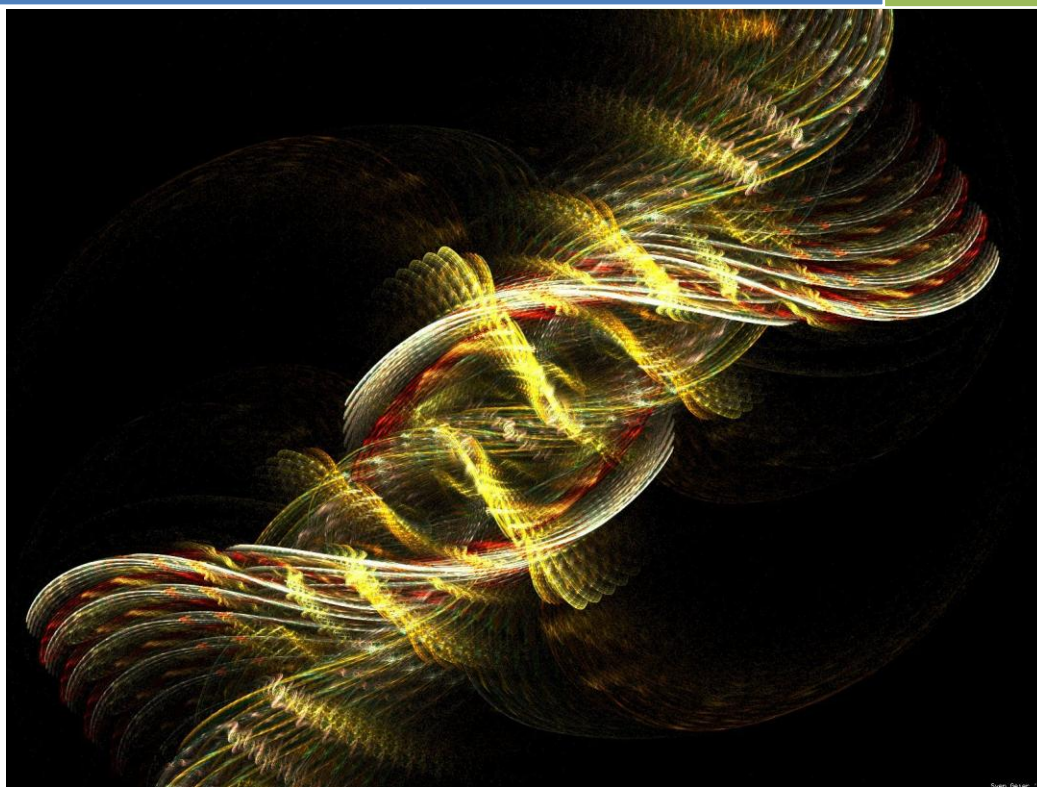




2011-2012

**NATIONAL DNA DATA BANK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT**



NDDB AC

2011-2012

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Introduction

The National DNA Data Bank (NDDB) was established pursuant to the *DNA Identification Act*, 1998, c.37 and commenced operations in June 2000. The DNA Data Bank Advisory Committee was created pursuant to the *DNA Data Bank Advisory Committee Regulations*; P.C. 2000-635 May 4, 2000, and functions as an independent body to assist the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in ensuring the NDDB operates in compliance with legislation and regulations. Its role is also to provide the NDDB with strategic guidance and direction concerning scientific advancements, matters of law, legislative changes and ethical practices.

The NDDB operates as a national service to all Canadian law enforcement agencies under the stewardship of the RCMP and is part of Forensic Science and Identification Services under the Policing Support Services Branch (now called Specialized Policing Services) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As of March 31, 2012, the NDDB contained 316,020 DNA profiles which are broken down into two principal indices:

1. The **Convicted Offenders Index (COI)** is an electronic index that has been developed from DNA profiles collected from offenders convicted of designated primary and secondary offences identified in Section 487.04 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, and
2. The **Crime Scene Index (CSI)** is a separate electronic index composed of DNA profiles developed by Canada's operational forensic laboratories from crime scene investigations of the same designated offences addressed in the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

Crime scene samples are analyzed and the DNA profiles are uploaded into the NDDB by the three Canadian forensic laboratory systems:

- The RCMP Forensic Science and identification Services (RCMP, FS&IS with sites in Halifax, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver);
- The Centre of Forensic Sciences (CFS) in Toronto and Sault Ste Marie;
- The Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale (LSJML) de Montréal.

