, submissions to the Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System, and Ontario Major Case Management System data entry. The office works collaboratively with community partners, including service providers that form the **Coalition to End Violence Against Women (CEVAW)**, and the Niagara Region Human Trafficking Emergency Response Protocol.

## Domestic Violence

The centralized Domestic Violence unit consists of 12 Domestic Violence Investigators and a supervisor, and is responsible for conducting criminal investigations involving persons connected through past or present intimate partnerships. Having a specially trained unit of Domestic Violence Investigators allows the Service to free up front-line resources for incident response, provide increased monitoring of cases with elevated risk for domestic violence, and to have consistent representation during engagement with community partners.

The Domestic Violence Unit works collaboratively with Family and Children's Services Niagara, Victim Services Niagara, Victim Witness Assistance Program, Probation and Parole, the Crown Attorney's Office, and shelters for abused women and children, including Gillian's Place, and Women's Place of South Niagara.

### Domestic Violence Investigations in 2019:

CLASSIFICATION	2019
<b>Domestic Violence – Investigations</b>	1,383
<b>Domestic Violence – Criminal Charges</b>	737
<b>Domestic Violence – No Charges</b>	646

*Domestic Violence means any use or attempted use of physical force, sexual force, emotional abuse, psychological abuse, or threatening / harassing behaviour that is directed toward a past or present intimate partner by a past or present intimate partner.*

## Women's Place of South Niagara Inc.

The Annual "Brunch, Bid & Bowl" event supports women and children who use the services of the domestic violence shelters in Niagara Falls (Nova House) and Welland (Serenity Place).

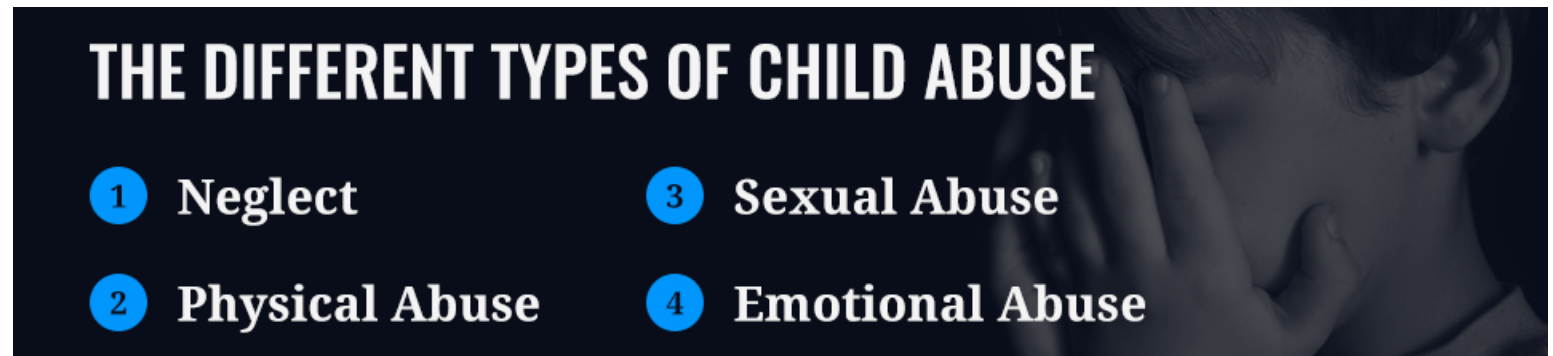


## Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

"Walk a Mile in HER Shoes" is a symbolic gesture of men marching in female footwear to raise awareness and funds for the issue of violence against women. 100% of the proceeds from this event support Gillian's Place shelter for abused women and children.



## Child Abuse



The Child Abuse Unit is a centralized investigative unit with a mandate to investigate all incidents of child sexual abuse, failure to provide the necessities of life. Members of the Child Abuse Unit also provide assistance during investigations involving children, or requiring child interviews. Child Abuse investigators are specially trained in sexual assault and offences against children investigations, investigative interviewing and major case management. These investigators work closely with community partners to deliver on a shared commitment to a comprehensive and coordinated response to allegations of child abuse. This collaboration is guided by the Child Abuse Protocol for the Niagara Region, involving the Niagara Regional Police Service, Family and Children's Services Niagara, Ministry of Attorney General – Crown Attorney, and Victim/Witness Assistance Program, and the Ontario Office of the Chief Coroner.

Joint child abuse investigations are conducted in partnership with Family and Children's Services (FACS) Niagara and benefit from the strong support of the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara (KFCACN). The Centre, formally opened on September 16, 2008 offers a safe, child friendly environment where the child and their family can be formally interviewed. Together with its community partners the Service supported a number of initiatives organized by the KFCACN, including the Playhouse Build and Auction and the Amazing Race Niagara. Child Abuse investigations also benefit from the expertise of physicians and staff at the McMaster University Children's Hospital – Child Advocacy and Assessment Program, and in addition are reviewed and tracked by the Child Abuse Review Team (CART), in accordance with adequacy standards set out in the Ontario Policing Standards Manual.

### Child Abuse Investigations in 2019:

CLASSIFICATION	2018
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations – Total	296
Cleared by Charge	65
Total Charges Laid	199



Kristen French  
Child Advocacy  
Centre Niagara

20506

POLICE



Proudly Supporting T

Members of the  
NRPS Child Abuse Unit

## Internet Child Exploitation

The Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit has established a local police response to crimes against children perpetrated via the Internet. In addition to a reactive response to public complaints, investigators proactively initiate investigations of identified targets, authoring search warrants that are judicially authorized and executed locally. This leads to the identification and arrest of offenders possessing, distributing and making child pornography, and persons who utilize the Internet to lure children into sexual activity.

The ICE Unit continues full-time membership in the Ontario Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet, which the Niagara Regional Police Service joined in 2007. This initiative has led to a high level of interagency co-operation and successful joint investigations of Internet Child Exploitation throughout the province, as well as nationally and internationally.

### Internet Child Exploitation Unit Investigations in 2019:

Year	Reported Incidents	Arrests	Criminal Charges
2019	160	18	62





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# St. Catharines Man Arrested on Child Exploitation Charges

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## Media Release

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In September of 2019, members of the Niagara Regional Police Service's Internet Child Exploitation (I.C.E.) Unit commenced an investigation into the sexual exploitation of children.

Members of the Niagara Regional Police Service's Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit, the Technological Crimes Unit, the Child Abuse Unit, and the Sexual Assault Unit began a joint investigation into the matter.

The investigation into the child exploitation material led to a St. Catharines residence. As a result of the investigation, a 19 year old St. Catharines, Ontario man was arrested and charged with the following:

- Two Counts of Possession of Child Pornography Sec. 163.1(4) CC
- One Count of Accessing Child Pornography Sec. 163.1(4.1) CC
- One Count of Making Child Pornography Sec. 163.1(2) CC
- One Count of Voyeurism Sec. 162(1)(a) CC
- One Count of Sexual Assault Sec 271 CC
- One Count of Sexual Interference Sec 151 CC

The male has been held in custody pending a bail hearing to take place at the Robert S.K. Welch Courthouse, located at 59 Church Street, St. Catharines, Ontario.

*The Niagara Regional Police Service is a member of the Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet and conducts investigations into Internet Child Exploitation Offences in partnership with numerous Ontario Police Services. This investigative initiative has been made possible by a grant from the Ministry of the Solicitor General.*

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## Sexual Assault

Formed in 1996, the Sexual Assault Unit (SAU) is a centralized investigative unit responsible for the coordination and response to reports of sexual assault in the Niagara Region, involving victims over the age of 16 years and reports of historical sexual abuse of child victims.

The detectives in this unit are specially trained in areas of sexual assault investigation, investigative interviewing, and major case management. The Sexual Assault Unit, in collaboration with its community partners, is committed to meet the needs of sexual assault victims and appropriately respond to public safety concerns. Our dedicated team of investigators manages cases from initial reporting to the conclusion of an investigation. They provide support to victims and witnesses through the court process, and action referrals to Victim Services Niagara and the Victim Witness Assistance Program.

