

YORK REGIONAL POLICE ANNUAL REPORT 2020







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Chair Virginia Hackson

The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board
Mayor of the Town of East Gwillimbury

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE POLICE SERVICES BOARD

On behalf of the York Regional Police Services Board, I am pleased to present the 2020 York Regional Police Annual Report. This past year has been unprecedented and challenging. However, the Board continued to exercise its governance responsibility and the Board and York Regional Police continued to ensure safety and security for York Region residents.

The Board welcomed a new member last year, Walter J. Perchal, who has the professional and lived experiences to assist the Board in meeting its mandate.

The Board selected Chief Jim MacSween to lead the organization over the next five years and also recruited and selected Deputy Chiefs Cecile Hammond and Paulo Da Silva to join the rest of the Executive Command Team to ensure that residents of this Region continue to receive quality policing services in an equitable, fair and inclusive way.

The Board met with leaders and representatives of the Black community to address policing concerns and to identify and address plans for action. The recommendations are aimed at delivering policing programs and services in a respectful, bias-free and equitable way to racialized communities in York Region.

This Annual Report details initiatives and accomplishments that demonstrate the importance of partnerships with all levels of government, our stakeholders and the residents of York Region to ensure successful, safe and strong communities. The report also provides statistical information on community safety and public complaints, key objectives, outcomes and achievements of the police service and outlines the actual costs of policing services in the Region.

I invite you to take some time to review the report and learn more about policing outreach and initiatives, which support and promote community engagement, crime prevention and victim support programs.

York Regional Police Services Board Members



Chair, Mayor
Virginia
Hackson



Vice-chair,
John
Molyneaux



Mr. Wayne
Emmerson,
Regional Chairman
and CEO



Mayor
Maurizio
Bevilacqua



Mr. Josh
Cooper



Ms. Jennifer
Fang



Mr. Walter J.
Perchal



Chief Jim MacSween BA

Chief of Police
York Regional Police

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

On behalf of Deputy Chiefs Brain Bigras, Paulo Da Silva, Cecile Hammond and Robertson Rouse, I am pleased to present to our community the York Regional Police 2020 Annual Report.

While 2020 was a year filled with challenges and worry, it also proved to be an opportunity for our members to truly test their dedication, inner resources and operational skill as we continued to keep our community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 was also a year when social justice issues took a global stage. I've been a police officer in York Region for three decades and I'm very proud of the strong relationships we have developed with all our diverse communities. However, as an organization, we know there is more work to be done and we are committed to leading the change that's needed, both in our community and in our organization.

We know there are often invisible barriers that prevent people from feeling a sense of belonging and inclusion. As a result, we have implemented an Inclusion Strategy that incorporates a multi-year, anti-racism education program for our members to promote equitable and inclusive practices at our workplace.

In the following pages, you'll find stories of our success in dismantling organized crime groups, bringing human rights education to our young people, service innovation during COVID-19 and our commitment to ensuring we remain leaders in technology.

We expanded the services delivered by the Mental Health Support Team and provided the technology for citizens and businesses to submit video evidence through an online portal.

Our members said goodbye to a respected police leader, Chief Eric Jolliffe, as he retired in April after a 40-year career and said hello to our first female Deputy, Cecile Hammond, an experienced senior officer with extensive administrative and operational knowledge.

We also wished Deputy Chief André Crawford the best as he retired after 34 years of dedicated service and welcomed Deputy Chief Paulo Da Silva to the Executive Command Team. Over his career, Deputy Da Silva has led a number of continuous improvement and innovative police initiatives in finding efficiencies.

We were named one of the Greater Toronto Area's Top 100 Employers for the fifth year in a row and one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for Young People for the second.

Our members' efforts in caring for our community continued in 2020, including the 2020 Holiday Heroes campaign, and we've shared some of those stories here as well.

As always, we are grateful for the ongoing support of members of our Police Services Board and regional and municipal councils who provide the support and resources we need to achieve our goals.

FAREWELL



RETIRED CHIEF
ERIC JOLLIFFE



RETIRED DEPUTY CHIEF
ANDRÉ CRAWFORD

Following impressive 40 and 34-year careers, respectively, YRP bid farewell to two esteemed police leaders in 2020 who served their community with integrity and compassion.

MEET THE EXECUTIVE COMMAND TEAM

In 2020, YRP welcomed three new members to the Executive Command Team (ECT). Chief Jim MacSween, Deputy Chief Paulo Da Silva and Deputy Chief Cecile Hammond joined Deputy Chief Brian Bigras and Deputy Chief Robertson Rouse. Together, the ECT has a combined total of more than 130 years of dedicated service to the community.



CHIEF OF POLICE JIM MACSWEEN

Chief Jim MacSween began his policing career in 1989 and was named Chief in April 2020. He brings a balance of operational, administrative and strategic experience to this role. Chief MacSween is responsible for 2,300 employees, an operating and capital budget of \$390 million and the community safety of 1.2 million citizens.



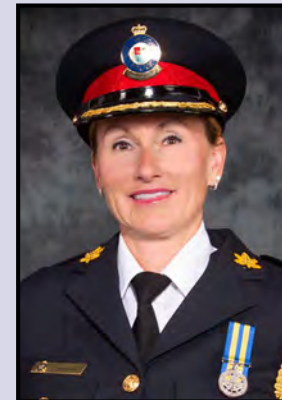
DEPUTY CHIEF BRIAN BIGRAS

Deputy Chief Brian Bigras began his career in 1990 and was named deputy in 2019. He has extensive experience in operations, governance, labour relations and community engagement. He sits on several joint-forces committees, including the Greater Toronto Area Integrated National Security Enforcement Team and the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit.



DEPUTY CHIEF PAULO DA SILVA

Deputy Paulo Da Silva joined YRP in 1997 and was appointed deputy in 2020. He has served as the officer in charge of Infrastructure Services and leveraging innovation and technology, spearheaded the communications modernization for first responders. He is the recipient of the Governor General Exemplary Service 20-year Medal.



