



REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



CPS Monthly Chief's Reports: Bureau of Investigative Support

Date | June 14, 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.

Highlights

- 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 recently concluded two drug trafficking investigations that stemmed from investigations into fatal overdoses in Calgary. Through targeted enforcement, we continue to have an impact on illicit drug trafficking that is impacting vulnerable Calgarians.
- We hosted our first cryptocurrency training course through our partnership previously announced with Chainalysis. This partnership established CPS as the training hub for these emerging cybercrime trends.
- We are also continuing to work with our partners at the BOLO Program to amplify our search for two individuals wanted in connection with two Calgary homicides.

Summary of Issues, Trends and Examples

Gun Violence

- As of June 14, 2023, there have been 45 shootings in Calgary, which is a 31 per cent decrease from the same period in 2022.
 - In May 2023, 8 shootings were reported, which included one that resulted in injury and one that was fatal.
- So far this year, 174 crime guns have been seized, including 44 in April, 34 in May and 13 to-date in June (up to June 14). This is down from 208 crime guns seized during the same period in 2022. This decrease is likely due to a number of seizures that occurred in 2022 where multiple firearms were seized in one investigation. One file in 2022 resulted in the seizure of 72 guns, which contributed significantly to the total number of guns seized last year.
- In June 2023, A/Sgt. Lynch from the Firearms Investigative Team (FIT) was recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, for his instrumental work in developing a firearms tracing program for the Service.
 - Over the past several years, A/Sgt. Lynch has worked with our law enforcement partners to formalize a process within CPS to trace each crime gun that was seized to ensure alignment with investigative best practices and establish better data collection and analysis within Calgary.
 - This work built the foundation for how our Service traces and investigates crime guns in Calgary.

Drugs

- Our Drug Undercover Street Team laid charges in two separate investigations that stemmed from fatal overdoses that occurred earlier this year.
 - In both cases, officers received information about where the victim's obtained the drugs that caused the overdoses. Investigators then used that information to target the alleged drug traffickers with enforcement efforts.
 - Two men have now been charged with a total of 15 charges, including trafficking a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and possession of property obtained by crime.
 - The investigations both remain ongoing and additional charges are pending.
 - Although charges were not obtained in relation to the initial overdoses, this concerted effort to target individuals involved in drug trafficking makes a significant impact on those causing harm to our community.

Homicides

- By the end of May 2023, we have had eight homicides in Calgary. During the same period in 2022, 13 homicides were reported (a decrease of 38%).
 - Charges have been laid in five of the 2023 homicides (63%).
 - So far this year, five homicides were the result of a shooting.
- On May 1, 2023, CPS participated in the BOLO Program 5-year anniversary event in Toronto. Through the BOLO program, rewards continued to be offered for the arrest of Talal AMER in relation to the death of Angela McKENZIE and for the arrest of Kier Bryan GRANADO in relation to the death of Hussen MERHI.
 - Through this partnership, BOLO has been able to amplify our search for the suspects and attract international attention.

Sexual Assaults

- The number of files assigned to the Sexual Assault Investigation Unit (SAIU) more than doubled from April (21 files) to May (44 files).
 - Of the files assigned to SAIU, domestic sexual assaults peaked in May, though were just slightly higher than March's high (39% to 33%).
- The Sexual Assault Investigative Unit investigates sexual assaults where the victim is over the age of 18, based on capacity, historical reports of sexual assaults, as well as sexual assaults committed during residential break-ins. The remaining sexual assaults that occur in Calgary are investigated by other areas of the service including patrol and our district General Investigations Units.

Cyber

- The Cyber Crime Team (CCT) currently has 56 active investigations, that they are both leading and supporting on. Forty of these investigations were assigned in 2023, with eight new files being assigned in May 2023.
- In May, following the launch of the Blockchain Investigation Team (BIT), CPS hosted an inaugural training course focused on the use of Chainalysis software for cryptocurrency tracing. The class of 24 students included participants from law enforcement and public sector entities from across Western Canada. This course was the result of our partnership with Chainalysis, with CPS serving as a training hub in this emerging area of cybercrime investigations.

Attachments (if any)

Approval signatures

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(Amy Castonguay) Date

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 (2023-06-21)

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Bureau of Investigative Support

CHIEF OF POLICE signature:

(YYYY MM DD)

Mark Neufeld, Chief of Police Date

Office of the Chief
