



Royal Canadian Mounted Police    Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Commanding Officer    Commandant divisionnaire

Oct 6, 2022

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

Dear Minister Simpson,

***Re: Territorial Police Service Agreement – RCMP Annual Report (2021-2022)***

Pursuant to Article 7.2 (c) of the 2012-2032 Territorial Police Service Agreement (TPSA), I am happy to provide you with our report on the implementation of the Territory's objectives, priorities and goals for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The Minister of Justice determined that the 2021-2022 GNWT Policing Priorities were to:

- 1) Promote Trust and Confidence in Policing Services;
- 2) Enhancing Policing Services to Vulnerable Populations;
- 3) Operational and Fiscal Innovation;
- 4) Transparency and Accountability.

**Promote Trust and Confidence in Policing Services**

As the global pandemic continued to affect our way of life, "G" Division RCMP maintained an exceptional level of policing service in the Northwest Territories. Although challenges were faced, the division was able to promote confidence in policing services in the Territory.

As is the case every year, the Commanding Officer ensures that all detachments in the division create and maintain an Annual Performance Plan (APP) to ensure the RCMP priorities align with those of the community. APP's are created in consult with local community leaders and officials to support both Territorial and RCMP policing priorities. In addition to the APP, detachments create Community Action Plans (CAP) that identify yearly objectives that address the identified priorities. The CAP, is a collaborative effort between police and community resources, working together, towards a desired level of service in the community. Detachments report monthly through the Mayor/Chief Reports and quarterly through the CAP and APP. These reports show the progress against the identified priorities and highlight the excellent work the membership does on a daily basis.

As COVID-19 restrictions across the territory eased through the year, it was important to the Commander Officer to be as visible as possible, across the Territory engaging with community members and leaders. The Commanding Officer, along with divisional senior management, were able to make a number of community visits, as well hosting visits throughout the year, meeting with community members and officials. This included hosting the Commanding Officer's Indigenous Consultative Committee (COICC) for the first time since the onset of the pandemic. The COICC is comprised of ten elders from various communities across the Territory and is in place to provide guidance and support for





all members of the RCMP to assist with matters related to respectful and functioning relationships between the RCMP and the people of the aboriginal communities.

The Commanding Officer is committed to the continued development of Public Safety Protocols with our Indigenous communities. The purpose of the protocol is to establish trusting and reciprocal relationships with our communities to prevent crisis within the communities as well as resolving potential disputes at the earliest possible opportunity. Throughout the year, the Commanding Officer remained engaged with leaders of the indigenous communities in getting expired protocols re-signed and working towards agreements with the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the North Slave Metis Alliance. In this past year, the protocol between the Northwest Metis Nation and RCMP was renewed until 2024.

The RCMP remains committed to reconciliation efforts and promoting partnerships between the police force and the indigenous communities in which they serve here in the Northwest Territories. The RCMP Reconciliation Strategy for the Northwest Territories continues to serve as a guide for the organization and its reconciliation efforts. Community Orientation for members transferring into the communities is mandated throughout "G" Division and serves as a good introduction to the incoming members and their new community. "G" Division remains committed to training our employees in, but not limited to, de-escalation techniques, recognition of emotionally disturbed persons, crisis intervention, bias awareness, cultural awareness and humility.

### Enhancing Policing Services to Vulnerable Populations

"G" Division RCMP recognizes the necessity of working closely with our partner departments, as well as the leaders within the communities we serve. Senior Management continues to meet with elected officials in each community, per the Commanding Officer's Annual Performance Plan. Working with our elected officials provide valuable insight into the community issues and the steps to help address them. "G" Division RCMP remain committed to serving their communities and ensuring health and safety of those most needing assistance.

The "G" Division RCMP remain committed to using a community-oriented policing lens, in its response to survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). The Family Violence Coordinator (FVC) meets regularly with relevant stakeholders including, Territorial Government partners, Non-Government agencies and advocates from a wide range of communities. Through this collaboration, the "G" Division RCMP is able to continually improve upon its victim-centred trauma informed approaches when responding to intimate partner violence.

In this last year, "G" Division RCMP held two Sexual Assault Investigations Review Committees (SAIRC). Northwest Territories SAIRC was created to provide investigative oversight to randomly selected Northwest Territories sexual assault cases classified as "not cleared by charge", including files classified as "unfounded" to ensure investigations are thorough, impartial, properly classified and to identify any systemic gaps or barriers. The Northwest Territories SAIRC is comprised of the RCMP and other territorial stakeholders representing victim services organizations and victim/community advocates. In this last year, seventeen investigations were reviewed. Overall, the committee found that "G" Division RCMP investigations continue to improve in thoroughness,





timeliness and trauma informed practices. One community advocate who has been involved in reviews stated, "It is encouraging to be able to see improvements over time in the practices we're seeing in file reviews. Our feedback is taken seriously and acted upon, and we've witnessed real changes in the way that investigations are conducted and victims are treated, supported and followed up with." After each SAIRC, the "G" Division Family Violence Coordinator meets with detachment commanders to present the committees findings and discuss areas of improvement.