The Sexual Assault Unit works collaboratively with our community partners through the Sexual Assault Response Protocol. Amended over time, this protocol includes: the Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Treatment Program at the Niagara Health System, the Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Centre, the Victim Witness Assistance Program, Victim Services Niagara and the Crown Attorney-Ministry of Attorney General.

### Sexual Assault Unit Investigations in 2019:

CLASSIFICATION	
	2019
<b>Sexual Assault Investigations – Total</b>	388
<b>Cleared by Charge</b>	54
<b>Cleared Unfounded</b>	16
<b>Investigation Suspended</b>	266
<b>Cleared Otherwise</b>	30
<b>Non-CCJS</b>	22

\* The category of "Unfounded" describes incidents in which it has been determined through police investigation that the offence reported did not occur, nor was it attempted.

\*\* The category of "Investigation Suspended" describes incidents that may be still under investigation or there is insufficient evidence to proceed. Subject to the discovery of new evidence or the conclusion of an investigation, these incidents may be reclassified in the future.

\*\*\* The category of "Non CCJS" describes incidents that are determined – based on the content of the complaint – either not to be a criminal offence, or having occurred outside of the Niagara Region. An example of this includes an "Information" or "Out of Town" Occurrence Report.

**Too Much?**  
Carrying new or expensive goods / cash beyond their financial means

**Being Controlled**  
Someone always seems to speak for them. The person doesn't seem to be allowed to speak for themselves. When they do speak their answers seem scripted, evasive or rehearsed.

**Appearance**  
Signs of possible physical abuse, malnourished and / or drug use

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING - Forced Prostitution

**Do you know what some of the common signs are?**

**Control of Property**  
No access to money, communications or ID documents.

**Behaviour**  
Their behaviour may seem fearful, anxious, defensive and / or secretive.

**Relationship Changes**  
A disconnection with family and past friends. A recent or new friend group and love interest.

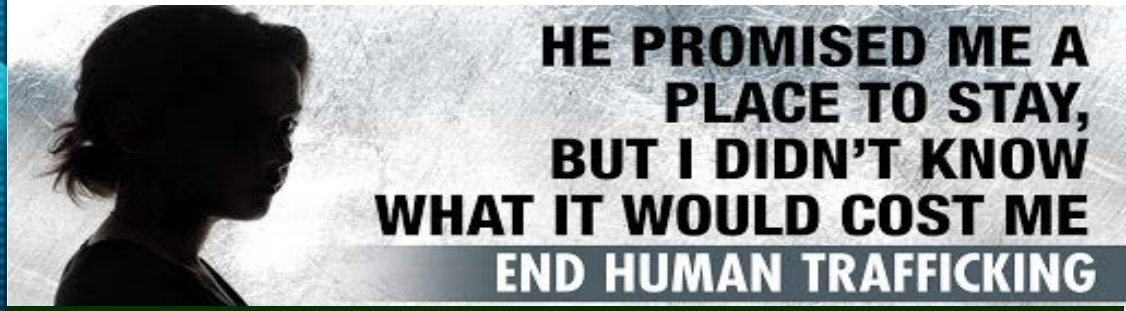
Niagara Regional Police Service 905.686.4811  
 21-10 or Crime Report 1-1  
 Crime Stoppers of Niagara 905.823.5437

## Human Trafficking

The Human Trafficking Unit was formed in 2019, and is part of the Special Victims Unit. Human trafficking investigators work closely with community partners, in accordance with the Niagara Region Emergency Response Protocol to Human Trafficking. Investigations are referred from calls for service, local community agencies, other police services and the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline. The overarching goal of human trafficking investigations is support for survivors and an end to exploitation of vulnerable victims. The Human Trafficking Unit also works closely with the community to increase public awareness of the pervasiveness and the devastating effects of human trafficking on our communities.

## Electronic Crimes

The Electronic Crimes or E-Crimes Unit was formed to bring together under one umbrella units that investigate crimes that occur on the World Wide Web or are aided by the use of technology and digital devices. This investigative office is comprised of the Technological Crimes Unit, which supports criminal investigations through forensic examinations of digital devices to extract evidence of a variety of offences; the Computer Cyber Crime Unit, which supports criminal investigations by extracting evidence from online sources and providing technical support to investigators conducting online investigations; and the Internet Child Exploitation Unit, which investigates offences committed against children on the Internet or through the use of digital devices.



**CANADIAN HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE: 1.833.900.1010**



## Traffic Enforcement

Members of the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) conduct proactive enforcement throughout the Niagara Region while also addressing specific traffic related complaints received from members of the public through the NRPS website and the traffic hotline. In 2019 officers from this unit were responsible for issuing 5,849 Provincial Offence Notices (PONS) and Summonses, comprising of approximately 17% of the Service's total enforcement efforts. In addition, members also arrested several drivers for driving while disqualified, impaired driving (alcohol & drugs) and other criminal offences.

During the week of May 13th to 19th, the T.E.U. participated in the Annual Canada Road Safety Week which covers the Victoria Day long weekend. This enforcement-driven initiative is designed to increase public compliance with awareness of safe driving measures and, ultimately, save lives. This year the campaign targeted impaired drivers, distracted driving, seat belt compliance, speeding as well as aggressive driving.

In 2019 TEU certified the NRPS' first Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) inspection officer. Throughout the year multiple commercial motor vehicle inspections were conducted. Enforcement, combined with education is providing safer roadways in the Niagara Region. TEU also conducted two CMV enforcement exercises with the Ministry of Transportation which specifically addressed public complaints in Lincoln and West Lincoln.

The Traffic Enforcement Unit continued the use of Automated Licence Plate Recognition camera system. These two vehicles generated 2,055 tickets in 2019. The camera system obtains photos of licence plates which then compares the plate to a "hot list", which is composed of information that is updated by MTO and CPIC each morning. If a captured plate is recognized as being on this list, an alert is given, notifying the officer of the potential infraction. This system allows the officer to focus on driving while the cameras check the plates. TEU officers began training uniform officers in districts on the use of the system. This has allowed the officers to use the vehicles when to conduct further enforcement within their specific districts. The hope is to expand to 3 or 4 vehicles by 2021.

Officers assigned to the Traffic Enforcement Unit receive additional training in the area of breath analysis, drug recognition, level II collision investigation, as well as Radar and Lidar speed detection equipment. In 2019, three officers successfully completed the Intoxilyzer course and another 2 officer became a Drug Recognition Expert. Throughout the year, Traffic Enforcement Officers were responsible for conducting 474 alcohol impaired tests and 50 drug impaired investigations across the region.

Once again, the Niagara Regional Police received grant funding for 2019/2020 from the Ministry of the Solicitor General as part of the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E) program. A total of 15 scheduled R.I.D.E. spot checks were conducted throughout the year with a significant amount of the dates scheduled during the holiday season. This year, approximately 6,195 vehicles were stopped and checked, 200 roadside tests were conducted, 13 people had their licences suspended for 3 days or more, 6 people were charged criminally with impaired driving and 97 *Provincial Offences Act* charges were issued.





On December 18, 2018, the Federal government introduced major changes to impaired driving laws. These changes were significant and affected every officer on the road, including the need for additional training. In cooperation with the Administrative Traffic Sergeant, every platoon in each District was visited by members from the Traffic Enforcement Unit to assist with education and guidance. Members of TEU also work with the Training Unit to provide training in roadside devices, impaired driving procedures, and radar to all new uniform recruits returning from the Ontario Police College prior to them going to platoons. In 2019 TEU hosted 3 Standardized Field Sobriety Test training sessions which trained 42 uniform officers. Each session is a 5 days and provides officers with training in testing procedures that will assist them in detecting drivers that are impaired by drugs or alcohol.