DEPUTY CHIEF CECILE HAMMOND

Deputy Chief Cecile Hammond was named YRP's first female deputy in July 2020 after 22 years of service. She has served across the organization, including as the officer in charge of the Intimate Partner Violence Unit and Corporate Development. She sits on numerous committees, including the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement Advisory Council and is the recipient of the Governor General Exemplary Service 20-year medal.



DEPUTY CHIEF ROBERTSON ROUSE

Deputy Chief Robertson Rouse was named deputy in 2018 after 30 years of operational and strategic experience. He was the officer in charge of Staff Services and the Sexual Assault Bureau. He is the recipient of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council Award for distinguished service to the community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DURING THE PANDEMIC



Over the past year, our members found new and innovative ways to engage with the communities they serve. We may have been six feet apart, but we were very much together throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

#1 District: *Cold Weather Care Packages*

Many homeless shelters across the region have been operating at maximum capacity since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With beds difficult to find, members at #1 District launched the Hope in Motion program to support homeless members of the community, especially during winter months. Led by Constable Alison Cornfield, officers assembled warming packages with socks, mitts, winter hats, hand and foot warmers and coffee gift cards. These care packages were loaded into all #1 District cruisers so officers could distribute them to those in need.

#2 District: *Cruiser Crammed*

While officers and members of the community kept their distance, there wasn't any room to spare inside a police cruiser filled with non-perishable food donations on March 27. Organized by #2 District Community Oriented Response officers, the annual Cram-a-Cruiser Food Drive was especially important in 2020 as food banks across the region faced increasing need. This year's event benefited the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank and included a cash donation of nearly \$2,000.

#3 District: *Food Drive for Local Families*

From the early days of the pandemic, members of #3 District realized that COVID-19 could have a significant financial impact on already vulnerable residents of their community. Staff Sergeant Beth Milliard, Constables Kyle Chalmers and Bruce Baker and Detective Constables Kevin Selwood and Anna Way took action by organizing a food drive in support of the Georgina Food Bank. By April, the team collected nearly 500 pounds of non-perishable goods and cash donations, which supported 60 local families in need.

#4 District: *Bike Safety Lesson Goes Viral*

While on routine patrol in Vaughan, Constable Aleskandar Mihajlovic came across a group of kids riding their bikes. He noticed that some of the youngsters weren't wearing helmets and gave them a quick lesson on the importance of bike safety. Constable Mihajlovic then treated the entire group to ice cream cones. This sweet gesture was captured on video by an onlooker and posted to social media, where it went viral with more than 700,000 views.

#5 District: *Snow Patrol for Seniors*

Winter months during the pandemic were especially challenging for residents with mobility issues, including seniors. To lend a hand, Detective Constable Ryan Smith launched the Snow Patrol. Through this initiative, #5 District officers checked in on Markham residents after a snowfall to shovel their driveways and porches. A clear pathway was especially important for those that relied on delivery services for groceries and medications. In its first two months, the Snow Patrol was deployed about 20 times to support those in need.

PANDEMIC PLANNING

York Regional Police assembled a multidisciplinary team responsible for maintaining operations and keeping our members and community safe throughout the pandemic.



The first time Detective Sergeant Chris Plante wrote the word pandemic in his notebook was January 23, 2020.

The exact text was: "Emerging pandemic in China. Consideration should be given to YRP planning. Meeting scheduled between Emergency Management and Health and Safety."

As the officer in charge of the Public Safety Unit, Detective Sergeant Plante was tasked with assessing the potential impacts of COVID-19 on YRP and our community.

"From the early days of the pandemic, our goal has always been to ensure the continuity of policing services, while keeping the community and our members safe," he said.

And thanks to a truly collaborative and multidisciplinary approach, YRP has done just that.

A COVID-19 Response Team was established, made up of sworn and civilian members from across the organization, including Occupational Health and Safety, Purchasing, Information Technology, Capital Projects and Facilities, Human Resources, Corporate Communications, Support Services, Strategic Services and the 9-1-1 Call Centre.

The team worked closely with provincial, municipal and emergency service partners to respond effectively to instances of COVID-19 in the workplace and develop safety practices and procedures.

YRP took a number of steps to ensure everyone's safety, including rigorous sanitization of all police facilities and vehicles, procurement and management of personal protective equipment, daily health screening, a work-from-home program and strict physical distancing procedures.

Throughout the pandemic, the 9-1-1 Call Centre remained open, frontline officers were on the road ready to respond to calls for service, investigative units continued their work and the new Call Diversion Unit was launched to field non-emergency calls and respond to Emergency Management Act and Civil Protection Act calls.

"I'm so impressed by the tremendous agility our members have demonstrated," said Chief Jim MacSween.

"But at the end of the day, one thing hasn't changed. And that's our ability to provide essential services to our community and ensure the well-being of our people."

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

- **2,736 respirator fit tests**
- **240,000 surgical masks purchased**
- **3,951,704 millilitres of hand sanitizer aquired**

BRAVERY ON THE FRONTLINES

When a Thornhill family was trapped in a devastating house fire, four frontline officers from #2 District put their lives on the line to answer the call.



When Detective Adam Bosomworth arrived, the first on scene, he was greeted by a 40-foot wall of flames.

"I've responded to house fires before, but never like this," he said. "The smoke was so thick."

Bosomworth and his #2 District 'C' Platoon mates were dispatched to a residential house fire on Colborne Avenue in Thornhill on July 2, 2020.

When Detective Bosomworth, alongside Constables Matthew Doodnauth, Amanda Tiracelli and Brett Sammeroff responded, their first priority was to ensure that the family of four made it out safely.

With the front of the house completely engulfed in flames, Bosomworth led his team to the backyard, where they met a frantic teenager. Her parents and sister, who uses a wheelchair, were still inside.

Bosomworth found the mother at the rear door area and directed her out of the house before heading inside with Constable Sammeroff.

They quickly located the father, who relies on a walker, and carried him to the back door, where Constables Tiracelli and Doodnauth led him to safety.

Despite the thick smoke and flames, Bosomworth and Tiracelli knew they had to go back inside in search of the daughter.