The NDDB contributes to the administration of justice and safety of Canadians by assisting in the early identification of those who commit serious crimes across all police jurisdictions in Canada while protecting innocent persons by elimination of suspicion and wrongful conviction. It assists law enforcement agencies in solving crimes by:

- Linking crimes together where there are no suspects (CSI to CSI match)
- Helping to identify suspects (CSI to COI match and/or CSI to CSI match)
- Eliminating suspects (no match between crime scene DNA (CSI) and COI profile in the NDDB)
- Determining whether a serial offender is involved.

National DNA Data Bank Advisory Committee

The National DNA Data Bank Advisory Committee was formalized under the authority of the *DNA Data Bank Advisory Committee Regulations*. The Committee members are recommended by the Commissioner of the RCMP and appointed by the Minister of Public Safety for a five year term that can be renewed. Members of the 2011-2012 Committee are:

Garry Loeppky, (Chairperson) Deputy Commissioner RCMP Operations (Rtd), Police Community Representative.

Chantal Bernier, Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

Dr. Frederick Beiber, Canadian born Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Beiber is a medical geneticist and a specialist in bio-medical ethics.

The Honorable Peter Cory, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Chancellor Emeritus of York University and Special Advisor to the Federal Department of Justice.

Giselle Cote Harper, O.C., Q.C., Legal Expert on Human Rights. Barrister and Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Laval, Sainte-Foy, Quebec.

Dr. William S. Davidson, Medical Genetics Specialist and Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.

Dr. Ron Fournay, Director, Science and Strategic Partnerships, Forensic Science and Identification Services, RCMP. Dr. Fournay is a research scientist and a founding member of the RCMP DNA program. He has been instrumental in the development and implementation of forensic DNA typing in Canada.

In 2011, the NDDDB Advisory Committee lost a valuable member, Dr. George Carmody, who passed away suddenly. He was world renowned for his expertise in the fields of population genetics and statistics and their application to DNA analysis. Intensive efforts have been undertaken to find a suitable replacement and the Advisory Committee is confident that the position vacated by the loss of Dr. Carmody will soon be filled.

The Advisory Committee also recognizes and has discussed the importance of succession planning as Committee Members complete their terms of appointment, and work is underway to ensure both continuity of membership but also to identify what additional expertise may be required as the science evolves.

DNA Data Bank Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (TOR)

The TOR which were drafted pursuant to the creation of the NDDDB Advisory Committee in 2000 were reviewed to ensure that they remain relevant as the science of DNA evolves. Furthermore, the

expectations of the public, both with respect to public safety but also protection of privacy have placed additional focus on the role of the Advisory Committee. Consequently, minor modifications to the TOR were drafted which strengthens the Mission to permit the Committee, on its own motion, to bring relevant issues on the forensic use of genetic information to the attention of the Commissioner. The Objectives and Scope includes a provision for the Advisory Committee to recommend changes to legislation or procedures resulting from advancements in forensic DNA research and analysis. The amendments to the Terms of Reference are unanimously supported by the Committee and have been submitted for approval to the Commissioner.

Guests of the National DNA Data Bank Advisory Committee

October 21, 2011 Teleconference

No Guests

December 06, 2011 Teleconference

Carmen Baggeley representing Mme Bernier, Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada

Dave Morissette Royal Canadian Mounted Police (FS&IS)

February 09 – 10, 2012 Meeting

Assistant Commissioner Peter Henschel, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (FS&IS)

Lynda Iwanoff, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (FS&IS)

Dave Morissette, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (FS&IS)

Andre Savoie, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (FS&IS)

Isabelle Trudel, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (FS&IS)

Trevor Bhupsingh, Public Safety Canada

Julie Mugford, Public Safety Canada

Greg Yost, Department of Justice

Kelly Morton-Bourgon, Department of Justice

Dr. Martin Somerville, University of Alberta

Rochne Harmon, California District Attorney (Retired)

This report covers the period from May 2011 to April 2012. During that period of time the National DNA Data Bank met twice by teleconference and once in February 2012 for a full two day meeting. The February meeting was provided with updates on NDDB initiatives and updates with respect to