The "G" Division RCMP, through collaboration with the Northwest Territories SAIRC, created a "G" Division RCMP specific Sexual Assault Investigators course. The course included using trauma-informed approaches, responding to sexual violence experienced by Indigenous People and responding to sexual violence against people in the LGBTQ+ community.

### **Operational and Fiscal Innovation**

"G" Division ensures that our policing priorities are set clearly with the resources available to be able to meet our goals and objectives. As we continued to face the COVID-19 pandemic, many areas of operation had to fundamentally shift in order to continue providing policing services to our communities.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, still at times, inhibiting face to face interactions, the division continued to rely on innovative initiatives to conduct business. Go Virtual bail hearings was once such initiative that continued, as well as a virtual focus on divisional training programs. Both initiatives proved to have significant cost savings for the division and this virtual focus is intended to carry forward beyond COVID-19 due to the proven fiscal benefits to the division.

Despite the challenges faced through the pandemic, and the potential for costs that could have been incurred by the division, we were able to operate within our operational budget for the 2021/22 fiscal year.

### **Transparency and Accountability**

The effectiveness of policing is dependent upon the level of trust and support the public has in its policing institutions. In order to continue to earn public trust and support, the RCMP in G Division strives to be as open and transparent as possible and fully accountable for our actions. The RCMP in "G" Division recognizes the need to maximize transparency in relation to investigations into the actions of RCMP employees when those actions may have resulted in a major police incident. "G" Division RCMP has a memorandum of understanding with the Calgary Police Service to perform independent external investigations that the RCMP would otherwise conduct, wherever the actions of an RCMP employee have resulted in a major police incident. Investigations of "G" Division RCMP employees are fair, effective, thorough, impartial and culturally sensitive, and are conducted in a manner that promotes public confidence.

The RCMP recognizes the need to publicly disclose information on; police intervention (use of force), calls for service, including mental health-related calls and wellness checks and RCMP





employee diversity statistics. As part of the RCMP's ongoing commitment to increased transparency, the RCMP is sharing this information with the public to build trust. As this is a national initiative, for the first time, information is broken down by provinces and territories, rather than a national summary and provided a breakdown by: type of intervention, subject and officer inquiry, and, subject characteristics (whether the subject was perceived to be under the influence of a substance).

Globally, costs for policing and scrutiny into policing services are on the rise. As such, it is necessary for police forces and their partners, to examine policing models and expenditures to search for efficiencies and innovative ways to maintain or increase levels of service. "G" Division RCMP recognized this reality and together with the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Justice, collaborated with Meyer Norris Penney (MNP), to assess "G" Division RCMP's operational model. An Assessment was necessary, to determine what, if any, changes are needed to continue to be responsive to the needs of the people and communities of the NWT, while balancing the cost of delivering police services to the NWT. MNP's assessment highlighted both, the excellent work that "G" Division RCMP is doing and suggested opportunities for improvement. One such example, was the establishment by Justice of an Independent Police Oversight mechanism, a gap that most other locations have closed and or are closing. With participation completed, "G" Division RCMP will continue to work with partners and stakeholders regularly to discuss potential adaptations of operational models, that would address current and future innovations to best match the needs of the residents of the Northwest Territories.

### Highlights from the Division

#### ***North District***

The North District is comprised of 11 Detachments and a Relief Unit that provide policing services to 13 communities in the Beaufort Delta and Sahtu regions. Policing in the North District, combines traditional enforcement with community based policing efforts. This way of policing, engages RCMP members with the communities they serve and members learn traditional Indigenous culture.

2021/ 2022 was a challenging year for policing in the North District as in other areas of the Northwest Territories and Canada impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. As a front-line service organization, responsible for public safety and enforcement of the laws of the land, policing is a 24/ 7, 365/ year enterprise. Despite the challenges associated with the Pandemic, policing continued in all Beaufort Delta and Sahtu communities over the past year. Detachment personnel followed public safety guidelines implemented by the Government of the Northwest Territories Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, as well as internal RCMP policy guidance. Members responding to calls for service were guided in the conduct of risk assessments and the wearing of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as necessary which offered essential protection for the members and the public served.