On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, the Niagara Regional Police Service conducted its 19th annual "Back to School Traffic Safety and Awareness Day." The project coincides with the return to school for the majority of the children in the Niagara Region. In addition to the usual speed and distracted driving enforcement, members of the Niagara Regional Police also focused on school bus and crossing guard compliance. In feedback from officers participating in this project, many reported that the majority of the motorists were driving appropriately in the school zones. However there were still approximately 145 drivers that were stopped and charged or issued warnings for various offences. In total, 73 tickets were issued and 89 warnings were given. Tickets issued included: 58 for speeding, 2 for distracted driving, 2 for not wearing a seatbelt, and 31 various PONS.



## Collision Reconstruction Unit

The Niagara Regional Police Service is in compliance with the Adequacy Standards Regulation and has a dedicated Collision Reconstruction Unit. The Collision Reconstruction Unit is comprised of 6 Detective Constables and 1 Detective Sergeant and is mandated to investigate all fatal and serious life threatening motor vehicle collisions that occur within the Region.

Officers assigned to the Collision Reconstruction Unit are technically trained and dedicated investigators, who specialize in the field of collision investigation. Members assigned to the Unit are initially required to complete a minimum of 10 weeks of extensive collision investigation training at either the Ontario Police College in Aylmer or the Canadian Police College in Ottawa.

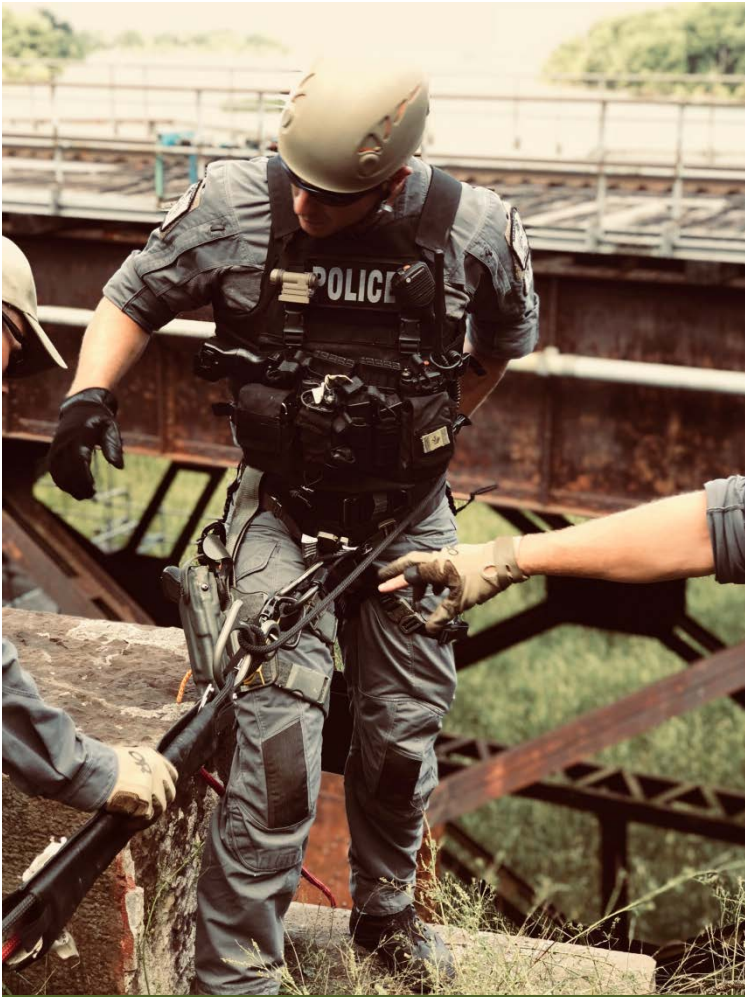


The Collision Reconstruction Unit also manages the Niagara Regional Police Service's remotely piloted vehicles (drones). The unit oversees all flight operations within the NRPS as well as maintenance and flight logs. The Reconstruction Unit has assisted with aerial support for training, armed persons, warrants, building and ground searches with their remotely piloted vehicles. The Niagara Regional Police currently has 10 qualified drone operators. In 2019, the Collision Reconstruction Unit updated their equipment as well as the software they utilize for completing their investigations. These updates see the Niagara Regional Police Service's Reconstruction Unit as a leader in technology and methods used in their area of expertise.

The Collision Reconstruction Unit investigated 17 fatal motor vehicle collisions that resulted in the death of 17 people and attended 12 life-threatening injury collisions in 2019.

### Fatal and Life Threatening Injury Collisions, 2017 - 2019

Collision Type	2017	2018	2019
MTO Reportable Fatal Collisions	16	14	13
MTO Non-Reportable Fatal Collisions due to medical reasons	2	2	4
Life Threatening Injuries	24	14	12



## Emergency Task Unit

The Emergency Task Unit (ETU) consists of a team of highly-trained and disciplined officers responsible for resolving major incidents and maintaining public safety. Members of the Unit possess unique skills and utilize a variety of weapons and equipment in an effort to peacefully resolve situations that may pose a threat to public and officer safety. The ETU is an accredited Hostage Rescue Team and responds to hostage situations; armed and barricaded persons; high-risk warrants, persons in crisis; high-risk court security details; witness protection details; search and rescue missions; VIP protection details and all other incidents where the skills and abilities of the members would be an asset.

During major incidents The ETU is supported by the Tactical Support Group (TSG), a group of specially trained members who provide force multipliers and enable the ETU to successfully complete complex missions. When the ETU is not engaged in tactical operations, their members support the front line by patrolling and responding to priority calls for service. Members of the team also spend considerable time training and conducting equipment maintenance.

Members of the ETU are active partners in Project Lifesaver Niagara. The non-profit organization assists caregivers with family members who due to cognitive issues have a tendency to wander. These vulnerable members of the community wear personalized bracelets with radio transmitters. When a person is reported missing, members of the ETU respond and utilize specialized equipment to assist in locating the person. ETU members volunteer during their time off to support this life-saving program.

In 2019 the ETU continued to provide significant support directly to the front line on its night shift rotation through redeployment. When required the unit also assists the Training Unit by providing firearms instructors and use of force instructors.

*The Emergency Task Unit (ETU) is a fully operational hostage rescue unit, capable of all functions from perimeter control and containment to hostage response tactics. The Emergency Task Unit responded to 182 requests for its services throughout 2019.*

### Type of Service

### # of Requests

VIP/Witness Protection	13
Armed Persons	18
Barricaded Persons	16
Ground Searches	36
High-Risk Arrest	30
High-Risk Warrants	28



## Explosives Disposal Unit

The Explosive Disposal Unit is trained and equipped to render safe improvised chemical, biological, radiological and explosive devices, (CBRNE) military ordnance and provide technical support to the Emergency Task Unit. Additionally, the Explosive Disposal Unit provides specialized investigative support to other Service units, and educates Service and community organizations in matters relating to explosives and bomb threat procedures. In 2019 the Explosive Disposal Unit responded to 25 calls for service.

The unit consists of 6 part-time members who are certified by the Canadian Police College in bomb disposal, electronics, explosive forced entry and post blast investigations. Members participate in monthly training and attend numerous courses and workshops for advanced and recertification training. In 2019 each Explosives Technician participated in an average of 25 days of training enhancing individual and team skills. To ensure a high level of readiness, the unit holds active membership in a number of domestic and international associations, where information and training on the latest trends, threats and techniques are developed and shared. Strong working relationships with other Niagara stakeholders (Fire, EMS), as well as regular training and exchanges with other police Explosive Disposal Units in Ontario, Canada and the USA.

### Type of Activity

### # of Events

<b>Fireworks/Military Ordnance Seized and Destroyed</b>	12
<b>Suspicious Packages Examined and Rendered Safe</b>	6
<b>Found Explosives</b>	1
<b>Improvised Explosive Devices</b>	1
<b>Bomb threats</b>	1
<b>CBRN - Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Hazards</b>	1
<b>Presentations to Outside Agencies</b>	2
<b>Expert Oversight – Film Production Involving Explosives</b>	1

## ***Year at a Glance***

**Police Service Dogs were utilized on 70% of all calls that members responded to in 2019.**

**576 General Calls (i.e., open-air searches, building searches, evidence recovery, etc.).**

**389 Calls Tracking Suspects**

**37 Explosives Detection Calls.**

## **Canine Unit**

In 2019, the Canine Unit continued its commitment to support uniform patrol and specialty units with a full complement of 6 constables and 1 sergeant. The Unit maintained seven general purpose dogs, five of which were cross-trained in narcotics detection and two cross-trained in explosives detection.

