



REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



CPS Monthly Chief's Reports: Bureau of Investigative Support

Date | March 13, 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 February 2023, originating from the Bureau of Investigative Support.

Key Points

- As of the beginning of March 2023, we have seen a **37% decrease in shootings** in Calgary. We believe this is the result of ongoing suppression and enforcement activities targeting known violent offenders.
- A **significant majority of these shootings are not connected to organized crime** in Calgary, which is consistent with the trends we saw last year.
- Since the beginning of February, we have **laid charges in four homicide investigations**. While we have only reported two homicides in 2023, our investigators have remained steadfast in their pursuit of justice, and holding officers accountable, no matter how much time has passed.
- March is **Fraud Prevention Month**. Our Economic Crimes Unit continues to work with our partners in law enforcement to address a series of distraction thefts that have occurred in Calgary.

Summary of Issues, Trends and Examples

Gun Violence

- As of March 9, 2023, there have been 17 shootings reported in Calgary, which is a 37% decrease from the same period last year.
 - Approximately 65% of these shootings have resulted in injury, with only one being fatal.
 - At this time, only three shootings in 2023 have known connections to organized crime.
- Since November 2022, we have seen a reduction in the pace of shootings in Calgary, which is believed to be a result of ongoing suppression and enforcement activities targeting known violent offenders.
- In February 2023, a total of 20 crime guns were seized. Crime guns include firearms that were unlawfully used, possessed or stored.

Homicides

- As of March 13, 2023, only two homicides have been reported in Calgary. Charges or warrants have been issued in relation to both incidents.
 - On March 2, Christopher DUNLOP was charged in relation to the homicide of Judy MAERZ, whose body was located just two weeks earlier on Feb. 16. This was an exhaustive investigation that involved resources from across our Service, including patrol officers, investigative units and offender management.
 - We also continue to seek public assistance to locate, Samiul TURZO, who is wanted on warrants in connection with the New Year's Day fatal shooting of Stallone Leonard Mark CLARE.
- Over the past month, our Homicide Unit has also closed three historical investigations, laying charges against six individuals. These investigations ranged from several months to several years and involved multiple investigative strategies to bring people to justice.
 - This included charging the parents of an 18-month-old who was killed in 2021. This was an incredibly difficult investigation for all first responders and police officers who were involved, and our investigators worked tirelessly to close the case.
 - In February, we also arrested and charged two men in the 2022 death of Keanan CRANE. Throughout the investigation, our officers worked to gain the trust of the victim's family and provide supports to help them through the investigative process.

- Earlier this month, we also laid charges in relation to the 2022 death of Ashley MAWDSLEY. This homicide was believed to be motivated by organized crime and was determined to be connected to a brazen shooting that happened in downtown Calgary last summer. Two men were charged.

Fraud

- March is Fraud Prevention Month, and CPS participated in a multi-agency media and public launch at the Calgary Tower on Monday, March 6, 2023.
- In 2022, we received 8,604 fraud-related calls for service. This number is believed to be under-estimated as fraud is commonly also associated to other crimes, such as theft, threats, harassment and property damage.
- Our Economic Crimes Unit has identified a series of “Distraction Thefts” city-wide where offenders will watch a victim input their PIN at a store, follow them to the parking lot and tell them that there is something wrong with their tire or car causing the victim to come over and look. A second offender then steals the victim’s wallet while they are distracted. This criminal group is committing the same offences in most provinces, staying four to six days at a time in each area. Investigators are working with our law enforcement partners across North America, to address this. To help in preventing further victimization, we also issued a warning to citizens with important information and prevention tips.
- We have also noted a decrease in the number grandparent scams targeting Calgary seniors over the last few months. Despite the decrease, forms of payment are shifting to cryptocurrency and e-transfers instead of the offenders collecting payment in person. Our Cybercrimes Team is currently investigating this.

Sexual Assault Investigation Update

- In February, our Sexual Assault Investigations Unit arrested and charged one man in relation to a random sexual assault that occurred in Varsity on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023. Due to the serious nature of the assault, multiple resources worked around the clock to identify and locate the potential suspect.
 - Upon arrest, the man was also charged in relation to a groping that occurred in November 2022.

Attachments (if any)

Approval signatures

AUTHOR signature:

Amy Castonguay (2023 03 13)

(Name), (Rank) Date

(Public Affairs/Media Relations
Unit)

EXECUTIVE SPONSOR signature:

 (2023 03 15)

(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