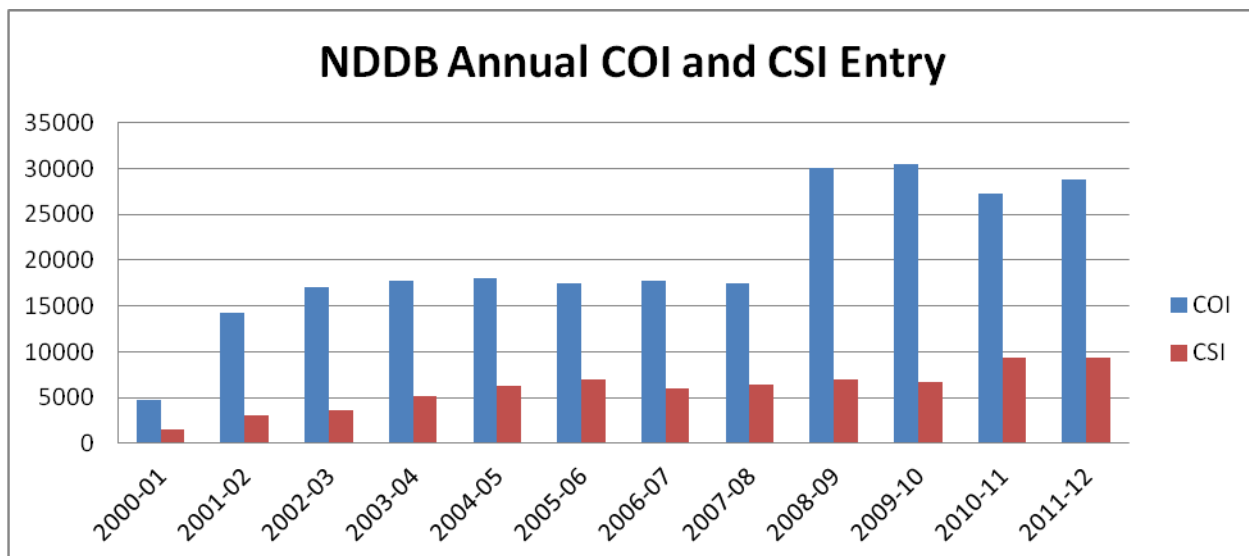
ongoing projects such as the DNA Retroactive Collection Project. The two keynote speakers centered on a presentation on Familial Searching by Rochne Harmon and a presentation/discussion with Dr. Martin Somerville on privacy and protection of information in the NDDB pursuant to a presentation to the Senate Review Committee in 2010 by Dr. Somerville.

NDDB Year End Summary

The success of the NDDB can be measured in a number of ways. The NDDB continues to send out survey forms after each hit is made in the NDDB to assess whether, and to what degree, the NDDB provided assistance that was not otherwise available and which assisted the investigation. Based on responses provided in the last year, in over sixty percent of the cases involving either a forensic or offender hit the NDDB served to identify a suspect. Equally as important, in almost seven percent of the responses received, the NDDB result served to eliminate a suspect. The positive responses received from police investigators in this quality of service questionnaire supports the important role that the NDDB plays in criminal investigations.

Another means of assessing the success of the NDDB can be noted in the number of samples added to the data bank indices. Changes in legislation over recent years which have broadened the category of offences for which DNA can be taken from convicted offenders have contributed significantly to the increased number of entries in the COI. The following are the profiles contained in the NDDB COI and the CSI as of March 31, 2012:

Convicted Offenders Index 242,184
Crime Scene Index 73,836
TOTAL 316,020



When compared to the total Data Bank profiles in March 2011 (279,293), it reflects an increase of 36,727 entries into the NDDB over the last year. As more DNA profiles are entered into the NDDB, the number of days required for the NDDB offender hits to increase by 1,000 has decreased. It took more than three years for the NDDB to reach its first milestone of 1,000 hits. In 2011/2012, that same 1,000 increment milestone was achieved in less than three months.