The Canine Unit assisted outside agencies in their handler selection processes and was responsible for running a Basic Canine Handler course for six canine teams from the following agencies: Niagara Regional Police Service, Niagara Parks Police Service, Buffalo Police Department and the Genesee County Sheriff's Office. Canine teams from eight different policing services attend Niagara each year for bi-annual re-qualification sessions.

In 2019, members of the Canine Unit responded to 1,437 calls for service. Police Service Dogs were utilized at 576 of those calls and tracked suspects on 389 occasions. Canine Unit officers engaged in open-air searches, building searches and article searches where the police service dogs searched for and recovered evidence. On 37 occasions, NRPS police service dogs were utilized for the detection of controlled substances and on 7 occasions utilized for the detection of explosives.



CANINE UNIT



## Underwater Search and Recovery Unit

The members of the Niagara Regional Police Service Underwater Search and Recovery Unit extend the function of the police investigator into the aquatic environment. The members are required to act as the "eyes" for investigators at any scene which is underwater. Through the highly trained members of the USRU, NRPS investigators are able to recover a variety of evidence including vehicles, vessels, aircraft, weapons, and deceased persons. As police divers, the members of the USRU are required to be qualified as commercial divers under standards set by the Canadian Safety Association and the *Ontario Health and Safety Act - Diving Regulations*. The members of the USRU are able to utilize a variety of resources and equipment including SCUBA, Surface Supply Air, Remotely Operated Vehicle, Remote Video Equipment, and Sonar technology to perform their duties. The members undergo further training in the areas of vessel inspection, harbour clearing, explosives recognition, rappelling, live boating operations, and hazardous material response. The USRU provides continued support to the Explosives Disposal Unit with members trained as Police Explosives Technicians. In 2019 these qualified members responded to five explosive disposal incidents.

In 2019 the members of the USRU were deployed 21 times for operations in the Niagara Region along with providing support to partner agencies requiring police divers.

### Underwater Search and Recovery Activities in 2019

Activity	# of Calls for Assistance
Body Recoveries	11
Assist Partner Agency	1
Explosives Disposal	5
Vehicle Investigations	4







## Marine Unit

The Police Services Act of Ontario and Provincial Adequacy Standards mandate the Niagara Regional Police Service to provide an effective police presence and response on the navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the service. This mandate is accomplished through the work of the Marine Unit. The Marine Unit is responsible for conducting proactive marine enforcement patrols and responding to water-related search and rescue calls. With 1,500 square kilometres within the response area of the Niagara Regional Police Service, the Marine Unit has responsibility for one of the largest waterways in Canada. The areas covered include large portions of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie and both the Upper and Lower Niagara River which collectively border the Region on three sides. Vast networks of inland lakes, rivers and hydro canals fall within the Marine Unit's response area along with the Welland Shipping Canal, a critical component to commerce in both Canada and the United States.

The Marine Unit is comprised of seven full time officers. The unit members are trained to respond to six diverse disciplines: marine patrol; tactical support; underwater search and recovery; hazardous material response; explosive disposal; and front-line uniform patrol.

Faced with such a vast patrol area the Marine Unit has developed strategic alliances with various partners at the federal and provincial levels. Through partnerships with RCMP, Ministry of Natural Resources, and U.S. enforcement agencies the Marine Unit participates in joint interdiction efforts. With these partnerships the Marine Unit provides emergency response to incidents as well as addressing the need for public safety.

The Marine Unit provides water borne response to both sanctioned events such as Canal Days in Port Colborne and unsanctioned events which are typically year end school parties. The Marine Unit promotes public safety on and around the water through both education and enforcement of several Provincial and Federal Acts. In addition to conducting education initiatives on the water the Marine Unit took part in 12 community events along with attending public service clubs to present topics on boating and water safety.

In 2019, 188 Provincial Offence Notices were issued for primarily offences under the Canada Shipping Act, Liquor License Act, and Highway Traffic Act along with 9 arrests. The Unit responded to 640 calls for service which included 17 search and rescue incidents and 2 swift water/surface ice rescue calls.





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## **Special Investigative Services**

The Niagara Regional Police - Special Investigative Services (S.I.S.) Unit deploys 31 sworn officers, 1 civilian analyst and 1 civilian clerk. This investigative unit is also assisted by an embedded officer from the Canada Border Services Agency. The Unit is responsible for high level drug and organized crime investigations along with extremism, street gangs and cross border issues. All unit members have a high level of training experience in criminal investigations and many have specialized training and experience in search and seizure, technical investigations, undercover techniques, organized crime investigations and large-scale drug investigations. The Special Investigative Services Unit is dedicated to the goals of the Police Service.

The Unit is comprised of the Guns Gangs and Grows Unit which also include two officers seconded to the Provincial Joint Forces Cannabis Enforcement Team (PJFCET). This Unit also deploys two officer assigned to Opioid education and Enforcement. Special Investigative Services also includes the Intelligence Unit, the Mobile Surveillance Unit, the Morality Unit and the Covert Operations Unit. Several officers are deployed to Joint Forces Operations including, Biker Enforcement (O.P.P.), Provincial Weapons Enforcement (O.P.P.), Provincial Anti-Terrorism Investigations (O.P.P., R.C.M.P.), the Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit (O.P.P.) and the Border Enforcement Security Task Force (Canadian and American Authorities). The Special Investigative Services Unit is also a support to all other units of the Service providing expertise, technical support, surveillance and undercover operations to various investigations.

In 2019, investigators from throughout SIS contributed greatly to investigations into the criminal activities of Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG) members. The Intelligence Unit and Morality Unit provided substantial resources to the Biker Enforcement Unit (BEU) during a joint forces investigation dubbed "Project Skylark" to investigate an active drug cell with significant ties to Niagara that included members of the Hells Angels Nomad Chapter and the Ottawa Red Devils. The NRPS also made a significant contribution to a BEU led investigation dubbed "Project Hobart" looking into a violent dispute between members of the Hells Angels MC involved in a sophisticated illegal gaming operation.

## **Intelligence Unit**

This Unit is responsible for the monitoring and investigation of organized crime groups and extremism groups for the purpose of prosecuting, dismantling or disrupting their criminal activities. The Unit works cooperatively with law enforcement agencies across Ontario and New York State and facilitates the sharing of information on criminal matters locally, nationally and internationally. This Unit also administers the Witness Protection Program

The Intelligence Unit is also responsible for the technical aspect of Intelligence and Investigational operations including the use of interception of private communications under Part VI of the Criminal Code of Canada. The NRPS contribution to the BEU joint forces investigation dubbed "Project Skylark" was spearheaded by the Detective Sergeant of the Intelligence Unit as the Lead Investigator and the Unit provided the Part VI affiant and coordinated the interception room. Takedown occurred in August of 2019 and as a result of the project, multiple restricted and prohibited firearms, fentanyl, and over 13 kilograms of

cocaine were seized. 3 members of the Red Devils, 2 members of the Hells Angels and one support club member were among those arrested and charged.



## **Guns, Gangs and Grows Unit/Opioid Education and Enforcement Unit**

In 2019 the Guns, Gangs and Grows Unit (GGG) was staffed with eight detectives. Two of those officers were seconded to the OPP-led Provincial Joint Forces Cannabis Enforcement Team (PJFCET) and two of the officers were assigned to Opioid Education and Enforcement. Although the core members of the unit still investigate the illegal production and trafficking of marihuana, the prevalence of opioids on the streets of Niagara has compelled the continued efforts to combat the distribution of Fentanyl and other narcotics mixed with Fentanyl.

