



# REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



## CPS Monthly Chief's Reports: Bureau of Investigative Support

**Date** | May 15, 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, crime statistics and updates from the Bureau of Investigative Support.

### Key Points

- While the number of shootings in Calgary remain lower than during the same period last year, we continue to focus our resources to address recent and public displays of gun violence.
- We have also concluded several significant drug trafficking investigations, which targeted both the organized crime element of drug trafficking as well as street-level drug trafficking that was occurring on transit.
- We have also advanced our partnerships with the private industry to lead the way in crypto-crime investigations and enforcement through the creation of an investigative training centre and a blockchain-specific investigative team.
- While we have seen a decrease in commercial robberies, we have noted a five-year high in personal robberies. Through excellent investigative work, we have laid charges against a group of youth believed to responsible for a string of robberies.

## Summary of Issues, Trends and Examples

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### Gun Violence

- As of May 15, 2023, there have been 39 shootings in Calgary, which is a 33 per cent decrease from during the same period in 2022.
- So far this year, 139 crime guns have been seized, including 44 in April and 13 in May (up to May 15<sup>th</sup>). This is down from 194 seized by this point in the year in 2022. Crime guns include firearms that were unlawfully used, possessed or stored.

### Drugs

- At the beginning of April 2023, the Organized Crime and Offender Management Section announced charges as well as the seizure of more than 90 kilograms of cocaine.
  - This was a four-month long investigation into a cross-Canada drug trafficking network.
  - The investigation involved the interception of two vehicles that travelling to Calgary from Vancouver. One of the vehicles was being transported on a flat-bed tow truck when it was intercepted.
  - Both vehicles were equipped with aftermarket hidden compartments that were welded into the vehicle frames and operated by relay switches and hydraulics.
  - A Calgary man and a Surrey man are now facing charges.



- At the end of March 2023, our Drug Undercover Street Team (DUST) also announced the conclusion of a three-week undercover drug trafficking operation

targeting the CTrain lines, which resulted in 40 people facing 268 criminal charges.

- The purpose of the operation was to disrupt drug trafficking in these locations by arresting drug traffickers and imposing conditions of release that may deter the continuation of drug-related crimes in these areas.
- Recognizing that some of the drug traffickers were also addicts, we also provide resources to those vulnerable individuals in tandem with enforcement.
- DUST also worked with the Calgary Drug Treatment Court, ensuring that all of the accused would be evaluated to see if CDTC was an option. By doing this, the Calgary Indigenous Court was also notified for culturally appropriate assistance when relevant.
- In total, there were 58 undercover drug purchases involving 40 alleged drug traffickers. Fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, morphine and Xanax, were among the drugs seized
- Investigators also seized 21 knives, two machetes, bear spray, a handgun, a BB gun and two airsoft pistols.

## Homicides

- As of May 15, 2023, we have had six homicides in Calgary. Four of these were the result of a shooting (67%).
  - In comparison, by mid-May 2022, we had 12 homicides total, with seven of them being the result of a shooting (58%).
- So far this year, charges have been laid in three of the 2023 homicides. The three files that remain open were all fatal shootings.
- Thus far, we have had zero confirmed organized crime or gang-related homicides, however two are believed to be related to drug-trafficking. We have also had just one domestic homicide to date this year.

## Cyber

- In April 2022, we entered into a unique partnership with Chainalysis that will result in the creation of the Western Canada Cryptocurrency Investigations Centre, which will serve as an international training hub for law enforcement, allowing police to proactively learn about emerging cryptocurrency and cybercrime trends and utilize innovative investigative techniques to ensure the safety of citizens.
- The creation and implementation of the Western Canada Cryptocurrency Investigations Centre will strengthen our ability to ensure the public safety of citizens, allow for proactive policing, enhance technical investigative skills and provide expert training resources for law enforcement.

- In addition, the Calgary Police Service Cyber Forensics Unit and Chainalysis have created the CPS Blockchain Investigation Team (BIT), dedicated to support cryptocurrency and blockchain-related investigations.

## Robbery

- While we are seeing a downward trend in commercial robberies, we are seeing a much higher-than-average number of personal robberies.
  - In March, we hit a five-year high with 65 total personal robberies. This is in-line with the trends we are seeing for overall violence (non-domestic), as there was also an increase in assaults and assaults with a weapon.
- At the end of April 2023, our Robbery Unit announced that five youth had been charged with 76 offences in relation to 11 pharmacy robberies, carjacking robberies and personal robberies that occurred between June 2022 and January 2023.
- In March 2023, we also had two bank robberies, which were committed by the same offender. After being arrested for the first robbery, the offender was released on bail, at which time he committed the second robbery.
  - The Robbery Unit worked with bank employees to provide refresher training on how to keep themselves safe in these situations.
- In April 2023, we had zero pharmacy, cannabis store or bank robberies. Year-to-date, there have been 5 in total – 3 financial, and 1 each of pharmacy and cannabis store. We have, however, seen a recent resurgence in buy-sell offences, wherein victims are targeted via an online advertisement. Offenders have been identified as those active during former operations, as well as their younger siblings.
  - For comparison, by this time last year we were sitting at 18 pharmacy robberies for the year.

## Arson

- Our Arson Unit investigated three house fires in March, two of which were fatal.
  - In both fatalities, mental health concerns were present.
  - In the third case, it is believed that occupants were attempting to heat a home with heaters, which led to the fire.
- The widely publicized house explosion occurring in Marlborough in late March 2023 was the result of a natural gas leak and was found to be accidental. Ten occupants were sent to hospital, but all survived.

## Attachments (if any)


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**Approval signatures**

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**AUTHOR signature:** Amy Castonguay (2023 05 15)  
(Amy Castonguay) Date  
*Public Affairs/Media Relations  
Unit*

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**EXECUTIVE SPONSOR signature:**  (2023 05 17)  
(Paul Cook), (Deputy Chief) Date  
*Bureau of Investigative Support*

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**CHIEF OF POLICE signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
*Mark Neufeld, Chief of Police*  
*Office of the Chief*

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