Policing priorities are based on national policing strategies with an overarching theme of safe communities, as well as those policing priorities identified by the GNWT Minister of Justice. Localized





community policing priorities are identified through a consultative process guided by the Detachment Commander in consultation with community/ Indigenous leaders. Policing priorities are captured in Detachment Annual Performance Plans and Community Action Plans with clear objectives and initiatives assigned to Detachment personnel with reporting requirements. Over the past year, consistent community enforcement priorities in the North District included: Domestic Violence; Bootlegging; Impaired Driving; and Sexual Assault.

With respect to community based policing efforts, all North District Detachments included member wellness and activities specific to improving the relationship between RCMP personnel and Indigenous communities. Improving the relationship between the RCMP and Indigenous communities is key to the RCMP's efforts on road to Reconciliation. This includes but not limited to understanding and acknowledging past events that have impacted Indigenous culture through generations and the RCMP's involvement in those events. North District Management place heavy emphasis and expectations on Detachment personnel to be involved with the communities they serve both on and off duty. Community based policing activities are also included in Detachment Performance Plans. Some activities that have taken place in North District communities this past year:

#### **Aklavik**

- Consulted with Indigenous leaders on posting an item of combined Indigenous and RCMP significance relative to the local culture.
- A wall hanging was developed that captures the names and photographs of Special Constables from the community who served in Aklavik and helped members previously stationed there. A second wall hanging was purchased and donated to the community.

#### **Fort McPherson**

- Involved in multiple community events both on and off duty.
- Purchased and donated hockey equipment to the youth (including Tsiigehtchik)
- Donated books, toys, clothing and other items to the church and families during Covid outbreak.

#### **Norman Wells**

- Members met with a residential school survivor who talked about her experiences and offered suggestions to the members on ways to improve the relationship between the community and the RCMP.
- Detachment personnel provided a tour of the Detachment for 100 youth from the community recognizing the value of building a rapport with youth in a positive environment.

#### **Tulita**

- Embraced learning the Indigenous cultures and have participated in many cultural events and celebrations. Some events include hosting community BBQs, participating in Feeding the Fire





Ceremonies, hosting a Moose Hide Campaign designed to raise awareness of intimate partner violence, and participating in radio shows to address various community concerns.

- The Detachment Commander has been invited by Dene National Grand Chief Norman Yakeleya to participate in this year's youth hike/ camp on the Canol Trail.

#### **Inuvik**

- Members participated in various cultural events including but not limited to: MMIWG vigil; wellness gathering at Ingamo Hall; Inuvialuit Day activities; and other community events.
- Inuvik Detachment have on display in the lobby, flags representative of the Indigenous culture in the area: Gwich'in and Inuvialuit.

#### **Deline**

- Members of Deline Detachment assisted community elders setting and checking fish nets and providing fish to elders with mobility challenges.

#### **Fort Good Hope**

- Members commissioned local artist Mr Antoine Mountain to create a painting to include the RCMP crest and recognizing the contributions of Special Constables from the area who contributed and helped RCMP members stationed there. The painting is on display in the Fort Good Hope Detachment lobby.

#### **Paulatuk**

- Members engaged in after school sports activities with the youth.
- Facilitated 'Friday Movie Nights' for the youth.
- Organized the Moose Hide Campaign to raise awareness of intimate partner violence.

#### **Uluhaktok**

- Participated in a number of community events helping cook food for community feasts.
- Participated in various after school sports activities
- Assisted with coaching minor hockey.

#### **Sachs Harbour**

- Participated in many community events.
- Attended meetings with the Hunters and Trappers to educate themselves on traditional hunting/ trapping methods and travelled with local hunters on hunting trips.

These are just some of the activities that took place (and are continuing) in the Beaufort Delta and Sahtu communities. In addition to the referenced community based activities, Detachments have also included Restorative Justice in there Detachment Performance Plans with a target of at least 5 R J referrals per year. North District management feel that Restorative Justice is a key component in the judicial process



and in Reconciliation efforts as it empowers communities to address some of their issues in a traditional Indigenous manner away from the court system.

Detachments report on enforcement and community based policing priorities in Monthly Policing Reports. These reports outline enforcement/ crime statistics and activities specific to community based policing priorities on a monthly basis and are presented to community leaders. Presenting the reports in this manner enable community leaders to engage with Detachment Commanders on any aspects of the report itself and/ or other policing related concerns.

Covid Pandemic related restrictions throughout communities in the Beaufort Delta and Sahtu over the past year have certainly impacted and restricted the ability of Detachment personnel to fully engage in community based policing efforts. It is anticipated, that in the year ahead as restrictions ease and communities return to pre-covid states, Detachments will fully embrace community policing priorities. Detachments will continue in their efforts to revitalize the relationship between the Detachment and the Indigenous communities they serve. This is critical to solidify our intentions and commitment towards the path of Reconciliation.

