

Office of the Police Commissioner



May 10, 2023

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 2022. This report is submitted in accordance with s.19 of the *Police Act*. I am also enclosing the annual reviews that are referred to in paragraph 7 of the Annual Report.

Overall, there is excellent compliance by police agencies with Ministerial Directives. There are a couple of minor exceptions that are outlined in my report.

Also, as noted in previous Annual Reports, Conservation Officers and UPEI Security Services do not use PROs as a records management system. This may be contrary to a Ministerial Directive dated January 18, 2019 that requires all "police services" to use this system. It is acknowledged that implementation of the recommendations contained in the Midpoint Evaluation may remedy (or, at least, partially remedy) this issue.

The Annual Report will be posted on the Police Commissioner's website and circulated to the various police services no later than June 1, 2023. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cyndria L. Wedge".

Cyndria L. Wedge, K.C.
Police Commissioner

Cc Tanya Mullally
Alexis Triantifillou



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR 2022

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(l) 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 2022.

- 1) The OPC provided oversight to a total of 19 complaints from the public in 2022. All were received via the web platform of the OPC
- 2) The 19 received complaints were resolved in the following manner:
 - a. 11 were determined to be unfounded;
 - b. 3 were referred to other agencies;
 - c. 3 were founded;
 - d. 2 were dismissed for other reasons (in one case, a lack of interest by the complainant; in the other case the complainant was found not to be an affected person).
- 3) Of the total of 19 complaints, 14 matters were referred to a Chief Officer for investigation.
- 4) There was one request for a review of a decision of a Chief Officer regarding a complaint. The complaint alleged a police officer had improperly arrested the son of the complainant (the son was a young person). The investigator employed by the OPC met with the complainant and explained the powers of arrest of police officers, and the reasons why the actions complained of occurred. Although the OPC confirmed the decision of the Chief Officer, the complainant was satisfied with the review and outcome.
- 5) The OPC provided assistance to telephone callers on 24 occasions. Eleven inquiries related to the jurisdiction of the OPC; eight were regarding the OPC complaints process; four were with respect to access to information; and one was a media inquiry. In all instances the callers were provided the requested information or contact details of the appropriate agency.

- 6) None of the complaints received in 2022 involved an allegation of criminal conduct.
- 7) The OPC conducts audits to determine ministerial directive compliance of municipal police services in Charlottetown, Summerside, Kensington, UPEI Security Services, Provincial Conservation Officers and the Atlantic Police Academy. The audit reports are attached to this Annual Report and are also available on the OPC website at <https://www.policecommissioner.pe.ca/reports>.
- 8) Overall, there is excellent compliance with Ministerial Directives. Some minor gaps were noted in informing new hires of the requirements of the *Police Act*. This issue has now been resolved. A couple of trainings were behind schedule, but plans are in place to rectify this.
- 9) The Annual Report filed for the OPC in 2020 noted the reality that neither the Conservation Officers nor UPEI Security Service currently utilize PROs as a records management system in contravention of the Ministerial Directive dated January 18, 2019 requiring that all police services use this system. For purposes of this Annual Report, this non-compliance is noted. It is recognized that the implementation of the recommendations contained in the "Midpoint Evaluation of 2017 Crime Prevention and Police Service Model Review" may impact whether there is a need to comment on this non-compliance in future years.
- 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: One request 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: 1 [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): one [see 4 above];
 - 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 Victoria, B.C. on May 16, 17 and 19, 2022;
- 13) A presentation was made to the Association of Chiefs of Police on May 25, 2022.
- 14) Pamela Stewart has been appointed as Deputy Police Commissioner. Her term runs from May 17, 2022 to May 17, 2027.
- 15) Phil Pitts retired as the Manager of the OPC on October 28, 2022. Alexis Triantafillou was hired on September 6, 2022 as the Manager/Investigator of the OPC.

16) Recommendation #32 from the “Midpoint Evaluation of 2017 Crime Prevention and Police Services Model Review” dated July 2021 reads “Consider conducting a brief awareness campaign to remind residents of the role of the Police Commissioner and how to make a complaint against police.” A meeting was held with representatives of all police agencies at the OPC on February 21, 2022 to discuss the steps to be taken to meet this recommendation. As a result, the OPC had printed and distributed wall-hangings to be placed in public locations in all police agencies advising of the role and function of the OPC. These have been distributed to all police agencies.

17) The following is a summary of the expenditures of the OPC during the calendar year 2022:

**Office of the Police Commissioner
Expense Report 2022**

Wages & Salaries	59,300.00
EI Expense	1,838.47
CPP Expense	1,979.88
Commissioners	23,812.50
Accounting & Legal	8,600.00
Advertising	418.44
Interest & Bank Charges	241.09
Office Supplies	2,188.59
Memberships	475.00
Postage	69.93
Printed Supplies	546.98
Publications	1,490.34
Rent	26,688.00
Telephone & Fax	2,559.32
Training & Development	0
Travel – In Province	3,067.14
Travel – Out of Province	<u>9,395.87</u>
	142,671.55