The Unit assisted with other major investigations conducted by other NRPS units including the divisional Street Crime Units, the Homicide Unit and the Intelligence Unit (for Project Skylark). With a responsibility to disrupt gun and gang violence, the GGG Unit also contributed substantially to the #1 District Detective Office's investigation into the shooting that occurred at the *Karma Nightclub* in St. Catharines. This shooting highlighted a trend of violent street gangs migrating out of the Greater Toronto Area and into the surrounding regions such as Niagara.

Consistent with their mandate the Guns Gangs and Grows Unit made a total of 25 arrests with 69 charges and executed a total of 21 search warrants that resulted in the seizure of 1288 Marihuana plants worth \$1,288,000.00. The Unit also seized 4 firearms, \$145,955.00 in proceeds of crime and \$238,920.00 worth of other drugs. Below are examples of investigations conducted by this Unit in 2019.

### **Thorold (Inc. #19-59560)**

Investigation into a medical cannabis production site located on Port Robinson Road, Thorold revealed that the licence holders were producing in contravention of the issued licences. Upon execution of the search warrant; investigators located an "unlicensed" individual tending the cannabis crop. Police seized a loaded 22 caliber rifle located under a bed at the residence.

#### **Seizure included:**

- 354 cannabis plants with an estimated street value of \$354, 000.00
- German GSG MP40 Carbine Semi-Automatic rifle and ammunition

#### **Charges included:**

- Cultivate more than four cannabis plants in a dwelling house contrary to the Cannabis Act; and
- Criminal Code charges of Careless Storage of a Firearm and Careless Storage of Ammunition.



### **Grimsby (Inc. #19-78281)**

As the result of a uniform call for service, a search warrant was executed at a medical cannabis production site located at 585 Sobie Road, Grimsby. Responding uniform officers located two individuals working within the grow operation at the time of the call for service. Neither individual held a licence to produce cannabis at the Sobie Road address. The site has been the location of two previous search warrants, one in 2014 where a cannabis extraction exploded and in 2015 where investigation revealed an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG) group was operating an illicit cannabis cultivation site. Seizure included 2,194 cannabis plants with an estimated street value of \$2,194,000. Two males were charged with the offence of Production Without Authorization contrary to the Cannabis Act.



## Niagara Region (Inc. #19-26913)

NRPS PJFCET members led an investigation into an illegal mobile delivery business named *Canna Niagara* operating within the Niagara region. The investigation found *Canna Niagara* to be illegally selling cannabis and also linked to a second business named *Green Light District*. An undercover operation located addresses from where the illegal businesses were operating and surveillance identified employees of the business and how they operate.

Four search warrants were executed at two houses, a vehicle and a storefront. A total of eight people were arrested and charged with a total of fifty six (56) charges under the Cannabis Act, Criminal Code, and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Seven of the eight accused persons have pleaded guilty. Seizures included approximately \$74,000 in currency, over \$400,000 in illegal cannabis products, cocaine, and two Tasers.





## Fort Erie (Inc. #19-97095)

The Services PJFCET members led a cannabis investigation of a Health Canada licenced cannabis production site that began as a result of 911 call to police by a concerned member of the public. A truck leaving the cannabis production site was located and stopped by PJFCET members and uniform officers. Two people were arrested and charged with Cannabis Act related charges. A search of the truck revealed the accused persons were illegally in possession of 135 cannabis plants.



## Opioid Education and Enforcement Unit

The NRPS Opioid Enforcement and Education Unit (OEEU) collaborate with community groups to address the opioid problem in our community. The Unit also provides opioid presentations to law enforcement and community partners, offers expertise and training to front-line officers relating to recognition, evidence identification and safe handling regarding opioid investigations. The OEEU proactively investigates large level opioid traffickers and participates in Joint Forces Operations involving the supply and distribution of opioids within the Niagara Region and the Province. The OEEU also regularly assists other units and agencies with concurrent investigations relating to opioid traffickers, guns and gangs, and homicides.

Investigations – 73

Persons Charged – 53

Drug Charges – 113

Criminal Code Charges – 91

Fentanyl seizures – 338 patches, 306 grams

Crystal Methamphetamine seizures – 2000 pills, 477 grams

Cocaine seizures – 15,960 grams

Marihuana seizures – 27,580 grams

### **Covert Operations Unit**

The Covert Operations was staffed with a Detective Sergeant and two Detective Constables that are the Service's Technical Support Officers. The Unit's responsibilities include overseeing the recruitment and coordination of Confidential Informers, maintaining Confidential Informer files and supervising undercover operations. In 2019, the Unit conducted a long-term undercover operation in support of an investigation by our Homicide Unit.

The Unit also employs emerging technologies Service-wide to support numerous investigations and projects with the surreptitious installation of cameras, audio devices and tracking devices.

### **Mobile Surveillance Unit**

The Niagara Regional Police Service's Mobile Surveillance Unit is a six officer team that is a support service for all investigations conducted within Special Investigation Services. The unit also is a support unit for the other units within Investigations Services and Divisional Detective Services units. The Unit is responsible for supporting major projects from Homicide investigations to organized crime probes. On a regular basis, the Mobile Surveillance Unit assists with Divisional investigations in each area of Niagara. Members of this unit are also responsible for the instruction of surveillance techniques to officers in Niagara and are part of the surveillance training team at the Ontario Police College.

In 2019 the Unit was involved in high profile surveillance of suspects relating to Homicide investigations to major drug trafficking networks and Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs.

### **Morality Unit**

The Morality Unit is responsible for mid to high level drug investigations within the Niagara Region and elsewhere in Ontario. Each officer is highly skilled in narcotics investigations and specifically highly trained in search and seizure law, the drafting of judicial authorizations, technical investigations and undercover work.

In 2019, the Morality Unit fully supported the NRPS commitment to "Project Skylark" with the drafting of judicial authorizations, Substantive Event Summaries, wire room support and surveillance. In addition to the considerable resources dedicated to "Project Skylark," The Morality Unit continued to work hand in hand with Divisional detectives on a number of investigations as well as with other drug squads around the province.

## JOINT FORCES OPERATIONS

Joint Forces Operations are special investigative operations that are comprised of police officers from multiple law enforcement agencies who have been seconded either to the Ontario Provincial Police or cross-border initiatives with U.S. enforcement agencies to investigate multi-jurisdictional criminal activity.

### Provincial Anti-Terrorism Section (PATS)

PATS is an O.P.P. led Joint Forces Operation that has active participation from all the major police services in Ontario including the Niagara Regional Police Service. The Unit works very closely with members of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the RCMP Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET) and the U.S. Intelligence community in addressing threats of terrorism.

The section was established in the aftermath of September 11th, 2001, in the recognition of the fact that additional resources were needed to combat the threat of terrorism in Ontario. Investigators within PATS investigate criminal extremism throughout the province. As a border community, Niagara is a strategic site for human smuggling and transport of terrorist-related contraband to and from the United States. The primary objective of this Unit is to conduct investigations on individuals and organized crime groups involved in terrorism-related activities.

The Niagara officer seconded to PATS conducts several local programs during the year with various Niagara cultural groups and officials responsible for local infrastructure. The Niagara officer seconded to PATS is one of the longest serving, most experienced members of PATS and his leadership and experience was recognized as he was given the responsibility of Acting Supervisor for the Unit for the greater part of 2019.

### Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit (PWEU)

PWEU is an O.P.P. led Joint Forces Operation made up of 11 law enforcement agencies including the Niagara Regional Police Service. The mandate of the Unit is to identify persons involved in the illegal movement of firearms and to take enforcement action. This includes the offences of smuggling, trafficking and possession of "crime guns". Many "crime guns" found or used in the commission of offences have their origins in the United States and PWEU has established a strong working relationship with their American counterparts.