### ***South District***

The South District has 11 Detachments, which provide policing services to 19 communities. Over the 2021/2022 fiscal year, employees of the South District have worked closely with partners, local agencies and leadership to enhance our policing service and target each community's needs and expectations when it comes to policing and community involvement.

During the development of the 2021 / 2022, RCMP annual performance plan each detachment commander met and had consultation with leaders from their respective communities to decide on local priorities and initiatives. The communities were encouraged to create priorities that met its citizen's needs. The work on the annual performance plans dovetailed into the creation of the community action plans. Throughout the year, the detachment commanders would present the monthly policing reports to leadership meetings and answer questions as needed.

A significant portion of promoting confidence in policing service is, engagement within the community. South District Detachments are engaged with many reconciliation and community initiatives. An example of some of these initiatives from the Detachments are:

#### **Behchoko**

- Attended a "feed the fire" ceremony the first Friday of every month in memory of Elders who had passed
- Participated in a drumming activity.

#### **Fort Liard**

- Members, organized a "Help the Elder" program, where they chopped wood, shoveled driveways and dropped off care packages. This initiative also provided for youth to be able to connect with Elders.



#### Fort Providence

- Detachment participated in the Jean Marie River flood evacuee donations
- Participation from detachment members and district management in a "feed the fire" ceremony dedicated to the memory of children of residential schools
- Participation in walk for National Truth and Reconciliation Day

#### Fort Resolution

- Participation in reconciliation wellness workshops at Mission Island
- Attendance at Mission Island cultural week in the summer, meeting Elders, participating in traditional activities such as harvesting and rawhide preparation

#### Fort Simpson / Wrigley

- Participation in a High school remembrance / reconciliation walk
- Members conducted a presentation at the school on the dangers of drugs and alcohol addiction
- "Positive ticketing" program whereby youth found wearing a helmet were given a coupon for a free slush

#### Fort Smith

- Members procured backpacks for all children ages K – grade 3. These were packed full of fun and educational activities, crafts and toys for children, and were handed out to dozens of youth in the community.
- Members organized a walk / rally in support of MMIWG, many detachment members and families participated
- Member and spouse implemented the "Toys for Tots" program which resulted in many underprivileged youth receiving toys at Christmas

#### Gameti

- Assisted an Elder with removal of items from her home for disposal in August
- Assisted an Elder with getting groceries and running errands in Yellowknife

#### Hay River

- Detachment partners with community agencies to have conversations surrounding assisting individuals with addictions and homelessness
- Enhanced foot patrols of downtown Hay River, assist vulnerable population with needs
- Partnership with community counselling to deliver internet safety presentations to at risk youth

#### Lutsel K'e

- Participation in a drum dance ceremony
- Participation in a Hide Fish Camp, assisting Elders and community members with nets





### Wha'ti

- Wha'ti members participate in a weekly Men's group to discuss community issues with Elders.
- Wha'ti Detachment members developed a traffic safety initiative in conjunction with the community government to distribute ATV and snowmobile helmets.
- Assisting the YWCA in attempting to set up a women's shelter

From April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 the South District RCMP, conducted 96 investigations where there was a charge laid for impaired operation of a motor vehicle. The RCMP continue to conduct proactive check stops and patrols to identify impaired drivers and engage in enforcement, as well as providing educational moments on the dangers of impaired driving. During the same time period, South District RCMP conducted 140 checkstops or traffic targeted enforcement actions (i.e. radar enforcement, intersection violation enforcement, etc.)

The South District continues to work with communities in combatting the exploitation of their citizens by the trafficking of illegal alcohol and drugs. Specifically, the Detachment in Fort Providence has had success in targeting the availability of illegal alcohol and hard drugs entering the community. Four significant seizures of notes are;

- January 28, 2021: As the result of a traffic stop. 20.5 litres of alcohol was seized from a bootlegger.
- February 4 2021: A Search warrant executed at a residence in Ft Providence, assisted by the Behchoko and Fort Simpson RCMP. 1.5 pounds of cannabis, 69 bottles of liquor and 4400 unstamped cigarettes seized. One male charged under the Cannabis Act, CC, Excise Act, 2001 and NWT Liquor Act.
- March 25 2021: Drug Investigation initiated: 1.5 ounce of cocaine, bear spray and \$6300 seized. One male charged with several CC and CDSA offences.
- July 2021: 2 search warrants were executed assisted by the Yellowknife Police Dog Service. \$11 000 seized and a large amount of drugs seized. Several charges laid under the CDSA, Cannabis Act and Criminal Code.