In 2011/2012, the Convicted Offenders Index hits to crime scene DNA seizures numbered 3,437 while forensic hits (crime scene to crime scene matches) numbered 353. This is a clear indication of the value of the science in solving crime and promoting public safety. The NDDB has also assisted both Canadian and the international law enforcement community via Interpol based on a formalized International DNA sharing agreement. As a result of 894 incoming search requests, a total of 4 hits (2 COI and 2 CSI) have been made while 148 outbound requests from the Canadian law enforcement community have resulted in 2 hits (1 COI and 1 CSI).

The NDDB continues to monitor the quality of convicted offender sample submissions. Approximately 1.4% of Convicted Offender kits submitted to the NDDB from across Canada were rejected. To improve the quality of submissions, the NDDB provided client training in 2010/11 to a number of locations in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, and Quebec. This training was provided to law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and sheriffs. Additional training is planned for British Columbia, Yukon, Maritime Provinces and the military police at Borden, Ontario in the 2012/2013 fiscal year. It is anticipated this will result in greater quality control by those submitting samples, although the Committee is quick to point out that training is a critical ongoing endeavour and recommends that it continue to be a priority for the NDDB staff.

To ensure effective program delivery, the NDDB has a complement of 28 positions with two vacancies as of March 2012. Three new understudies have been hired within the DNA program and in house training has taken place covering the NDDB's laboratory processes, workflow and Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) hit management.

In terms of technological enhancements, there are a number of ongoing initiatives that will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the NDDB. An update to the CODIS system is underway which will ensure that the NDDB and its CODIS partner laboratories will continue to have the most rapid, current, and innovative DNA matching technology. The new CODIS software will enhance future forensic DNA capabilities as the technology and science evolve and prepare the NDDB for potential legislative amendments. FBI CODIS experts will be installing the new CODIS 7.0 software in Ottawa and migrating the NDDB DNA profile databases to new hardware in the coming fiscal year. In addition, FBI instructors will be providing training on the new version of CODIS to representatives from the NDDB, the Centre of Forensic Sciences (CFS), the Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale (LSJML) and RCMP Biology Services. Following this training session the NDDB will be installing new hardware and CODIS 7.0 software in the Toronto and Montreal Laboratories. The NDDB is preparing to upgrade its STaCS sample tracking and analysis software. This will support and enable the implementation of new DNA technologies and enhance the ability to distinguish between related and unrelated individuals.

The NDDB is in the process of installing new TECAN robots as a replacement for their aging robotics platform. In the coming year it is anticipated that the installation of the robots will be completed, the STaCS-RCMP sample tracking and analysis software will be updated or replaced and final validation will be done for introducing the new DNA typing technologies in convicted offender sample processing. Training of staff will be completed and workflows modified to ensure optimal efficiency in sample throughput and sample processing costs.

As a part of the Government of Canada's commitment to ensure uninterrupted service delivery, the NDDB is developing a business continuity plan to provide uninterrupted national CODIS access and

retention of STaCS data should the Ottawa site become unavailable. A contingency plan for backup convicted offender sample processing in Edmonton is also under development. The RCMP's National Centre for Forensic Services in Edmonton, Alberta has been selected as the backup NDDB location. Should funding be available, additional hardware and software will be installed in the Edmonton laboratory in the coming year to accommodate this initiative.

DNA Retroactive Collection Project

On June 30, 2000, the *DNA Identification Act* was proclaimed (Bill C-3) which established the NDDB and allowed for the collection of biological samples from individuals found guilty of designated Criminal Code offences on or after June 30, 2000, and for uploading the resulting profiles to the Convicted Offenders Index. The legislation also included provisions for the collection of samples from individuals convicted of designated offences before June 30, 2000. These provisions allowed judges, upon application, to retroactively issue a DNA authorization requiring an individual to provide a biological sample. These retroactive samples were only permitted to be taken in the most serious crimes and were restricted to individuals who, prior to June 30, 2000, had been:

- Declared a dangerous offender.
- Convicted of two or more murders committed at different times.
- Convicted of at least two sexual offences, sentenced to at least two years for one of these and on the date of application was serving a sentence for a sexual offence.

