



REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



CPS Monthly Chief's Reports: Bureau of Investigative Support

Date | February 8, 2023

Commission Role

Information only Approval

Type of Meeting

- Full Commission meeting
- Governance and Personnel (G&P) Sub-Committee
- Finance and Audit (F&A) Sub-Committee
- Complaint Oversight (COC) Sub-Committee
- Anti-Racism Committee

Purpose

The following report provides an overview of timely crime trends and crime statistics for January 2023, originating from the Bureau of Investigative Support.

Key Messages

- In 2022, we seized more than 500 **crime guns** from across the city. Trends identified include the increase of personally-manufactured firearms and smuggled firearms in Calgary and the decrease of straw-purchasing.
- We continue to be concerned about the **prevalence of firearms** being carried, and used, by offenders committing all crime types.
- Our **Robbery Unit** successfully collaborated with the businesses being targeted by commercial robbery offenders, such as pharmacies and cannabis stores, and as a result, we saw a decline in these offences during the latter half of 2022.
- We continue to provide wraparound supports for the victims of **human trafficking** to ensure they are not just supported throughout the investigative process, but also through the entire court process and beyond.

Summary of Issues, Trends and Examples

Gun Violence

- There were 10 shootings reported in January 2023, which is 33% lower than January 2022.
- By the end of 2022, we seized 517 crime guns across the Service, and in January 2023, we seized 35 crime guns.
 - These firearms were seized during all types of investigations from traffic stops to drug investigations, homicides and everything in between. The prevalence of firearms being used to commit all types of crime is a significant concern for our Service.
 - Our Firearms Investigations Unit has noticed an increase in smuggled firearms and personally-manufactured firearms. Conversely, there has been a decrease in straw purchasing.
 - Earlier this year we launched a Twitter account dedicated to sharing information about seized firearms with the public. This account also highlights our specific investigative efforts to address gun violence in Calgary.
- In January 2023, our Organized Crime Enforcement Team seized eight firearms from one man and charged him with 36 offences, including possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and multiple firearms charges. One of the seized firearms was determined to be stolen and the remaining seven are believed to have been smuggled into Canada.

Homicides

- As of Feb. 6, 2023, only one homicide has been reported in Calgary. This incident, a fatal shooting, was drug-related and investigators have issued Canada-wide warrants for the suspect, although it is believed he fled the country.

Commercial Robberies

- We ended 2022 with a higher-than-average number of commercial robberies, but with relatively low numbers for November and December which included only 1 pharmacy robbery and zero cannabis robberies. Both pharmacy and cannabis store robberies were driving trends through the beginning of 2022.
- As a result of two major initiatives now in place – timed safes in pharmacies and removal of window coverings from cannabis stores – as well as some successful collaborative investigative work between our Robbery Unit and frontline patrol

officers, we saw a considerable slowing down of robberies targeting these types of businesses. CPS led this work with partners in both industries to effect change.


ALERT Calgary Human Trafficking & Counter Exploitation Unit

- In January, we reported on a complex human trafficking investigation in which Canada-wide warrants were issued for the accused.
- After further investigative work, the offender was arrested in Winnipeg earlier this month. This required a high level of coordination and collaboration between ALERT, the Winnipeg Police Service and the Alberta Sheriffs to arrest the accused and transport him back to Calgary.
- We continue to provide wraparound supports for the victims involved to prepare them for the upcoming court process and eventual testimony, which they will be required to provide.

Attachments (if any)

Approval signatures

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 (Paul Cook), (Deputy Chief) Date
 (Bureau of Investigative Support)

CHIEF OF POLICE signature: _____ (YYYY MM DD)
 Mark Neufeld, Chief of Police Date
 Office of the Chief