The RCMP continue to improve its response to vulnerable populations through a number of initiatives and meetings to stimulate communities to take action to protect the less fortunate. Where communities, such as Fort Simpson, have energized restorative justice committees the RCMP are referring matters to the committee prior to them entering the court system. In Fort Providence the RCMP have met with local leadership to stimulate discussion on alternative methods to manage people with addictions and who maybe without a home/living arrangement. It is believed that arresting people with addiction and lodging them in RCMP cells is not a process for long-term success. The RCMP engaged local leadership about a warming shelter and a sobering centre. In Behchoko, the RCMP supported the warming shelter when managing people with addictions as opposed to locking them in cells. In most detachments the RCMP are looking for alternative arrangements, ie: finding safe accommodations, using shelters before lodging people in cells.



## **Yellowknife**

Yellowknife detachment continues to have a strong working relationship with all partner agencies as all services continue to work to address the needs of their clients, albeit within different spheres and systems. Of note, during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Yellowknife detachment encountered a significant decrease in the volume of prisoners lodged compared to previous years. This occurred despite an increase in calls for service. This decrease is indicative of the detachment operations working collaboratively with the partner agencies to address the needs of the clients from the vulnerable population rather than criminalizing social issues such as addictions and homelessness.

During the fiscal year of 2021-2022, Yellowknife detachment general duty operations were engaged in approximately 263 impaired driving investigations. These investigations were either initiated by reports from the general public or self-generated by the general duty members themselves. As a result of these reports from the general public and the efforts of the detachment, approximately 111 criminal charges of operation of a motor vehicle while impaired were laid by the detachment and forwarded for prosecution. Of note, Cst. Russell Grimshaw of Yellowknife detachment was the lead investigator for approximately 51 of these impaired driving charge investigations.

In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Yellowknife Detachment's General Investigation Section (GIS) made approximately 35 arrests related to drug trafficking in the City of Yellowknife, resulting in approximately 54 drug trafficking charges being laid. Additionally, the GIS executed more than 22 search warrants at various locations across the City of Yellowknife. The efforts of Yellowknife GIS this past fiscal year were entirely commendable and greatly reduced the pervasive threat of organized crime in the City of Yellowknife.

One noteworthy investigation stemmed from the involvement of a group of men who were arrested for trafficking crack cocaine, possessing a handgun and assaulting a female with a handgun and a machete, stemming from an incident on November 4th, 2021 in Yellowknife. An analysis of their cellular phones stemming from their involvement in this serious matter led to the identification of a group of 5 men from Edmonton who were operating a cocaine trafficking network in Yellowknife and enlisting youth from Alberta to traffic and sell cocaine in the city. As a result of this investigation, approximately 150 grams of cocaine were seized along with \$70,000. Conspiracy to traffic in cocaine, other drug related charges and proceeds of crime charges were laid against 5 individuals.

Additionally, the GIS provided extensive support to the general duty policing operations of Yellowknife Detachment by assisting with serious Criminal Code offences, namely, aggravated assault, attempted murder, robbery and other weapons and violent offences. As a result of their investigations into these matters, GIS seized six handguns and charged seven people with a number of Criminal Code offences related to firearms offences.

In 2021/2022, the Community Policing and Victim Services (CPVS) unit for Yellowknife Detachment focused primarily on crime prevention by providing educational presentations on online safety related to identify theft, fraud, harassment, impersonation, uttering threats and consent, predominantly sexual consent. These presentations were given to youth between Grades 6-11 in all school districts in the City





of Yellowknife, as well as the schools in Dettah and N'Dilo. Other presentations included information on policing in Canada and an overview of *Charter* rights and responsibilities for newcomers to Canada, via Inclusion NWT, career information presentations on RCMP and bullying information for the younger grades throughout all of the schools.

Internally speaking, CPVS developed and presented information to the general duty members on FASD awareness and provided a refresher on Restorative Justice in Yellowknife. CPVS also liaised with DVTO court and arranged for presentations on their programs for each general duty watch. CPVS liaised with YKDFN regarding a cultural orientation initiative for members. CPVS attended the Hand Games event in Dettah in addition to regular community patrols and storefront attendance.

In the City of Yellowknife, CPVS partnered with the St. Pat's SADD group on alcohol consumption and impaired driving awareness. In the summer of 2021 CPVS did boat patrols on Great Slave Lake, and also completed bike and foot patrols in the downtown core. CPVS participated in regular bi-monthly meetings with community partners such as the Good Neighbours Committee, CABS (Community Advisory Board on Homelessness). CPVS collaborated in a working group with GNWT justice and NTHSSA on revising outdated child abuse protocol and was part of the working group developing the "G" Division content for the Sexual Assault Investigator's course.

### **Major Crime Unit**

The "G" Division Major Crime Unit (MCU) continues to provide investigative support on all Northwest Territories Sudden Death investigations, Homicide Investigations, Serious Persons Crimes, Missing Person Investigations, Internet Child Exploitation Investigations and member-involved investigations as directed by Criminal Operations. The Major Crime Unit also provides training and support in the area of investigative interviewing, judicial authorizations as well as investigational oversight to all Detachments within the Division.