Two significant amendments to the DNA Identification Act and Criminal Code have broadened the retroactive provisions since Bill C-3 was passed. On May 19, 2005, Bill C-13 was passed which allowed for retroactive samples to be taken from:

- Dangerous sexual offenders under Part XXI of the Criminal Code.
- Convicted of a single murder.
- Convicted of a sexual offence and on the date of application was serving a sentence of imprisonment of at least two years for that offence.
- Convicted of manslaughter and on the date of application was serving a sentence of imprisonment of at least two years for that offence.

Bill C-18, which was passed in January 2008, added several additional provisions to the retroactive process which allowed samples to be taken from:

- An individual convicted of attempted murder or conspiracy to commit murder and on the date of application was serving a sentence for that offence.
- An individual convicted of manslaughter or a sexual offence and still incarcerated.

As a result of the retroactive provisions and subsequent amendments in 2005 and 2008 to the *Criminal Code* which increased the number of qualifying offenders, and recognizing that a dedicated effort would be required to identify and ultimately have samples submitted from qualifying offenders, the DNA Retroactive Collection Project was established. Its mandate was to identify offenders (retroactive) who qualified for inclusion in the NDDB, prepare an information package for the Attorneys General of each province and territory, track the requests to ensure samples were collected and processed, and confirm that all qualifying offenders were processed.

NDDB Milestones	Offenders Identified for Retroactive Sample Collection
Bills C-3 and S-10: June 2000 to April 2005	2,243
Bill C-13: May 2005 to December 2007	3,873
Bill C-18: January 2008 to March 31, 2012	128
Total	6,244

The Retroactive Collection Project team was created with a compliment of 6 staff and ultimately identified 6244 offenders who qualified for inclusion in the NDDB. The number of retroactive offenders who now have profiles in the Convicted Offender Index as a result of this Project stands at 4,809, while 494 files remain open. The discrepancy is accounted for by offenders who did not qualify or terms were expired, files denied by the Attorney General, and offenders who were deceased or had been deported. The Project Team is continuing to pursue the outstanding 494 files and anticipates additional retroactive offenders will be added to the COI. Most importantly, there have been 119 crime scene to offender hits with Retroactive Offenders which have led to the solving of numerous violent and brutal crimes including murders and sexual assaults.

As one example, on the morning of September 6, 1992, a six year old female child was playing in her parent's yard in Edmonton when she was abducted, sexually assaulted, and killed. Two days later her body was found 9 kilometers from her home and despite evidence found at the scene, the case remained unsolved. Scientists were able to derive a complete DNA profile from the girl's clothing and in 2001 the DNA profile was entered in to the Crime Scene Index. In January 2003, a convicted offender biological sample was collected (2 sexual assaults and in custody) pursuant to the retroactive provisions of the *DNA Identification Act*, and his profile was entered in to the Convicted Offender Index. This resulted in a hit within the NDDB and in May 2005 the suspect was found guilty of first degree murder.

The resolution of long outstanding unsolved crime is not only critical from a public safety perspective but also serves to provide comfort and closure to victims' families and the community at large. The Retroactive Project has once again emphasized the vital importance of the NDDB and its role in public safety.

Review of Forensic Service Delivery in Canada

In its 2010 Budget, the Federal Government indicated that it intended to explore options for improving the processing of forensic materials and assisting law enforcement in its role by exploring different delivery models for forensic services. As a result, Public Safety Canada commissioned a research project to examine forensic service options. The contract was awarded in the spring of 2011 to Northumbria University Centre of Forensic Science (UK). The NDDB Advisory Committee was advised that the study was focused on forensic laboratories and did not include the NDDB. Forensic service is a vital component of most police investigations and is required to solve crimes, reduce investigational time and cost, and support the justice system to secure convictions and exonerate the innocent. In its update on the status of the project, Public Safety officials advised that they anticipated the study would be

completed in the late spring of 2012. The Advisory Committee is supportive of the study and is eagerly awaiting the release of the report given that several members of the Advisory Committee were interviewed by the research team.

Missing Persons DNA Index (MPI)

The Advisory Committee continues to follow the progress on the establishment of a Missing Persons Index pursuant to a 2010 Federal Budget allocation for that purpose. While there was no funding provided for a DNA component within the MPI at that time, the Committee continues to be supportive of a DNA Missing Persons and Unidentified Human Remains Index which would support investigations related to missing persons and unidentified human remains that are often high profile and have significant emotional impact on victims' families. However, it is necessary that an adequate and stable funding mechanism must be developed between federal and provincial governments prior to implementation of such an index.