The Unit conducted several large scale investigations throughout the year in Ontario and in conjunction with their American counterparts in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Homeland Security. Our seconded member of the Unit joined "Project Skylark" and contributed greatly to the success of the project that resulted in the seizure of 11 firearms (3 long guns, 8 prohibited), 700 rounds of ammunition, prohibited magazines/conversion kits and assorted firearm pieces.



## Biker Enforcement Unit (BEU)



The Biker Enforcement Unit is an Ontario Provincial Police led Joint Forces Operation comprised of 12 law enforcement agencies including the Niagara Regional Police Service. The BEU is committed to investigating and disrupting the organized criminal activities of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs through shared policing expertise throughout the Province of Ontario. The main objective of this unit is to monitor the activities and movements of Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG) members within the Niagara Region and to enforce applicable laws when necessary in regards to any illegal activity of gang members and associates. Part of their mandate is to develop expert officers for use at trials and civil proceedings.

In 2019, the Niagara member seconded to the Provincial BEU was instrumental in achieving success in the major joint forces operation led by the BEU dubbed "Project Hobart." This project began as a result of the escalation in violence and murder surrounding a sophisticated illegal gaming operation involving the top echelon of the Hells Angels MC and Traditional Organized Crime groups. Our member was pivotal in exposing the criminality and racketeering of this enormous criminal network and contributed greatly to the success of the project that culminated in 52 search warrants being executed, 30 persons charged

(including two of the wealthiest Hells Angels in Canada), 230 criminal charges, 21 firearms seized, 9 properties restrained, 10 vehicles restrained and over \$10 million in finances seized or restrained.

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### **Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit (PAFU)**

The NRPS has one member attached to the Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit led by the Ontario Provincial Police. PAFU is an investigative unit focused on the prosecution of complex proceeds of crime investigations and it specializes in the identification and seizure of offence related property. Their mandate includes assisting crown attorneys and front line investigators in the preparation of applicable court documents and subsequent forfeiture of seized proceeds, assets, and offence related property. The member assists with the submissions of forfeited proceeds and assets to the Ministry of Public Works and Government Services, Seized Property Management Directorate. The value and amount of these submissions are reported to the Board in the appropriate Annual Report on Proceeds of Crime.

## Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST)



The NRPS has one member attached to the Border Enforcement Security Team. The team is led by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) based in Buffalo, New York. The BEST unit is a co-located Operational/Investigative Law Enforcement Unit with the mandate to identify attack and dismantle criminal organizations on both sides of the Canadian/U.S. Border.



The Niagara Regional Police Service has committed to providing one Detective Sergeant to the BEST program. The member has also received his Title 19 training which authorizes the enforcing of U.S. law on border issues. In 2019, the BEST Unit was involved in numerous cross-border investigations resulting in the seizure of illegal firearms, illegal drugs, contraband tobacco and currency, which has enhanced the sharing of information process and has created cooperative and effective working relationships and agency partnerships.



## Public Complaints

In a year over year comparison of conduct complaints against our members, we find that 2018 was an outlier year. On average, 2016, 2017 and 2019 had 20 additional public conduct complaints over 2018.

*The Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) is an independent civilian oversight agency that handles public complaints of police conduct in the province of Ontario. The agency oversees all police forces, from municipal levels up to and including the Ontario Provincial Police. All conduct complaints are vetted by OIPRD to ensure fairness, accountability and transparency across all police services in Ontario.*

	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Conduct Complaints</b>	99	93	76	98
<b>Service Complaints</b>	1	3	4	6
<b>Total Public Complaints</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Complaint Conclusions</b>				
<b>Other</b> – No investigation conducted at the direction of the OIPRD – not in the public interest, complaint more than 6 months old, frivolous or vexatious, no police legislative breach, or insufficient information provided by the complainant.	48	29	30	47
<b>Withdrawn</b>	18	13	5	16
<b>Customer Service Resolution</b> (Before investigation)	--	4	6	1
<b>Informal Resolution</b> (During investigation)	2	1	2	5
<b>Unsubstantiated Complaints</b> (Following investigation)	23	38	34	25
<b>Substantiated Complaints</b> (Following investigation)	8	4	4	5
<b>Pending / Open Investigations</b>	1	4	--	--
<b>Substantiated Complaint Resolutions</b>				
<b>No Further Action</b>	--	--	--	--
<b>Action Taken</b>	1	2	--	1
<b>Informal Resolution</b>	--	1	3	2
<b>Disposition Without A Hearing</b>	4	--	--	1
<b>Awaiting Disposition</b>	3	--	--	
<b>Disciplinary Hearing</b>	--	1	1	1





## Corporate Communications

The Corporate Communications unit enables the NRPS to communicate with both internal and external stakeholders to share the accomplishments of members while also ensuring clear and timely communication with the public. In emergent events, the CCU utilizes social media to quickly disseminate information that informs and assists the public the sharing of accurate information and public safety messaging.

Over the course of 2019, the CCU continued to see substantial growth on social media platforms with continued community engagement, particularly with sustain growth on Instagram. This engagement and growth allows the Service to directly connect and communicate with the public and address concerns as they arise. The Service's Facebook page finished 2019 with 37,285 followers, while Twitter account had 25,000 followers and Instagram with 16,000 followers, a 142% growth on Instagram from 2018.

Throughout 2019, the CCU played a key role in the organization and execution of several large community events, including Cops for Cancer as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chief's Gala. A key focus of 2019 was increased community engagement which was achieved through community events such as district open houses, as well as "Coffee with a Cop" events that were held across the Niagara Region.







# Organizational Structure

**Niagara Police Services Board** - Executive Director

**Chief of Police** - Executive Officer Inspector  
 - Corporate Communications

**Deputy Chief Operational Services** - Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief

Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief

**Deputy Chief Support Services** - Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief

**Superintendent District Operations**

- Duty Office Inspectors
- 1 District Inspector COAST
- 2 District Inspector
- 3 District Inspector
- #5 District
- #6 District
- #8 District
- Real Time Operations Centre (R.T.O.C.)
- Auxiliary Police

**Superintendent Emergency & Investigative Services**

- Emergency Services Inspector
  - Emergency Response - I9, Marine / USRU, Emergency Task, Explosives Disposal, Negotiators
  - Traffic Management & Road Safety - Traffic Administration, Traffic Enforcement, Collision Reconstruction
- Investigative Support Inspector
  - Major Crime - Homicide, Forensic Services, Central Fraud, Polygraph, Crimestoppers
  - Special Investigative Services - Intelligence, Surveillance, Morality, Guns, Gangs & Groups, Prescription Drugs
  - Special Victims - Domestic Violence/Vulnerable Sector Investigations, Sexual Assault, Child Abuse, Internet Child Exploitation (I.C.E.), Human Trafficking, VICLAS Powercase, Technological Crimes, Offender Management

**Superintendent Operational Support**

- Court Services & Prisoner Mgt. Inspector
- Court Services & Quality Assurance
- Prisoner Management
- Operational Support Inspector
- Communications
- Evidence Management Unit - Firearms

**Director Business Services**

- Finance - Quartermasters, Facilities
- Human Resources
- Records & Information Management
- Fleet

**Director Technology Services**

- IT Projects & Systems
- Public Safety Radio
- IT Network & Support

**Superintendent Executive Services**

- Professional Standards Inspector
- Corporate Analyst
- Service Psychologist
- Community Engagement - SRCs, Children's Safety Village
- Professional Development Inspector
  - Training, Recruiting, Career Development, Video Unit
- Member Support - Re-integration, Chaplains

**General Counsel**

- Policy & Risk Management - Diversity & Inclusion

## Human Resources



Through its continued involvement in the development and execution of the Service's business strategy, the Human Resources Unit supports the Service in providing quality policing services to the residents and visitors of the Niagara Region. During 2019, the Unit undertook a joint process with the Niagara Region Police Association to modernize the Civilian Job Classification System. Through a comprehensive review of the civilian job classification tools and their application, the Service and the Association updated the Job Evaluation Plan, provided training to members and supervisors on the processes and established job evaluation guidance notes to support the team and ensure consistency in the evaluation process.