In the 2021/2022 fiscal year, Major Crime was deployed 13 times. Of these 13 deployments, 2 were deemed homicide/manslaughter investigations, resulting in charges being laid in both of these investigations. The additional deployments included several suspicious death investigations, member-involved investigations, as well as support to the "G" Division Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit. MCU is the main point of contact for all investigations within the Division that require/utilize Digital Data Extraction.

MCU also was the lead investigative unit into further threats against the Chief Public Health Officer resulting in the identification of the individual responsible, but no charges were deemed appropriate in these incidents. MCU has also taken the lead of investigations surrounding threats to RCMP members and their families in some of the more isolated communities.

### **Historical Case Unit**

The Historical Case Unit (HCU) continues to investigate all historical homicide, suspicious death, and long-term missing persons files in the Northwest Territories. Extensive review and action of investigative



tasks continues in these files, which span decades of previous investigation. HCU investigators have also been maintaining family contacts, organizing DNA to be submitted to the National Missing Person DNA databank, and maintaining current knowledge of non-conventional policing techniques and advancements in DNA technology.

The data migration project, consisting of a team of three Public Servants (one Information Systems Application Specialist position, and two internally funded Information Processor administrative positions) are working within the Historical Case Unit supporting the migration of the "hard copy" box files in to an electronic format. In terms of the data-migration process, one selected file is 100% completed, meaning uploaded electronically and organized to meet the needs of the investigators. Another file is 99% uploaded to electronic format, however, will require a significant time to be organized. A third investigative file is approximately 35% uploaded with an estimated 2000 documents scanned. Each investigative file includes thousands of documents, photos, audio/video...etc. The process is long and arduous but will assist the investigators with review, strategy, and preparation for disclosure once a case is resolved.

### ***Internet Child Exploitation Unit***

The Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit was lead on 27 files the previous fiscal year, the majority having been assigned from the National Child Exploitation Crime Centre in Ottawa (international files). Assistance, investigative support and oversight to detachment lead files, was provided by ICE for approximately 35 investigations. The majority of the investigation offences consisted of sexual assault, sexual interference, child pornography, luring, distributing intimate images, extortion and voyeurism. Charges were laid for 11 of the files, several remain under investigation awaiting forensic analysis with charges anticipated in the future. The ICE unit's mandate includes education to the public to increase internet safety awareness. The unit was unable to fulfill any of the education component due to operational investigations. A business case was approved by the GWNT in spring of 2022 for three additional positions (2 RM's and 1 PSE). As those positions are staffed, it will help to alleviate some of the current investigational backlog. This will allow some time to dedicate towards education and safety presentations to students, parents and the public.

### ***Traffic Services***

The mandate of Traffic Services is to improve traffic/road safety on NWT roads and highways through enforcement and education. Over the 2021/2022 fiscal year, Traffic Services worked with detachments and partner agencies throughout the NWT to increase patrols and enhance visibility/enforcement efforts on NT highways and roads. A primary focus on increased presence for Highway 3 and Highway 4 continues on a regular basis. Highway 3 has been subject of major concern as there has been a lot of media and political attention for road safety. Extra patrolling on Hwy 3 has been implemented providing the chance for Traffic Service Members an opportunity to educate the public and also enforce infractions.





Traffic Services has increased joint patrols with surrounding detachments across the division to make sure that education and enforcement is not concentrated solely in Yellowknife and Hay River. This has allowed us to provide educational resources to these detachments and their officers. Traffic Services has worked with detachments around the NT to assist with training new recruits. Traffic Services takes these recruits for working ride along shifts, teaching them about our mandates, strategic frameworks and legislation surrounding our enforcement. Traffic Services has and continues to assist members in alcohol/drug impaired driving detections using best practices in investigating and documenting impaired driving.

In the Spring of 2022, Traffic Services partnered with ENR in conducting joint patrols of Ice Road extension of Highway 4. This was to address concerns of impaired driving in hunting areas along the Ice Road. While no charges were recorded, the enhanced visibility of these patrols was well received.

In partnership with our Media Liaison team we have increased education through media releases regarding road safety. Divisional and National Road Safety Strategy initiatives including Operation Gingerbread, Road Safety Week, National Impaired Driving Enforcement Day(s) and Operation Impact were very successful because of increased patrols. Detachments throughout the NT took part in these initiatives as well as Territorial and Municipal partner agencies.

Traffic Services continued to partner with Training Branch to increase training of detachment members on the use of Alco Sensor FST roadside screening device. Since some courses are only offered outside the NWT it was difficult to continue our momentum from the previous year with increased training with Qualified Breath Technicians, Drug Recognition Expert training and Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST). COVID-19 restrictions significantly reduced ability to hold this type of training, which requires close contact and the collecting of biological samples. With the lifting of restrictions, plans are well underway to increase training, including the use of the newly acquired SoToxa units (roadside drug testing).