Biology Casework Analysis Agreements

The Biology Casework Analysis Agreements (BCAA) were originally set up as a funding mechanism for the NDDB when it was established in 2000 to encourage submissions of crime scene profiles to the CSI of the NDDB. Under the BCAA's, the RCMP Contract Provinces agreed to share, with the Federal Government, the cost of biology casework analysis arising from investigation of designated offences. The Federal Government agreed to pay a share of the cost for biology casework analysis to Ontario and Quebec, since the laboratories in those provinces are provincially funded and the uploading of their crime scene profiles was considered to be a critical contribution to the NDDB program. Since that time a number of evaluations by Consulting and Audit Canada, Government Consulting Services, and Public Works have taken place with respect to the BCAA's with recommendations on an appropriate funding structure for both the BCAA's and NDDB which continues to operate without permanent funding. At this time, the RCMP contract jurisdictions pay a total of \$3.8 million per year to the Consolidated Revenue Fund to partially offset the cost of forensic analysis. The Biology Casework Agreements have been signed with all contract jurisdictions. The existing contract was set to expire on March 2012 with the option of three 1-year extensions, of which one has already been opted.

Public Safety has implemented a contribution program (the Biology Casework Analysis Contribution Program) which was approved by the Treasury Board of Canada in September 2010 to deal with the provincial laboratories in Ontario and Quebec. Under this agreement, Ontario and Quebec receive \$3.45 million each per year to assist the provincial laboratories. These contribution rates were identified in the 2010 Federal Budget which allocated \$14 million over two years to increase their ability to process DNA samples. Public Safety Canada updated the Advisory Committee during our meetings this year that both Ontario and Quebec have renewed five year agreements at the same funding levels approved in 2010 with the option. The agreements were set to expire in 2012 with the option of three, 1 year extensions (for which 1 has already been opted).

Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA)

The field of forensic DNA analysis continues to evolve at a rapid rate with the development of new DNA typing kits providing an enhanced ability to distinguish between related and unrelated individuals. It has been determined that the move from 13 DNA markers which are currently examined for

identification purposes to 16 markers constitutes a change in the collection of personal data since additional markers can potentially provide additional personal information. The NDDB was created in 2000 prior to Canada's Privacy Impact Assessment Policy came into effect and therefore was not required to submit a PIA for the personal information contained in the COI. As a result of the proposal to increase the number of markers the NDDB will be conducting a Privacy Impact Assessment to meet its obligations under the Directive on Privacy Impact Assessment which took effect April 01, 2010.

Department of Justice – National DNA Utilization Study

Since the creation of the NDDB, one of the challenges has been to accurately gather statistics on the usefulness of NDDB matches in police investigations. In 2005-2006, the Advisory Committee recommended that a study be undertaken to determine the effectiveness of the NDDB, while the *Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs* in 2010 recommended: *“That the National DNA Data Bank work cooperatively with law enforcement organizations to collect statistics describing the specific nature of the assistance it provides in police investigations through matches to the convicted offenders index (COI)...”*

The Federal Department of Justice funded a research project in 2011 to study the utilization and effectiveness of forensic DNA in police investigations and criminal prosecutions. This study should conclude with a report being provided to the Department of Justice in 2012. The research project is being conducted by Dr. Darryl Plecas, Director, Centre for Public Safety and Criminal Justice Research at the University of the Fraser Valley in British Columbia and will involve an examination of 8 police jurisdictions in the greater Vancouver area to determine the impact of DNA matches in police investigations and gain a better understanding of how matches are used in practice by the police community.

Canadian Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM)

SWGDM was created pursuant to a memorandum of understanding signed on January 31, 2011, between the Centre of Forensic Sciences, Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale and the RCMP to establish a forum to discuss, share, investigate and evaluate forensic DNA technologies, methods, practices (protocols, training and research), both current and future, to enhance forensic DNA services in Canada. It is composed of DNA experts from all three public forensic laboratories who research, review, and provide recommendations on issues related to evolving DNA science and technology. They are currently developing an audit/review procedure for recommending to the NDDB and NDDB Advisory Committee a process for the acceptance of new technologies. The Advisory Committee will review the Canadian SWGDM Committee's report and evaluate its recommendations prior to advising the Commissioner of potential proposed changes. The Advisory Committee will also be inviting a Canadian SWGDM representative to brief the Committee at its next meeting with respect to activities and progress that has taken place pursuant to the creation of Canadian SWGDM.