"We just took a deep breath and ran back in," said Bosomworth. "Through the smoke, we saw her sitting in her wheelchair by the stairs. We moved fast to pick her up and carry her outside."

Given the extraordinary heat and smoke, the officers retreated with the family to the rear of the backyard.

Fellow officers and the Canine Unit arrived on scene to assist with emergency first aid and to cut a hole in the fence, so the family could be evacuated from the property and treated by paramedics.

"The whole rescue only took a few minutes, but it felt like a lifetime," said Bosomworth. "At the end of the day, everyone was safe. There's no better outcome than that."

For their bravery in the line of duty, Detective Bosomworth and Constables Doodnauth, Tiracelli and Sammeroff were among the officers and 9-1-1 Call Centre communicators who were honoured with a Chief of Police Award.

More importantly, the courage of these officers saved the lives of four people.

CALL DIVERSION UNIT

Frontline officers, dealing with an increasing number of calls, had been working with an internal committee exploring methods to balance workload and more efficiently respond to non-urgent, non-emergency calls.

Frontline officers have seen a steadily increasing volume of calls across York Region in recent years. An internal committee called Nova had been working to find ways to ensure officers' time is used more effectively with the goal of reducing frontline response to non-emergency calls.

And then the pandemic hit.

Already looking to place greater focus on the core functions of policing, where officers' skills are most valued and needed, when COVID-19 restrictions came into effect, members of Nova knew it was a perfect opportunity to implement the Call Diversion Unit (CDU).

Officers in the CDU field non-emergent calls for service, file police reports and provide advice to citizens for non-violent and non-emergency matters, such as thefts from vehicles or vandalism.

Constable Robert Li joined the Call Diversion Unit in March 2020 and has dealt with calls both ordinary and extraordinary, including an incident where a \$450,000 luxury sports car was stolen from a residence.

The CDU responded to 12,007 calls between March 18, 2020 and December 31, 2020, diverting 18,104 hours of non-emergent work from frontline officers.

"Certain types of calls for service can be resolved much faster over the phone," said Staff Sergeant Brad Weick, who oversaw the implementation of the CDU. "This gives our frontline officers more time to focus on emergency calls, which is when our community needs them most."

It has worked so well that moving forward, the CDU will be a full-time permanent unit, with future enhancements planned, such as integrating telephone and online crime reporting.

Nova is one of several internal working groups at York Regional Police, which are operating under a larger initiative called Breakthrough, aimed at inspiring positive change across our organization to support and include all members.



SUPPORTING THOSE IN CRISIS

Our Mental Health Support Team pairs police officers and crisis workers who respond to individuals in crisis, providing them with access to the support they need.

For the past 16 years, York Regional Police has been responding to members of the public experiencing mental health crises with two-person teams comprised of an officer and community crisis worker from the York Support Services Network (YSSN).

Known as the Mental Health Support Team (MHST), these multidisciplinary duos work together to support those in crisis.

"We've done armed and barricaded. We've responded to people high on drugs," said crisis worker Catherine Deveau. "I think having a crisis worker helps to de-escalate calls, which in the end decreases the number of hospitalizations."

The presence of a trained crisis worker at mental health-related calls has reduced the number of incidents where people have to be apprehended for hospital care from 53 per cent to 18.

"People want crisis workers to go into a call independently. What they don't realize, is that's not safe," said Deveau. "It doesn't work if it's just a crisis worker. It doesn't work if it's just an officer. It's a partnership."

Constable Claire Ellins explained that as the uniformed component of the response team, it is her job to determine whether the situation is safe for the crisis worker. Sometimes, this requires going in alone first to assess things, while other calls can be handled as a team from the start.

"Any call in policing can be quite dynamic, whether it's mental health or not," she said.

In 2020, the team responded to 7,062 mental health-related calls, which is a 40 per cent increase from five years ago.

In addition to an increase in community need, the MHST also had to navigate significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortly into the pandemic, our crisis workers were temporarily taken off the road and relocated to the Call Diversion Unit (CDU) where they provided support remotely.

In June 2020, crisis workers returned to the road and with additional staffing provided by YSSN, and the MHST continues to provide remote services with the CDU as well.



EVIDENCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

YRP continues to be a law enforcement leader in technology, constantly leveraging new technology to improve service to our community and find time-saving efficiencies for our members.



In 2020, York Regional Police introduced a state-of-the-art Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS), an innovative cloud-based repository for numerous types of evidence that is required for prosecuting criminals in court.

Before DEMS, when officers were required to submit evidence to the courts - such as 9-1-1 call audio, in-car camera footage, closed circuit television camera footage, photos of crime scenes or suspect or witness interview transcripts - that evidence would have to be burned onto DVDs.

Now, instead of relying on physical evidence stored on a disc, DEMS allows evidence to be quickly and easily uploaded directly to a single digital location in the cloud.

DEMS has been live since January 2020 and there are currently more than 100,000 pieces of evidence in the repository.

DEMS can also send evidence directly to lawyers, as well as the courts, which has significantly streamlined judicial proceedings.

Members of the public can likewise submit video evidence directly to the DEMS portal through a web link and businesses that are victims of property crime can do the same.

In addition, officers are equipped with a mobile app that lets them upload audio and video witness statements directly to DEMS, so they don't have to return to the station to do so.

Paulo Da Silva, Deputy Chief of Administration, said DEMS is the future of evidence management.

"This system is making it easier for officers to gather, store and disclose evidence, reducing the time they need to spend on these administrative tasks and increasing the time they can proactively patrol our community," he said.

In addition, interview rooms will soon be equipped with software that will transcribe recorded conversations verbatim that can then be automatically uploaded to the cloud.

The DEMS system was developed with software from Axon, a law enforcement technology provider.

HUMAN RIGHTS CLASSROOM

This first-of-its-kind classroom will focus on how YRP polices through the lens of human rights and educating children to celebrate each other.



The Human Rights Education Classroom is the newest addition to the Community Safety Village, an interactive educational facility for children. York Region's youth learn about human rights and responsibilities, peaceful co-existence, conflict resolution, global citizenship and relationship building within multicultural communities.

