



SIU SPECIAL
INVESTIGATIONS UNIT
UES UNITÉ
DES ENQUÊTES SPÉCIALES

Independent Investigations - Community Confidence • Enquêtes indépendantes - Confiance de la collectivité

OUTREACH

Canadian Association for Civilian
Oversight of Law Enforcement



Overview



- **A look at the SIU**
- **Outreach Goals**
- **Achieving our Goals**
- **Managing Expectations**



Who We Are

- Civilian law enforcement agency that works independently from police
- SIU reports to the Attorney General, however investigations and decisions are independent from the government
- SIU comprised of peace officers, led by a Director who is empowered with causing criminal charges to be laid against police officers



What We Do

- Investigate interactions involving police which have resulted in **death**, **serious injury** or allegations of sexual assault
- Our jurisdiction includes all municipal, regional and provincial police services across Ontario encompassing:
 - 59 Services
 - approximately 28,000 officers





Governing Legislation

Part VII of the 1990 *Police Services Act*

Subsection 113(5)

The director may ... cause investigations to be conducted into the circumstances of serious injuries and deaths that may have resulted from criminal offences committed by police officers.

Subsection 113(7)

If there are reasonable grounds to do so in his or her opinion, the director shall cause informations to be laid against police officers...

Subsection 113(9)

Members of police forces shall co-operate fully with the members of the unit in the conduct of investigations.



A History of Reviews

- 1990 SIU established as a result of a recommendation made by the Task Force on Race Relations and Policing
- 1997 Ontario government appoints the Honourable George W. Adams to begin a consultation process
- 1998 Adams makes 25 recommendations
- 1999 New legal rules and a substantially increased budget mark a new beginning for the SIU
- 2003 Adams Review Report
- 2006 Wortley Report into Police use of Force
- 2007 Report on the Ipperwash Inquiry
- 2008 Ombudsman Report: 'Oversight Unseen'



Outreach Goals



- Increase awareness of the SIU, it's mandate, and the investigative process, among Ontarians
- Develop and strengthen stakeholder networks for greater communication
- Clarify perceptions
- Raise confidence in the integrity of the SIU and police services in Ontario



SIU Stakeholders

Four key stakeholder groups

Academic

Community

Involved parties

Media





Achieving Our Goals

What does the strategy involve?

- Group Presentations
- One-on-one Meetings
- Events/Hosting
- Marketing





Group Presentations



- Scheduled presentations to various groups and organizations across all key stakeholder groups
- Allow ample time for a Q&A period to understand and address concerns



One-on-One

- Engage leaders from advocacy groups, ethnic support groups, and social service providers
- Goal of meeting at regular intervals to keep communication open and ongoing
- Help address emerging issues and change perceptions



Events & Hosting

Event Attendance

- Presence at relevant community fairs and shows
 - access to engage the general public
 - Information table or booth for informal engagement
 - Distribute promotional materials such as brochures, annual reports, and promotional give-aways

Hosting

- SIU open house
 - Allows community members to “see” the SIU
 - Present opportunities to speak with investigators and the Director



The Same but Different

- Born out of controversy
- Very specific and narrow mandate
- Review vs Investigative
 - Conducting criminal investigations
- Obligation on police to report incidents
- Main focus of outreach is not to solicit complaints
- 20 year history but this is the first-time for dedicated outreach efforts



Managing Expectations

- Creating a balance between public and police
- Dilemma of no good news for involved parties
- 20 year history but this is the first-time for dedicated outreach efforts
- Managing the Media



Working with the Media

- All of our investigations affect someone
- If it bleeds, it leads
- Controversy
- Police are figures of high authority
- Media is a beast that needs to be fed – era of the 24-hour news cycle



Stakeholder Specific Programs

- Affected Persons Coordinator
- First Nations Liaison Program
- Director's Resource Committee meetings with key community representatives
- Investigator presentations



Looking Forward

- Data polling to measure our outreach effectiveness
- Incorporating mock cases for stakeholder specific messages
- Update brochures with translations in key languages and strategy for distribution



Comments/Suggestions



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