Familial Searching and the NDDB

As indicated in previous reports, it has been shown that novel searching methods could allow for the expanded use of the NDDB to aid in the possible identification of criminal suspects who may be closely related to known offenders in the COI. This type of service has been offered by the Forensic Science

Service in the United Kingdom for several years and has led to the successful identification and conviction of offenders who otherwise would have remained at large. More recently, familial searching burst in to the limelight with its recent success leading to the identity of a serial killer in California who had terrorized the area for over 18 years and committed at least 10 murders. To date, Virginia, Colorado, California and Texas have adopted familial searching as an accepted investigative technique. It is important to note that familial searching has also led to the exoneration of an innocent person who had been convicted and served 19 years in prison prior to his brother being identified as the guilty party after a familial search was undertaken.

Familial searching is based on the well known principal of genetic inheritance. The testing process can strongly establish the existence of a close familial relationship (typically father-son or brother-brother) between the person who left the evidence at the crime scene and an offender profile in the data base. Mr. Rockne Harmon, Senior Deputy District Attorney (Rtd) from the Alameda County District Attorney's Office (California) provided an overview of current approaches to familial searching in California and elsewhere in the United States. It is important to note that the law enforcement community is not provided with any information unless testing results strongly support the likelihood that the evidence was left by a close relative of the offender. It is only at that point that the name of the offender is disclosed to law enforcement who can then use a number of lawful investigative techniques to identify the suspect family member, obtain a DNA sample, and determine whether there is a match between the reference sample and the crime scene evidence.

The Advisory Committee is well aware of the advantages and disadvantages of familial searching, especially as it relates to privacy implications of the science involved, the privacy issues related to the individual whose DNA profile is housed in the COI, and concerns expressed by various groups including the Office of the Privacy Commissioner. However, it is an evolving science and has significant potential to enhance public safety while also serving to exonerate innocent individuals. Should Parliament decide to authorize familial searching in Canada, it should be restricted to the most serious unsolved crimes for which the issuance of a DNA order upon conviction is mandatory, and should, as referenced in the June 2010, Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Report *"balance the need to protect society, the need to protect privacy rights, and the need to protect the presumption of innocence"*.

The Advisory Committee will continue to follow the progress of this technology as it evolves and report on results in other jurisdictions where its use is authorized.

Genetic Privacy and the Security of Information

Dr. Martin Somerville attended the Advisory Committee on February 9, 2012, as a guest presenter to discuss genetic privacy and the security of information as it relates to the operation of the NDDB. Dr. Somerville, as President of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists (CCMG), had previously appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on May 6, 2009, during their study on the provisions and operation of the *DNA Identification Act*. During his appearance before the Senate Committee, Dr. Somerville pointed out that the issues which most concerned the CCMG with respect to the *DNA Identification Act* were those related to the nature of the DNA information that was stored and the privacy of genetic information for individuals and their family members. Dr. Somerville's presentation and subsequent interactive discussion with the Advisory Committee was important to both Dr. Somerville and to the Advisory Committee in terms of clarifying

and resolving issues relating to the security framework around the DNA Data Bank, genetic privacy, and the legislative guidelines which are in place to ensure an appropriate balance between individual privacy and public safety.

Conclusions for 2011-2012

The Advisory Committee has been monitoring the operation of the NDDB for more than 12 years. Advances in science and changes in technology have enhanced the ability of the NDDB to respond more quickly with ever increasing demands made upon it. It continues to be the view of the Advisory Committee that the NDDB is fulfilling its role effectively and operating appropriately within the provisions of the *DNA Identification Act* and associated Regulations. However, the lack of a permanent A Base funding strategy limits the Data Bank's ability to maintain a full staff allotment, conduct research and evaluate new technologies to ensure currency with international partners, and provide a biannual client training to enhance efficiency. Further, the absence of permanent funding for the NDDB, which has been noted in previous reports, creates uncertainty within the program and for the dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to provide a world class DNA