INTERNAL TASK FORCES AND JOINT-FORCES OPERATIONS

Joint-Forces Operation:

A joint-forces operation is an investigation made possible by the teamwork of two or more partnering police services or law enforcement agencies.

Internal Task Force:

An internal task force is an investigation that combines the resources of two or more units within York Regional Police.



Project CACHE

ITF: As a result of several large undercover investigations targeting a drug distribution network, the Guns, Gangs and Drug Enforcement Unit and the Ontario Provincial Police together executed warrants at 12 residences and on eight vehicles across the GTA. Large quantities of cannabis, cannabis edibles, methamphetamine and cocaine were seized. The Waterloo Police Service, Peel Regional Police and the RCMP also assisted.

Project Cost: **\$36,120***
Arrests: **22**
Charges: **92**

Value of illegal assets or property seized:
\$795,690



Project EL DORADO

ITF: Project El Dorado, an operation led by the YRP Integrated Property Crime Task Force, focused on an organized crime group involved in shoplifting, distraction thefts, frauds and residential break and enters. Search warrants recovered cosmetics, electronic hand tools, clothing and other consumer goods, along with cash.

Project Cost: **\$0***
Arrests: **33**
Charges: **183**

Value of illegal assets or property seized:
\$320,000



Project GREENSWEEP

ITF: As part of YRP's Cannabis Enforcement Strategy, the Guns, Gangs and Drug Enforcement Unit executed 15 search warrants at various indoor and outdoor cannabis grow operations throughout York Region, seizing 28,964 cannabis plants and 3,990 pounds of harvested cannabis destined for the criminal market. Read more on page 28.

Project Cost: **\$2,649***
Arrests: **37**
Charges: **67**

Value of illegal assets or property seized:
\$150,000,000



Project TRES

ITF: After a six-month investigation into residential break and enters involving an organized crime cell from the country of Georgia, nine search warrants were executed by the Integrated Property Crime Task Force in York Region and Toronto. More than \$180,000 worth of cash, jewelry and other consumer goods were seized. The Canada Border Services Agency, the Toronto Police Service and the YRP Emergency Response Unit helped with this operation.

Project Cost: **\$39,057***
Arrests: **15**
Charges: **104**

Value of illegal assets or property seized:
\$157,000



Project VILLA

ITF: Through Project Villa, the Guns, Gangs and Drug Enforcement Unit targeted methamphetamine trafficking. Search warrants were executed at various residences around the GTA yielding sizable amounts of methamphetamine and other controlled substances, along with cash, ammunition and a vehicle equipped with a specialized compartment to conceal contraband. The Ontario Provincial Police Methamphetamine Task Force provided assistance.

Project Cost: **\$23,504***
Arrests: **13**
Charges: **69**

Value of illegal assets or property seized:
\$1,650,272



Project STANLEY

JFO: The York Regional Police Hold-Up Unit undertook an investigation into an armed home invasion in Vaughan, making multiple arrests across the GTA, Hamilton and Sudbury. Twenty-nine search warrants were executed and firearms, ammunition, cocaine, fentanyl, cash and items related to the robbery were seized. The Hamilton and Greater Sudbury Police Services were partners in this investigation.

Project Cost: **\$133,877***
Arrests: **17**
Charges: **189**

Value of illegal assets or property seized:
\$176,910



Project PLATINUM

JFO: Investigators with the Major Projects Unit, working with the Ontario Provincial Police, the Toronto Police Service and the Canada Revenue Agency, laid organized crime-related charges in relation to violence, property damage, fraud and drug trafficking in the tow truck industry. The YRP Emergency Response Unit, the Brantford and Hamilton Police Services and Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario also assisted. Read more on page 26.

Project Cost: **\$126,282***
Arrests: **50**
Charges: **496**

Value of illegal assets or property seized:
\$2,500,000

*The project cost represents the net cost of the joint-forces operation to York Regional Police. These figures do not represent the entire cost of the project; they exclude salary and benefit costs of investigative personnel involved. The project cost is inclusive of 2020 costs only.

PROJECT DOUBLE DOWN

A rise of illegal gambling dens in York Region, funded and run by organized crime groups, became the focus for our Organized Crime and Intelligence Services in 2020.



Project Double Down was launched in late 2019 to target the booming business of illegal gambling operations, the proceeds of which fund other criminal ventures like prostitution and drug trafficking and lead to violent incidents within our community.

Members of the York Regional Police Organized Crime and Intelligence Services worked with teams of uniformed officers to target and dismantle illegal gaming houses throughout the City of Markham.

In May of 2020, the Double Down team became aware of a large, extravagant casino operating out of a 20,000-square-foot mansion at 5 Decourcy Court.

The Tactical Intelligence and the Guns, Gangs and Drug Enforcement Units shifted their efforts to this audacious operation, forming Project Endgame to target the illegal activities occurring at this location.

On July 23, 2020, a warrant was executed at the palatial residence, which was being operated as a high-end casino and spa. Thanks to the efforts of our project team, the Emergency Response Unit and tactical teams from the Ontario Provincial Police and the Durham Regional Police Service, 32 people were arrested. In addition, 11 firearms with ammunition were seized, along with more than \$1 million in cash, gaming machines and tables and more than \$1.5 million in alcohol. The \$9 million mansion was also restrained.

Projects Double Down and Endgame had a significant impact by disrupting and deterring organized criminal gambling operations. In total, investigators executed 16 warrants, arrested 186 people, seized approximately \$1,145,000 in cash and successfully restrained two residences.

"While the total value of these seizures is significant, this is only the start of our efforts to dismantle organized crime groups that are operating illegal gaming operations in York Region," said Chief Jim MacSween.

PROJECT PLATINUM

Investigators tackled a rise in violence between rival tow truck companies across the GTA, as they fought over turf and financial profits.



In early 2020, the Greater Toronto Area became the scene of increasing violence between rival tow truck companies fighting over territory and financial profits gained from fraudulent activities.

Organized crime groups working within the towing industry set fires, committed other property damage, threatened, attacked and killed rivals as a means to gain control of towing territory in York Region and the 400-series highways across the GTA.

