

Office of the Police Commissioner



May 6, 2024

Honourable Bloyce Thompson
Minister of Justice and Public Safety
95 Rochford Street, PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Minister:

Please find enclosed the Annual Report with respect to the operations of the Office of the Police Commissioner during the year 2023. This report is submitted in accordance with s.19 of the *Police Act*.

There is excellent compliance by police agencies with Ministerial Directives.

It is noteworthy that the UPEI Security Service was removed from the operation of the *Police Act* on November 29, 2023. Therefore, the OPC did not conduct an audit of this service to review directive compliance.

The Annual Report will be posted on the Police Commissioner's website and circulated to the various police services no later than June 1, 2024. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Cyndria L. Wedge".

Cyndria L. Wedge, K.C.
Police Commissioner

Cc Brody Connolly
Alexis Triantafillou



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR 2023

The Police Commissioner is a corporation sole established under Part VI of the *Police Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, cap. P-11.1 (the Act).

The Office of the Police Commissioner (OPC) deals with Complaints and Requests for Review under Parts VII and VIII of the Act, and any other matters assigned to the Police Commissioner under s. 18(I) of the Act.

Section 19 of the Act requires the Police Commissioner to file an annual report for the preceding calendar year with the Attorney General within six months after the end of each calendar year.

This is the Police Commissioner's Report for the year 2023.

1) The OPC provided oversight to a total of 18 complaints from the public in 2023. Eleven were received via the web platform of the OPC. Six were received via either direct contact or email. One was referred to the OPC by the police service that received the initial complaint.

2) The 18 received complaints were resolved in the following manner:

- a. 12 were determined to be unfounded;
- b. 3 were founded;
- c. 2 were withdrawn; and
- d. 1 was made by a person not affected by the alleged conduct.

3) Of the total of 18 complaints, 17 matters were referred to a Chief Officer for investigation.

4) There were three requests for a review of a decision of a Chief Officer regarding a complaint. One matter was reviewed by the OPC Manager resulting in the complaint being dismissed. The second matter was reviewed by the former OPC Manager (as the current Manager was in conflict). This second complaint was also dismissed. The third requested review is ongoing.

5) The OPC provided assistance to telephone callers on 43 occasions. Thirty-three calls were individuals who required guidance on a variety of matters, ie how to obtain a criminal record check or how to advance a complaint of criminal activity. Five calls related to the jurisdiction of the OPC. Three calls were from individuals who appeared to be mentally ill and could not engage in reasonable conversation. One call was seeking information on how to access information, and one caller was unable to be reached when the call was returned.

- 6) None of the complaints received in 2023 involved an allegation of criminal conduct.
- 7) The OPC conducts audits to determine ministerial directive compliance of municipal police services in Charlottetown, Summerside, Kensington, the Provincial Conservation Officers and the Atlantic Police Academy. The audit reports are available on the OPC website at <https://www.policecommissioner.pe.ca/reports>.
- 8) In previous years, the OPC conducted audits of the UPEI Security Service. However, an amendment to the *Police Act* proclaimed on November 29, 2023, removed the UPEI Security Service from the application of the *Act*. Therefore, no audit was conducted for the UPEI Security Service for 2023.
- 9) There is excellent compliance with Ministerial Directives.
- 10) In summary form, the following information meets the statutory requirements for this Annual Report pursuant to s.19 of the *Act*:
- a. Number and nature of requests under s.28 to review the decision of a Chief Officer to dismiss a complaint: Three requests received [see para.4 above];
 - b. Number and nature of complaints under s.35 complaints made concerning the conduct of a Chief Officer: None;
 - c. Number and nature of investigations under ss.29 and 40: 3 [see 4 above];
 - d. Number of decisions under s.32(8) and 43(8): none
 - e. Number and nature of informal resolutions after request for review under s.29(2) or 40(2): none;
 - f. Number and nature of decisions made under s.29(3), 40(3), 39(1) or 39(2): None.
- 11) The required financial statement is attached.
- 12) The OPC continues to be a member of the Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight in Law Enforcement (CACOLE). The Police Commissioner and the Manager attended the annual CACOLE Conference in Halifax, N.S. on May 29, 30 and 31, 2023;
- 13) The following is a summary of the expenditures of the OPC during the calendar year 2022:

Office of the Police Commissioner
Expense Report 2023

Wages & Salaries	\$ 71,057.50
EI Expense	\$ 1,621.63
CPP Expense	\$ 3,816.37
Accounting & Legal	\$ 11,479.00
Computer Equipment & Supplies	\$ 526.14
Conference Registration Fees	\$ 2,383.08
Interest & Bank Charges	\$ 218.00

Office Supplies	\$ 828.37
Memberships	\$ 750.00
Postage	\$ 411.12
Publications	\$ 787.44
Rent	\$ 26,688.00
Telephone & Fax	\$ 1,603.64
Travel – In Province	\$ 2,641.17
Travel – Out of Province	<u>\$ 3,500.69</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$128,312.15

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 6th day of May, 2024.


Cyndria L. Wedge, K.C.
Police Commissioner