The COVID pandemic has resulted in the postponement of several operational plans due to travel restrictions, inability to safely secure required resources and concern for the health of safety of members and clients. Plans are no underway to visit more remote locations for enhanced traffic enforcement (Dempster and Tuktoyaktuk Highways).

### ***Critical Incident Program***

The RCMP deploys specialized units such as Emergency Response Teams (ERT), Crisis Negotiations Teams (CNT), Scribes and Critical Incident Commanders (CIC) under the collective umbrella of the Critical Incident Program (CIP). Each segment of the Critical Incident program provides expertise and special tactics to safely and effectively resolve any critical incident in the NT from armed and barricade situations to executing high risk Search Warrants. All members of the ERT are highly trained and skilled in tactical operations and utilize specialized equipment. ERT are used extensively to resolve inherently complex and high-risk situations, and over the past year "G" Division CIP was deployed on 12 separate occasions. Additionally, ERT has been able to deploy partial resources as a "tactical assist", lending advanced expertise for safe outcomes, without the necessity of deploying the entire team. To ensure





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sufficient numbers of ERT, "G" Division established a formal agreement with "M" Division (Yukon). This partnership has greatly benefited both the NT and Yukon Territories over the past year ensuring a fully

functioning ERT with sufficient numbers of highly trained and qualified personnel to safely and effectively resolve any high-risk situation in either jurisdiction. This partnership was utilized during the homicide and subsequent 3-day manhunt in Fort Smith. This resulted in the efficient and successful capture of the suspect, while ensuring the safety of the community.

### ***Community and Indigenous Policing***

"G" Division's Community and Indigenous Policing Unit consists of a Cpl. NCO i/c and a Cst. Metis Coordinator. The Unit responsibilities include: Promoting Community Policing related initiatives/ programs in all NT communities; Creating new and strengthening existing relationships and partnerships with Metis and Indigenous leaders/ Communities; provide as liaisons between RCMP Senior Management and Indigenous/ Metis Leaders; and provide advice and guidance to RCMP management on Indigenous/ Metis culture as they relate to RCMP policies and procedures.

Over the past year, members of the Community and Indigenous Policing Section travelled to various communities in the NT participating in Indigenous and Metis Annual General Meetings (AGMs) with RCMP senior management. Members of the Section participated in various community based trade shows and career fairs throughout the NT, promoting the RCMP as a career choice with Indigenous and Metis youth.

Section personnel coordinated bi-annual meetings of the Commanding Officer Indigenous Consultative Committee (COICC). These meetings bring together respected Indigenous regional representatives throughout the NT to discuss matters relating to policing and public safety within their communities/regions with the Commanding Officer.

The NCO i/c Community and Indigenous Policing represents the Division on the National Reconciliation Committee. Reconciliation continues to be a priority for the Section with emphasis on understanding Reconciliation and identifying meaningful activities and related initiatives that will continue to build trust and improve relationships between the RCMP and the communities we serve. As an example, over the past year, Section personnel assisted in the organization of a virtual (due to COVID-19 restrictions) Blanket Exercise for RCMP personnel. The Blanket Exercise is an interactive culturally facilitated event that walks participants through significant historical events that negatively impacted Indigenous people.

### ***Proactive Recruiting***

The "G" Division Recruiting Unit has one Pro-active Recruiter that is responsible for the Territory and is based out of Yellowknife. Due to still present COVID-19 restrictions, many in person events were cancelled in this last year and where possible these events moved to a virtual platform. The Pro-active recruiter is continually engaging, supporting and participating in indigenous events where they can actively speak with those interested in policing.





### ***National Sex Offender Registry***

The National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) maintains a database that contains up to date information on registered sexual offenders (RSO). It is important to recognize that once an individual has become a RSO, they are bound to comply with several obligations. These obligations are identified under the Sex Offender Registration Information Act (SOIRA). If an individual has failed to comply with their obligations under SOIRA, then they are non-compliant and could be charged under the Criminal Code. Most commonly, an individual becomes non-compliant when they have failed to complete their annual registration. This database is maintained so that the NSOR can meet their primary objective: to prevent and assist with the investigation of sexually motivated crimes.

As with many aspects of policing and life in general, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the operations of the NSOR unit. Mandatory quarantine, isolation, and an overall reduction of in person contacts made for reduced registrations and increased initial non-compliance rates throughout the Territory. However, with time, the unit was able to adapt to and overcome these challenges.