Towing companies routinely defrauded insurance companies by staging fake collisions, then

collaborating with auto repair shops and car and truck rental companies to issue false repair and expense claims.

Insurance companies responded by pursuing legal action against several tow companies, however, one Vaughan law firm representing them became the target of arson, threats and extortion that eventually forced it out of business.

In response to these criminal activities, in February 2020, York Regional Police, working with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the Toronto Police Service (TPS) and the Canada Revenue Agency

launched a joint-forces investigation dubbed Project Platinum.

Between April and May 2020, YRP investigators, with the assistance of the OPP and TPS, executed 30 search warrants at residences and businesses across York Region and the GTA, including Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Markham, East Gwillimbury, Brantford, Hamilton, Oakville and Toronto.

In total, 50 people were arrested and face 496 charges. Evidence seized in the search warrants included 11 tow trucks, more than 40 firearms,

thousands of rounds of ammunition, a significant amount of illegal drugs and more than \$500,000 in cash.

“By dismantling these criminal enterprises, we have helped to protect motorists, insurance companies and our community at large from the predatory practices of these unlawful tow companies and made our streets safer,” said Deputy Chief of Investigations, Brian Bigras

PROJECT GREENSWEEP

Investigators continue to combat the illegal cannabis market, which is run by organized crime groups to fund the distribution of illegal firearms and deadly drugs.



Recreational cannabis has been legal in Canada since 2018, but that hasn't slowed down the illicit market, where organized crime groups are comfortably embedded.

In 2020, York Regional Police seized roughly \$150 million worth of illegal cannabis, the proceeds of which fund the distribution of illegal firearms and deadly drugs, like methamphetamine and cocaine.

"The illegal production of illicit cannabis remains a problem in York Region and our citizens regularly call to report these large-scale indoor and outdoor grow operations," said Robertson Rouse, Deputy Chief of Operations.

Over the summer, the Guns, Gangs and Drug Enforcement Unit executed 15 search warrants at cannabis grow operations throughout York Region, in the Project Greensweep investigation.

Officers seized 28,964 plants and 3,990 pounds of harvested cannabis. Also seized were seven firearms, two crossbows and a conducted energy weapon. At one location in Schomberg, several exotic animals, including three kangaroos and two zebras, were found.

Thirty-seven people were arrested and 67 charges were laid.

Organized criminals continue to exploit the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes regulation, which allows designated growers to cultivate hundreds of plants and store hundreds of pounds of harvested cannabis for personal use. Licensed growers can pool up to four grow licenses per address but they often turn a single production site into a massive cannabis farm, greatly exceeding the legal licenses and harvesting the drug for illegal sale.

Organized crime groups are taking advantage of an outdated medical licensing system, which is generating tremendous profit that we know is resulting in violence and funding other criminal activity in our community.

Our investigators will continue to shut down illegal growers and the criminal networks with which they are associated.



SAFE ROADS: YOUR CALL

Each year, YRP receives more than 3,500 citizen-generated 9-1-1 calls to report impaired driving. These calls save lives.

As part of our ongoing Safe Roads: Your Call campaign, YRP releases videos that feature the audio of 9-1-1 calls made by concerned citizens reporting suspected impaired drivers and the often-shocking police dashcam and Air2 helicopter footage. These videos have reached hundreds of thousands of viewers on social media, educating them on our continuing fight against impaired driving.



Teen Almost Collides With Cruiser

On May 26, 2020 at the intersection of Woodbine Avenue and Pollock Road in Georgina, a vehicle ran a red light and nearly crashed into a YRP cruiser. The officer manoeuvred to prevent the collision but the other vehicle ended up striking a light pole. None of the three teenage boys in the car was injured, but the driver, a 16-year-old, admitted to smoking cannabis and subsequently failed a drug test. He was charged with Impaired Driving.



Impaired Parent Endangers Child

YRP received a 9-1-1 call on May 24, 2020 from a concerned citizen who spotted a vehicle in Aurora driving erratically. Officers located the vehicle and attempted to pull it over, but the driver fled. Officers continued to look for the pickup truck and when they found it and pulled the driver over, he was showing signs of impairment. Officers then discovered his four-year-old daughter was in the vehicle with him. Thankfully, the child was uninjured and was picked up by her mother. The 34-year-old driver was arrested on multiple charges, including Impaired Driving.



Driver Totals Hydro Box, Flees

YRP was called to the area of Yonge Street and Gamble Road in Richmond Hill on October 8, 2020, after a car crashed into a hydro box and a male driver fled the scene. Officers set up a perimeter in the area, and with the assistance of officers in Air2 and the Canine Unit, found the driver hiding in a ravine. The 49-year-old was charged with Impaired and Dangerous Operation of a Vehicle and Failing to Remain at the Scene.



JOINT TRAINING ON LAKE SIMCOE

Members of our Emergency Response Unit train so they are prepared to respond to emergency calls for service – on land and on water.



Typically, our Emergency Response Unit runs training sessions on dry land. But on October 14, 2020, it joined our Marine Unit for a joint scenario on Lake Simcoe. This marked the first time the ERU took to the water and deployed from a boat to resolve a mock hostage-taking situation.

2020 STATISTICS

COMPLAINTS, COST OF POLICING AND TOTAL VIOLATIONS

9-1-1 calls received:

250,496

Criminal and federal violations:

36,714

Criminal traffic violations:

4,069

Public Complaints Accepted by OIPRD*	2019	2020
Formal Discipline	0	0
Informal Discipline	1	1
Informal Resolution	10	9
Unsubstantiated	11	16
Withdrawn	24	18
Policy/Service	0	1
OIPRD Cannot Proceed	0	0
Outstanding Files at Year End	20	31
Total Complaints Accepted and Investigated	66	76
Public Complaints Not Accepted by OIPRD	2019	2020
Over Six Months	4	4
Not in Public Interest, Other Law, etc.	89	94
Not Directly Affected	2	6
Retained by OIPRD	1	0
Total Complaints Not Accepted by OIPRD	96	104
Total Complaints	162	180

2020 reported hate crime occurrences increased by:

20.3%

False alarms received in 2020:

3,114

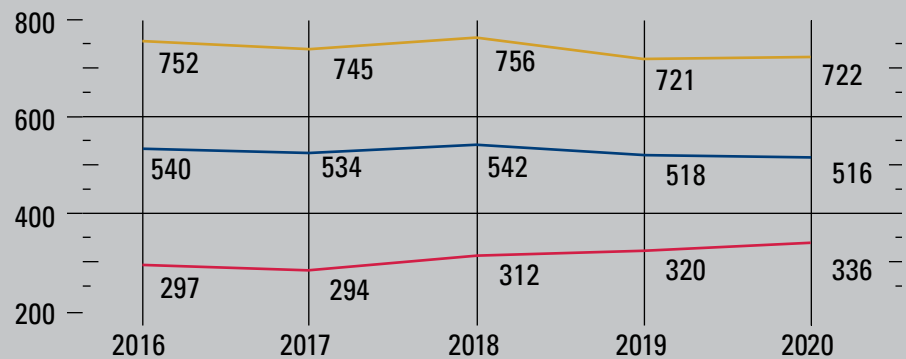
Classification of Complaints	2019	2020
Conduct	159	179
Policy/Service	3	1
Total Complaints	162	180
Involved Officers	248	213
Officers Disciplined	1	1
Civilians Involved	9	11
Reviews Requested	2	8
Directed Hearings Ordered by OIPRD	0	1

Cost of Policing 2020	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Salaries and Benefits	332,785,925	330,102,240	(2,683,685)
Program-specific Expenses	3,919,315	3,186,600	(732,715)
Professional Contracted Services	1,246,512	1,968,100	721,588
General Expenses	18,152,148	19,465,448	1,313,300
Financial Charges	256,553	422,460	165,907
Insurance	2,733,558	2,733,558	0
Occupancy Costs	9,604,954	9,129,033	(475,920)
Minor Capital	379,719	721,272	341,553
Debt-related Payments	6,968,200	7,098,804	130,604
Internal Charges	864,003	1,478,300	614,297
Contribution to Reserves	8,919,810	7,919,333	(1,000,477)
Total Expenditures	385,830,696	384,225,148	(1,605,549)
Total Revenues	(33,753,997)	(36,274,636)	(2,520,639)
Net Position	352,076,700	347,950,512	(4,126,188)

NOTE: Based on 1,681 officers employed at York Regional Police, public complaints total 0.11 per officer.

*OIPRD—Office of the Independent Police Review Director (oiprd.on.ca)

Benchmarks: Five-year Statistical Comparison	Police to Population	Member to Population	Gross Cost per Capita(\$)	What this Chart Means to You
	752	540	297	The Gross Cost per Capita represents expenditures divided by the population of the area served by York Regional Police, rounded to the nearest dollar. Member to Population counts represent the population divided by the number of police officers and civilian staff. Police to Population represents the population divided by the number of police officers.
	745	534	294	
	756	542	312	
	721	518	320	
	722	516	336	



Selected Violations: Three-year Trends		Crimes Against Persons	Crimes Against Property	Other Criminal Code	Weapons Violations	Public Morals Violations	Total Criminal Code Violations	Other Federal Violations	Drug Violations	Total Criminal Code and Fed. Violations*	Criminal Code Traffic Violations	*Excluding criminal traffic violations
		2018	Number of Violations	8,346	22,998	4,674	553	2	36,573	1,985	281	38,839
	Rate (per 100,000 population)	697.50	1,922.01	390.62	46.22	0.17	3,056.51	165.89	23.48	3,245.89	400.82	
	Clearance Rate (%)	72.2	36.1	87.3	80.5	50.0	51.6	96.8	93.2	54.2	42.1	
2019	Number of Violations	8,837	25,423	4,846	531	11	39,648	1,023	242	40,913	4,964	
	Rate (per 100,000 population)	734.86	2,114.12	402.98	44.16	0.91	3,297.04	85.07	20.12	3,402.23	412.79	
	Clearance Rate (%)	64.7	35.7	86.3	82.3	100.0	49.0	97.0	104.1	50.5	42.6	
2020	Number of Violations	8,830	21,340	4,425	535	25	35,155	1,467	92	36,714	4,069	
	Rate (per 100,000 population)	727.59	1,758.4	364.62	44.08	2.06	2896.75	120.88	7.58	3,025.21	335.28	
	Clearance Rate (%)	60.8	32.8	88.7	81.5	76	47.7	92	100	49.6	54.4	
Variance (%)	Variance in Actual	-0.1	-16.1	-8.7	0.8	127.3	-11.3	43.4	-62.0	-10.3	-18.0	
2019/20	Variance in Rates	-1.0	-16.8	-9.5	-0.2	126.4	-12.1	42.1	-62.3	-11.1	-18.8	

2020 STATISTICS (CONTINUED)

All collections of identifying information submissions are reviewed by a supervisor in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau prior to being published for viewing by members of the organization. It was determined that no submissions were bias-based.

An analysis of the proportion of individuals from whom identifying information was collected or attempted to be collected does not reveal any indication of over-representation based on the population of York Region.

Traffic

Provincial Offence Notices Comparison	2018	2019	2020
Offences	114,795	101,390	80,119
Reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions	2018	2019	2020
Collisions	13,944	13,085	8,692

Victim Services

On-Scene Occurrences	2019	2020	VARIANCE
Occurrences	912	345	-62.2

Telephone Crisis Calls/ Office Visit Occurrences	2019	2020	VARIANCE
Occurrences	12,651	16,680	31.8

Total Clients Served	2019	2020	VARIANCE
Clients Served	8,574	14,762	72.2
Female	4,730	8,252	74.5
Male	1,683	3,040	80.6
Children (0-17 years)	2,161	3,470	60.6

Communications

Five-year Calls For Service				
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
198,000	207,346	241,260	275,292	255,407

Youth Crime

Youth Crime Comparison	2019	2020
Youth Charged	686	465
Processed by Other Means	1,248	555
Total	1,934	1,020

Sworn members:

1,681

Civilian members:

673

Residents served:

1.2 M

Length of regional roadways policed:

4,100 km

Area policed:

1,762 km²

Of the 255,407 calls for service YRP received in 2020, 98,042 resulted in officers being dispatched.