The Human Resources Unit was also involved in the development and implementation of an Onboarding Program to ensure that new members are provided with the information and support that they need to successfully transition into the organization. The formal process starts at the job offer stage and continues through the first 90 days after hire; and includes, but not limited to, information about the Service, the requirement to complete mandated training, and an introduction to common acronyms used within our work environment.

### 2019 Hires

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<b>Uniform</b>	40
<b>Civilian</b>	34

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<b>Total Hires</b>	74
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## 2019 Retirements and Resignations

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Chief	0	SOA Civilian	1
Deputy Chief	0	Civilian	21
Superintendent	1		
Inspector	0		
Staff Sergeant	5		
Sergeant	4		
Constable	24		
<hr/>			
<b>Total Uniform</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Total Civilian</b>	<b>22</b>

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## Police Services Board Approved Sworn and Civilian Staffing Complements – December 31, 2019

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Chief	1	Director	2
Deputy Chief	2	Managers	11
Superintendent	4	Civilian Personnel	306
Inspector	14		
Staff Sergeant	29		
Sergeant	112		
Constable	551		
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<b>Total Uniform</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>Total Civilian</b>	<b>319</b>

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Recruit Graduation – Class of April 2019



## Awards, Commendations and Milestones

Annually the Service pays tribute to the men and women, both sworn and civilian, for their exemplary work, dedication and successes. In addition, the organization recognizes members of our community for their selfless acts of courage. Highlighted here are the recipients of our awards and recognized achievements.

### **Police Services Board Commendation**

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**Saved a Drowning Victim after Motor Vehicle Entered Water**  
Michael Descamps, Andrew Colavecchia, Devon Hawkes Michael

**Suicide Attempt at Borgoyne Bridge**  
Nixon, Robert Osborne and Gregory Summerfield

### **Police Services Board Award of Excellence**

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**Recipients** – Wendy Rung

### **Police Services Board Medal of Merit**

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**Recipients** – Constable Duk Kim and Constable Michael Warnock

### **Chief of Police Award**

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The Chief of Police Award is presented by the Chief of Police to current or retired members and others who have shown special achievement or community involvement, which falls outside the criteria of other Service Awards.

#### **Project Unity**

Detective Sergeant Brett Atamanyk  
Detective Sergeant Matthew Hodges  
Detective Constable Jeff Bootsma  
Detective Constable Shawn Cunningham  
Detective Constable Colin Campbell  
Detective Constable Chris Doherty  
Detective Constable Leisha Holmes  
Detective Constable Jay Howe  
Detective Constable Erin MacLean

Detective Constable Jamie Schneider  
Tara Harmsworth Violent Crime Analyst  
Patricia Vadacchino, Assistant Crown Attorney  
Kimberley Simmons, Port Cares

### **Chief of Police Commendations**

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A Commendation may be granted to members of the Service who have demonstrated an act of self-sacrifice, bravery, and/or outstanding performance over and above the highest expectations of the Service.

Commendations may also be granted to citizens by the Police Services Board or the Chief of Police for acts of self-sacrifice, bravery, or actions that assist the police service, which far exceed those expected of a citizen.

#### **Managing Police Performance Project**

Inspector Pat McCauley, Detective Sergeant Nilan Davé, Sergeant Tara Henderson, Rany Audeh, Yul Beauchamp, Brent Cowan, Paul Divers, Cathy Hunt, Cheryl Pathe, Laura Rullo, Krista Neilson and Courtney Woods

#### **Information Leading to a Bank Robbery Arrest**

Arlene Hedden, Riley Hedden and Matt Crocker

#### **Assisted Injured Officer**

Dawn Small and Delaine Van Dyk

#### **Family Violence/Barricaded Person**

Constable Joshua Kalailieff  
Constable Corey Easby  
Constable Al Rivet  
Constable Vusumuzi Nyathi  
Constable Andrew Oosterhoff  
Constable Maxim Blouin-Pelletier  
Constable Candace Wilson  
Constable Brian Wierenga

#### **Assisted in the Saving of Life of a 5-year old Boy**

Robert Steckley, Lucas Blazek and Christopher Robidoux

#### **Arrest of Five Accused of Shootings in Thorold**

Sergeant Andrew Knevel  
Detective Sergeant Brian Bleich  
Detective Constable Jeremy DiFranco  
Detective Constable Dan Bielby  
Detective Constable Geoff Poirer  
Detective Constable Mike Dowd  
Detective Constable Jay Howe

### **50 Year Bar**

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**Recipient** - Sergeant William Schoenhals

### **30 Year Bar**

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A Police Officer who is a recipient of the Police Exemplary Service Medal is eligible to be awarded a bar for each ten year period of full service with a recognized Canadian Police Service, provided the Exemplary Service standard is maintained for each 10 year period. The Chancellery of Canadian Orders and Decorations maintains an official register containing the names of each officer who has been awarded both the 30 year and 40 year service periods.

#### **Recipients**

**Inspector** Pat McCauley, Michael Woods

**Staff Sergeant:** Murray Haday, David Weeks

**Sergeant:** Paul Blakely, David Shawn Briggs, Thomas Manney, Thomas Thibert, John Warner

**Constable:** Daniel MacKinnon, Donna Orth, Todd Millan, Thomas Plato, James Tallevi

## 20 Year Medal

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The Police Exemplary Service Medal is awarded to Police Officers who have completed a minimum of twenty years of full time service with one or more recognized Canadian Police Services, provided his or her service records meets an exemplary standard to qualify for receipt of the award.

All medal recipients are awarded a personalized engraved medal, together with an official certificate, recognizing their exemplary service. The Chancellery of Canadian Orders and Decorations maintains a register containing the name of each officer who has been awarded this prestigious designation.

### Recipients

**Inspector:** Todd Waselovich

**Staff Sergeant:** Mark Di Egidio, Robert Laplante, Shaun Parrent

**Sergeant:** Raymond Aceti, Todd Arsenaull, Michael Casella, Angela Day, Steven Dever, Richard Gadreau, William Gurney, Tara Henderson, Joshua Klop, Jay Levasseur, Jeffrey Leavins, Philip Liciskai, Erin Madill, Bruce Mair, Virginia Moir, Dennis Osti, Jonathan Pilkington, Brian Rogers, Sarah Rose, David Shaefer, Jim Taylor, Shawn Turcotte, Michael Woodfine

**Constable:** James Alderson, Salvatore Basile, Bryce Diemer, Darin Hemaer, Craig Fyfe, Jeffrey Inch, Eric Johnson, Ajay Lal, Christian Lawson, Christian Lott, Jeffrey McAllister, Charles McChesney, John Moolman, Shannon Murray, Michael Rees, Ronald Ryan, Steven Spink, James Sunners, Timothy Sviergula, Ronald Tufford

## Peace Officer 20 Year Medal

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**Recipients** – Special Constables Dennis Bland, Joanne Cudney, Eric Hobbs, Ian Lafferty, Tina Majuery, Dwayne Moormann, Dave Peshko, Margaret Simon

## 30 Year Civilian Service Recognition

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### Recipients

John Arp, Marion Bye, Monica Chitty, Paul Cieri, Kelly Kraushar, Jacqueline Lightfoot, Lori McPherson, Kimberley Robb

## 20 Year Civilian Service Recognition

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### Recipients

Barbara Boland, Cheryl Chaisson, Dawn Cichocki, Michael Cross, Krista Degazio, Donna Harris, Paula Martin, Jayne Mcchesney, Tracey McNulty, Rochelle Smiley

## Auxiliary Medal

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**Recipient - 20 Years** – Auxiliary Staff Sergeant Christina Albert

## District Officer of the Year Award

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### Recipients

**Executive Services** – Constable Tara Manherz

**Auxiliary Unit** – Auxiliary Constable Ravenet Kaur

**Investigative Services** – Constable Rosaire Engelen

**Emergency Services** – Constable Brent Sathmary

**Court Services** – Special Constable Chris Tolsma

**1 District, St. Catharines** – Constable Charlene Zimmerman

**2 District, Niagara Falls** – Constable Sara Mummery

**3 District, Welland** – Detective Constable Jessica Tacinelli

**5 District, Fort Erie** – Constable Jennifer Nelson

**6 District, Port Colborne** – Constable Chris McComber

**8 District, Grimsby** – Constable Dwaine Haughie

**Casino Patrol Unit** – Constable Mazen Freweit

## Jeff Paolozzi Memorial Award

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The Jeff Paolozzi Memorial Award is presented each year by the Niagara Region Police Association to a uniform member who exemplifies the core values of the Association and who has promoted the mutual interests of the membership and the law enforcement profession. The Award is named in memory of Constable Jeff Paolozzi who tragically died on duty during a training exercise.