This year, the NSOR unit partnered with local RCMP Detachments and conducted joint operations to manage RSOs in the Northwest Territories. These operations included: locating and addressing non-compliant offenders; conducting verification checks; and follow ups with offenders that are deemed to be a high risk to re-offend. These operations also help to increase understanding of the NSOR program at the detachment level. Working in conjunction with these detachments provided the opportunity to locate and register non-compliant offenders as well as educate officers in the program.

NSOR also initiated several criminal investigations throughout the Territory to address non-compliant offenders. Last year the unit initiated 65 criminal investigations and completed approximately 50 additional offender contacts outside of the above-mentioned operations. The unit also laid 27 criminal code charges for failure to comply with obligations and issued 6 arrest warrants for non-compliant offenders.

At the end of the fiscal year, G Division NSOR has 385 registered offenders with 26 being none compliant (Approximately 6.7%). This brings G Division to second in the Nation only behind Ontario. Of those that are not compliant, 9 have outstanding arrest warrants; 8 of which are believed to be in other Provinces, and awaiting address verification so their files can be transferred to their respective areas, and 1 is non-compliant due to medical reasons. This has been a vast improvement in our compliance rates from past years.

Lastly, NSOR has been identified to conduct quality assurance checks of sexual assault investigations that have been deemed unfounded. An investigation is considered unfounded if it has been determined through police investigation that the offence reported did not occur, nor was it attempted. Last fiscal year, NSOR conducted 24 unfounded sexual assault reviews.





***Federal Policing***

For 2021/2022, the Federal Arctic Unit continued to balance the Policing Priorities of the Northwest Territories with the Federal Policing National Priorities. The Federal Arctic Unit is an integrated unit comprised of Financial Crimes, Serious Organized Crime and Division Criminal Analysis Section.

**Financial Crimes:**

The Financial Crime Unit has the mandate to investigate complex frauds and assist in the prevention of frauds through public awareness. The majority of the work the unit undertakes involves frauds committed against the GNWT and local governments, although the unit has undertaken large investigations where the size and scope of the file are beyond the operational capabilities found at the Detachment level. The unit has also taken the lead in assisting and providing mentorship to detachments within the Territory on files that fall short of the unit's mandate as well as offering support and training with respect to reviewing judicial authorizations for all detachments in the Division.

**Serious Organized Crimes:**

Combatting transnational drug trafficking has long been identified as a priority for the NT due to the negative effects had on our communities, which is aligned with the Federal Policing priorities. Cocaine continues to remain the most common illegal drug in the NT, which is being imported from the southern provinces. Most of the proceeds from illicit drugs in the Northwest Territories are being funnelled to southern organized crime groups and investigation into Proceeds of Crime are a key element to disrupt the sale of illicit drugs. In October 2021, a search warrant was executed at an apartment in Yellowknife. Crack cocaine and cash proceeds of crime were seized and 24 years old male from Edmonton was charged. The matter is before the courts.

**Division Crime Analysis Section (DCAS):**

DCAS was engaged on the territorial and federal front throughout the year. DCAS continued to produce relevant and actionable intelligence products in relation to the ongoing trend of organized crime networks expanding from the Southern Provinces into the NWT. In 2021-2022 DCAS contributed to the Alberta/ NWT Threat Assessment through subject profiles affecting the NT. DCAS continued to expand the network on Foreign Actor Interference (FAI) through partners and training. DCAS has engaged numerous partners both domestically and internationally to ensure accurate reporting.

DCAS has provided support to the successes of several Territorial units by assisting Major Crimes Unit, Yellowknife General Investigation Section, and numerous detachments throughout the Division. DCAS has created tactical products that have resulted in investigational, operational, and judicial successes. DCAS also provided assistance to present statistical data on the trends in the NT over the past three years to the ADM as well as the impact of the Tlicho all-seasons road to the Tlicho road committee. DCAS has continued its support of human trafficking awareness and investigational support in the NWT through the open source monitoring of illicit electronic marketplaces and social media posts that are in the public domain.

**Other Mandates:**

Covid-19 certainly affected a number of activities being conducted by Federal Arctic Unit. In the year 2021-2022, there was no VIP visits to the territory to report. Also, the pandemic affected our ability to





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conduct proactive / informative presentations on Human Trafficking priority. However, the human trafficking activities in the NWT during the pandemic was also in the decline. These remains a priority for the unit will increase their proactive actives in the new fiscal year. Marine patrols in the Beaufort Sea as part of our Border Integrity initiative continued to take place in the summer as part of the whole of government response to Arctic Sovereignty.

Thank you, for taking the time to review our annual report. RCMP "G" Division, looks forward to continuing our strong working relationship with the Territory and providing excellent policing services to its people and communities.

Sincerely,

Supt. Jeff Christie  
Acting Commanding Officer  
"G" DIVISION RCMP