Collection of Identifying Information

Collection of Identifying Information	2020
Attempted and actual collections	1
Individuals from whom identifying information was collected	0
Times officers did not disclose why they were collecting information	1
Times individuals were not given a receipt because they declined it	1
Times a receipt was not provided because it may have compromised safety	0
Attempted collections from individuals based on sex (men), as perceived by a police officer	0
Attempted collections from individuals based on sex (women), as perceived by a police officer	1

NOTE: All reporting of collection of identifying information is based on officers' perception of age, race and sex at the time.

Access to Restricted Identifying Information*	2020
Times members of the police service were permitted to access identifying information to which access is restricted.	0

Collections or Attempted Collections by District	2020
#1 District	0
#2 District	1
#3 District	0
#4 District	0
#5 District	0

*Aside from Auditors and the designated Verifier, no one accessed restricted identifying information. These two groups accessed restricted identifying information for the purpose of determining training needs.

**As established by the Chief of Police, as provisioned within the regulation.

***As established by the Chief of Police, based on the 2016 National Household Survey for the Identification of Racialized Groups as provisioned within the regulation.

Collections By Age Group**	2020
12-17	0
18-29	0
30-49	1
50+	0

Collections By Race***	2020
Aboriginal	0
Arab	0
Black	0
Chinese	0
Filipino	0
First Nations	0
Inuk	0
Japanese	0
Korean	0
Latin American	0
Metis	0
South Asian	0
Southeast Asian	0
Other	0
West Asian	0
White	1

HOLIDAY HEROES

This annual campaign brings together members of YRP, the community, business and corporate sponsors and social service organizations in support of local families in need.



This year for Christmas, two brothers aged six and three, had their hearts set on Lego, board games, Paw Patrol and Thomas the Tank. But toys weren't the only items on their family's wish list.

Having just fled an abusive relationship, their single mother was struggling to make ends meet. She desperately needed winter clothing, diapers, linens and cleaning supplies for herself and her children.

Thanks to the generosity of our community and our members, this family was among the thousands across York Region supported by the Holiday Heroes program. This annual charitable campaign collects gift cards, toys, clothing, non-perishable food and cash donations to support individuals and families in need.

Led by York Regional Police, in partnership with the Salvation Army and Victim Services York Region, this year's program raised more than \$250,000.

Our team was supported by generous corporate and community sponsors, who helped

a record 4,000 families and nearly 8,000 children across York Region.

"Without a doubt, 2020 was a tough year, especially for those in need. Our partner, Victim Services of York Region, saw a 150 per cent increase in calls for help," said Deputy Chief Brian Bigras.

"That's why we needed our community to join us in supporting this year's campaign. And very clearly, they did. We thank everyone for their generosity, which truly made a difference for so many people in York Region."

BY THE NUMBERS:

- **4,000 families supported**
- **8,000 children supported**
- **500 volunteer hours**
- **90+ volunteers**
- **24 donation drop-off events**



BREAKING GROUND

In 2020, our civilian-led Capital Projects and Facilities Bureau moved forward with three significant projects that will help improve service delivery to our community.



NEW MARINE UNIT HEADQUARTERS

In October 2020, the members of the York Regional Police Marine Unit moved into a new, modern home at Jackson's Point in the Town of Georgina.

The 8,000-square-foot, \$9 million facility houses several YRP summer vessels, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and a custom 24-foot airboat used to respond to winter emergencies. The side of the building features artwork from Chippewas of Georgina Island elder Lauri Hoag.

Due to its proximity to Lake Simcoe, the new facility means officers are responding to emergencies on the water more quickly, which is helping to address the 27 per cent increase in call volume in 2020.

"We get a call, you unplug the boat, you untie it and you're gone," said Staff Sergeant Aaron Busby, the officer in charge of the unit. "That improves safety for residents and visitors alike."



NEW #1 DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

Ground broke on a new #1 District headquarters on Sept. 25, 2020, with construction expected to finish in late 2021.

The spacious 49,500-square-foot facility at 429 Harry Walker Parkway South in Newmarket will house more than 200 officers and civilian members and allow them to better serve the nearly 200,000 people living within #1 District's boundaries. This new building will replace the 50-year headquarters on Prospect Street.



RENAMING OF TRAINING BRANCH

After an esteemed 40-year career in policing, including a decade as YRP Chief, Eric Jolliffe retired on April 30, 2020. As a fitting tribute to a leader who ensured YRP members were trained to the highest standards, the York Regional Police Services Board renamed our training and education facility in East Gwillimbury the Eric Jolliffe Training Centre for Leadership and Learning.

2020 BUSINESS PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2020 marked the first year of our 2020 to 2022 Business Plan. To learn more about our past accomplishments and future objectives, visit our digital edition at businessplan.yrp.ca.



OUR COMMUNITY

Community Engagement:

- Launched the new Human Rights Education Classroom at the Community Safety Village
- Adopted virtual tools for community engagement and service delivery
- Strengthened relationships with businesses and local partner agencies to promote community safety and well-being

Collaborative Partnerships:

- Led and participated in successful joint-forces operations with external partner agencies tackling organized crime groups
- Formalized a GTA Commanders network to coordinate work and promote information sharing between jurisdictions
- Expanded partnerships with local hospitals, addiction agencies and external police partners to enhance services related to mental health and addiction

Operational Service Delivery:

- Implemented Axon Citizen, allowing community members to upload digital evidence directly to YRP and take a more active role in crime prevention and enforcement
- Enhanced use of Remote Pilot Aircrafts to assist in road safety and investigative efforts
- Utilized Business Intelligence tools to identify specific areas with higher incidents of impaired driving and perform targeted RIDE spot checks

Equity & Inclusion:

- Fostered district level community engagement through in-person and virtual attendance at local cultural and religious events
- Positive Space Training made available to equip champions for workplace inclusion
- Implemented the YRP Inclusion Strategy, which includes planned actions to promote equitable and inclusive practices

OUR PEOPLE

Professional Development:

- Commenced development of enhanced leadership training for sworn and civilian supervisors
- Began review of the officer re-classification program, with various new courses developed as part of review findings
- Implemented a new competency-based Field Development Program to better assess new recruits' readiness for independent patrol

Technology and Innovation:

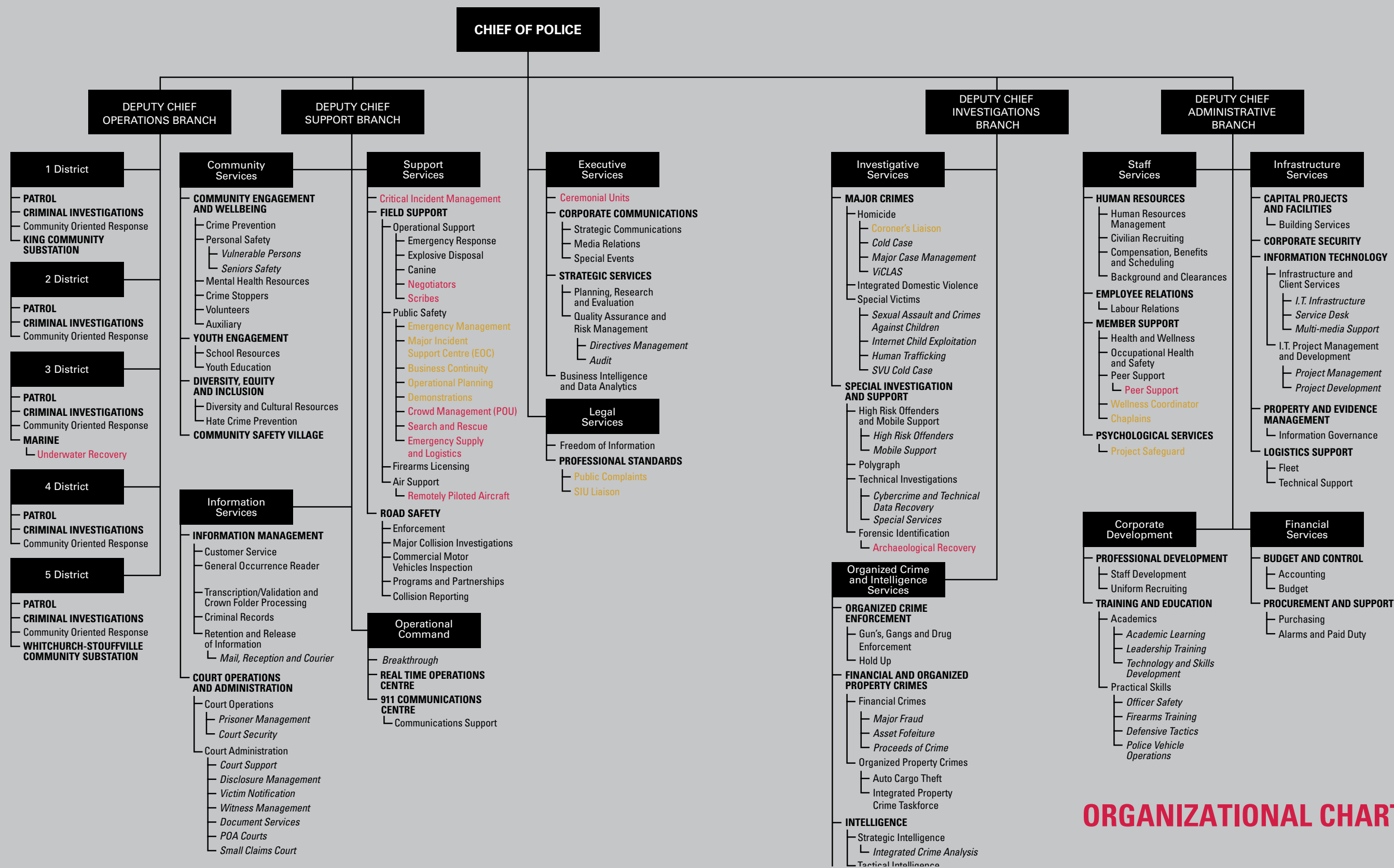
- Adopted telecommuting technology to ensure minimal interruptions to service delivery during COVID-19 pandemic
- Implemented digital evidence solutions through Axon applications, allowing members of the community and officers to submit and manage evidence efficiently
- Adapted numerous automated processes to enhance service delivery and workflow efficiencies

Member Support:

- Continued to embed wellness services at all YRP locations as part of the YRP Wellness Strategy
- Ran numerous initiatives to promote physical well-being of members
- Implemented the YRP Inclusion Strategy, which includes planned actions to enhance member awareness of ethics and professionalism

Continuous Improvement:

- Reviewed Sector Policing Model and evaluated workload trends across the region to inform future operational decisions
- Updated the YRP 20-year Facilities Master Plan to reflect organizational needs
- Implemented a chat bot on yrp.ca, enabling efficient, round-the-clock information for the community



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

- We faithfully administer the law in a just, impartial and reasonable manner to everyone, regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability
- We promote equality, diversity and inclusivity, both in the community and in the workplace. We treat everyone with dignity and respect
- We uphold our position of public trust by serving the community with integrity, professionalism and honesty. We are accountable for our behavior, both in the community and in the workplace
- We preserve the rights and freedoms of all individuals in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code



A VALUES-BASED ORGANIZATION

OUR MISSION

We will ensure our citizens feel safe and secure through excellence in policing.

OUR VISION

To make a difference in our community.

OUR VALUES

To best serve our community and our people, we are committed to living our values. These shared beliefs guide our conduct with members of the public and our colleagues each and every day.

RESPECT

We value and treat all people with dignity.

COMPASSION

We care about the well-being of our members and the community.

FAIRNESS

We are just and impartial in everything we say and do.

PROFESSIONALISM

We conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity and we are accountable for our actions.

COURAGE

We have the moral strength to stand up and to do what is right.

Deeds Speak

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Дела говорят сами за себя

Parlano i fatti

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Nos actions, nos émissaires

عمل گویاست



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