**Recipient** – Staff Sergeant Sandy Staniforth

## Retirees

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### Police Officers

**Superintendent:** William Bench

**Staff Sergeant:** Dale Braun, Shawn Clarkson, Gordon Nash, Paul Rogers

**Sergeant:** Ian Burbidge, Wayne Genders, Daniel Marr, William Wiley

**Constable:** David Brown, Douglas Croft, Christine Derksen, Ronald Derksen, Mark Dougan, Richard Dykema, Catherine Gage, Gary Holt, Ronald Hrcak, Michael Kelly, George Knisley, Donald Laing, Daniel MacKinnon, Kevin Michener, Ted Riehl, Elaine Sonnenberg, Paul Zarafonitis

### Civilians

Annette Carrey, Linda Ciszek, Thomas Craig, Donna French, Robert Harris, Geoffrey Holmes, Maria Izzo, Craig Johnson, Elizabeth Kierstead, Hugh Nayder, Lucie O'Neil, Roberta Perry, Catharine Portolesi, Helene Pracchia, Nancy Speck

## Peter Gallant Memorial Award

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The Peter Gallant Memorial Award is presented each year by the Niagara Region Police Association to a civilian member who exemplifies the core values of the Niagara Region Police Association and who has promoted the mutual interests of the membership and the law enforcement profession. The Award is named in memory of Peter Gallant who was a long serving Communicator and mentored many civilian members over his long career.

**Recipient** – Stephanie Latham

## Chief James A. Gayder Memorial Award

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Senior Officers' Association Award is presented to a civilian member of the Police Service who has made a significant contribution to the community and/or the Police Service.

**Recipients**– Shirley Valstar and Jane Cocco

### Civilian Member of the Year Award

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The Civilian Member of the Year Award is presented to two civilian members who have consistently demonstrated reliability, professionalism, competence, and a commitment to the goals of the Service and served as positive role models to their supervisors, co-workers, and community.

**Operational/Executive Services Recipient** – Tracey Gervais

**Support Services Recipient** – Julia Durham

### Traffic Safety Leadership Award

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The Traffic Safety Leadership Award is presented to a sworn member of the Service, or a team comprised of sworn or civilian Service members whose actions have exemplified the traffic related goals and objectives of the Service's Strategic Plan and the Traffic Management Plan.

**Recipient** – Constable James Alderson

### Community Policing Officer of the Year Award

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The Community Policing Officer of Year Award is presented to a sworn member of the Service, a team comprised of sworn and civilian Service members who has best demonstrated and exemplified a commitment to Community Policing.

**Recipient** – Constable Dave Marynuik

### Sergeant Major Brian Davidson Memorial Award

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This award is presented to a sworn, civilian, or retired member of the Service who best exemplifies the goals of the Chief's Ceremonial Guard and the Niagara Regional Police Service. This member of the Chief's Ceremonial Guard exemplifies drill and decorum for the Service and serves as a positive role model for the Service and the community.

**Recipient** – Crystal Malachowsky

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

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The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award is presented to a sworn member of the Service, or a team comprised of sworn and civilian members that have: established and maintained meaningful working relationships with a diverse community, contributed and exhibited efforts towards furthering diversity related initiatives, displayed leadership, professionalism, and inclusivity, or implemented an initiative that goes well beyond in a particular community and is highly impactful on policing in Niagara.

**Recipient** – Constable Gul Mohammad

### Tele-Communicator of the Year Award

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The Tele-Communicator of the Year Award is presented to a Communications Unit member who has through personal action and initiative made significant contributions to public safety and to furthering the mission, values, and beliefs of the Niagara Regional Police Service.

**Recipient** – Samantha Belansky

### Media Award

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The Media Award is presented to a local media personality who delivers to the community, newsworthy material received from and relating to the Niagara Regional Police Service in a manner that satisfies the public's right to know, while at the same time respecting the obligations of the Service.

**Recipient** – Diana Weeks



## Budget Overview



### Budgeted vs. Actual Expenditures

Expenditure	Budgeted	Actual
Personnel Costs	149,937,850	149,606,943
Administrative Expenses	3,859,588	3,825,672
Operational & Supply	2,251,400	2,476,288
Occupancy & Infrastructure	298,197	311,149
Equipment, Vehicles, Technology	6,436,584	6,199,488
Financial Expenditures & Regional Chargebacks	(1,316,257)	(1,416,445)
Net Transfers to Reserves	3,150,000	3,491,918
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>164,617,362</b>	<b>164,495,012</b>

Personnel costs accounted for 91% of the Service's gross expenditure in 2019

### Budget vs. Actual Recoveries and Revenue

Revenue Description	Budgeted	Actual
Fees & Service Charges	5,849,431	5,800,277
Ontario/Canada Grants	10,007,795	9,651,756
Other Revenue	2,045,923	2,328,766
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>17,903,149</b>	<b>17,780,799</b>
<b>Budgeted vs. Actual Costs</b>	<b>146,714,213</b>	<b>146,714,213</b>





## Member Support Unit



The year 2019 saw the continuous development and utilization of the Member Support Unit. In total there were 62 recorded Peer Support contacts. In addition there were 59 members who had interaction with the Member Support Unit for various reasons. CISM was involved in 12 formal debriefings in 2019 which involved a variety of calls and units.

Early in 2019 the Chaplain's Unit was moved under the umbrella of the Member Support Unit. The Chaplains continue to demonstrate their commitment to the NRPS members and their family by engaging in Ride-a-Longs, performing ceremonies both within the service and for service members, providing counselling and being available for any other activities deemed appropriate.

In June Of 2019 Member Support organized a training opportunity for several Peer team members as well as selected members of the Training Unit. The training was provided by the Edmonton Police Service and focused on Reintegration. Edmonton Police Service has become world renown for this program and Niagara was the first service to bring the training to Ontario. This training was instrumental in the submission of a business case and subsequent approval for a dedicated Reintegration team member for 2020. There are two programs within the Reintegration program; the first is a short term program mandatory for anyone involved in a shooting, the second program in a long term program that is for anyone who has been absent from the workplace for whatever reason. Both programs focus on what that member requires individually to assist them in returning to their duties healthy.

In October of 2019 the Service Psychologist, Dr. Jennifer Short started with the NRPS. Dr. Short has previous experience working in a police service as well as working with police officers which has already proven successful in her short time with the service. Dr. Short's addition to the service has allowed the service to follow best practices in regards to CISM debriefs as well as initiate a review of current programs and provide strategic recommendations for the overall health and wellness of NRPS members. Subsequent to the training, Member Support assisted in helping reintegrate some members back to frontline duties following the model and peer driven philosophy. Also in 2019, Dr. Short presented to Executive Leadership on PTSD as well as Member Support initiatives and goals for the future.

The Member Support Unit put forward a proposal to devise an Early Intervention pilot project. The program is designed to systemically capture thresholds of frontline officer's responses to critical events, overtime and complaints; including SIU, OIPRD, Chiefs Complaints and Civil processes. The goal of the program is to promote supervisory awareness and intervention with the officer to encourage any available resources before the member experiences an occupational stress injury and extended absence from the workplace. The pilot project is anticipated to start in 2020.



# Contact Us

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