



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2006 ANNUAL REPORT COURT SECTION

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Author: Richard Dubeau,
Sergeant
Court Supervisor

A. Mandate of the Unit

The Court section is comprised of two distinct divisions: court security and case management. A Sergeant is assigned to supervise both. As mandated by Section 137 of the *Police Services Act*, two full-time and ten part-time Special Constables deal with court security as well as prisoner escorts and the service of summons and subpoenas.

Case management personnel are responsible for facilitating the efficient prosecution of court cases by assisting the crown attorney and coordinating the management of crown briefs and attendance of witnesses at court. One sworn officer, one full time civilian, one part time court coordinator, one part time youth court coordinator, and one clerk staff this area.

B. Executive Summary

A number of changes in the operation of various entities within the judicial system have necessitated changes in operational procedures and requirements over the past twelve months. The need for additional bail courts, transfer of West Nipissing courts to North Bay, staffing issues within the section and a change of venue of a major case from another jurisdiction to this one have all impacted on this unit.

Notwithstanding the above, the Courts Section has been able to adapt and show a reduction in total staffing hours of 3.89% from the previous year. This includes a reduction of 8.71% in the full-time hours with a slight increase of 0.19% in the part-time hours. However, demands at peak times are creating situations where staff from other areas is required to supplement court security personnel.

C. Activities

Court security and prisoner transportation comprise the bulk of the workload within the Court Section. A total of 2,686 prisoners were escorted within the City of North Bay in 2006. This is down 19.6% from the previous year. The number of out-of-town escorts decreased by 30.4% to 128 from 184 in 2005. This is slightly lower than the four-year average of 144.25. Just under two thirds of these escorts are in relation to pre-trial detention versus the accused having been sentenced to a term of incarceration.

The total number of charges processed increased by 2.7% to 2,895 over the previous year. There appears to be consistency with the previous year in relation to those persons held in custody as the number of meals served increased by 2.8% to 2,039 at a cost of over \$7,000 annually.

Video remand, which allows persons in custody to appear and have cases adjourned without a physical transfer to the Court House, was used on 162 fewer occasions than the previous year, a 24.7% reduction in the use of this technology. This is consistent with the fewer number of prisoners escorted. We can surmise from this that there were

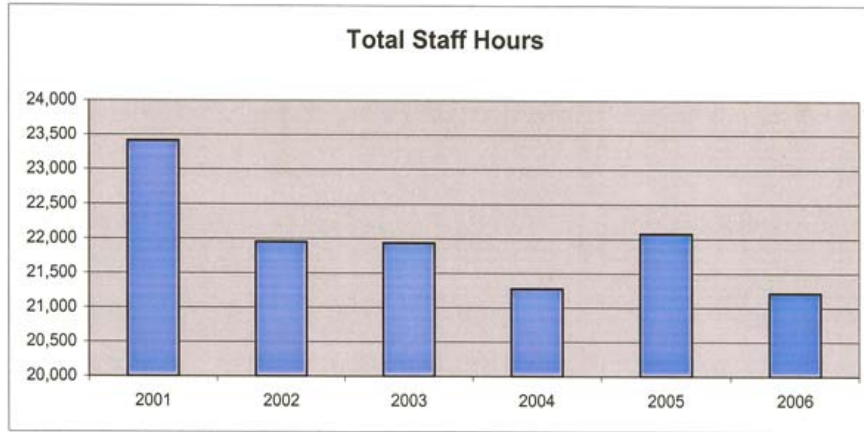
fewer people held in custody subsequent their bail hearing. Anecdotal evidence from staff indicates that the use of video remand was reasonable having regard to all circumstances.

Document service of summonses and subpoenas is at its lowest level in five years at 908 from the five-year high of 1141 in 2005. This is a 20.4% reduction in this area.

D. Performance Indicators

The table below lists a series of performance indicators that are used to review the activities of the Courts Section.

	WASH COURT	VIDEO COURT	PRISONERS ESCORTED	MEALS	OUT OF TOWN ESCORTS	DOCUMENTS SERVED	CHARGES ADULT	CHARGES YOUTH	TOTAL
2002	184	N/A	3062	1764	179	998	2872	756	3628
2003	171	279	2935	1701	129	1017	2373	499	2822
2004	179	632	1948	1415	85	1051	2536	467	3003
2005	152	655	3340	1984	184	1141	2288	527	2815
2006	160	493	2686	2089	128	908	2507	388	2895



E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

Although not reflected in the data, demands on resources have increased over the past twelve months. The day-to-day requirements for personnel in relation to court security needs have increased with the number of courts operating at any given time. This is particularly true on Tuesdays and Wednesdays where the number of courtrooms in

session at any given time create a demand that can exceed the number of personnel assigned to the court security area. The following table provides an example:

COURT ROOM	ACTIVITY	PERSONNEL REQUIRED
101	First Appearance	1 security 2 prisoner detail
301	Bail Court	2 prisoner detail
302	Superior Court Trials	
303	Superior Court Trials	
305	Provincial Court Trials	2 prisoner detail
306	Provincial Court Trials	2 prisoner detail
Cell Block	Monitor, Prisoner security, fingerprinting, DNA sampling, facilitating visits from lawyers, etc.	2
	Document Service	1
TOTAL		12

This example does not include a custody case in Superior Court. Although they do not occur often, two staff may be required on prisoner detail for trials in these courts. This does not take into consideration annual leave, sickness or other reasons where a staff member would not be available. This has necessitated the use of case management personnel and, at times, patrol personnel to assist in transport and court security duties.

The authorized strength of this section at this time is 2 full-time and 10 part-time Special Constables. This section has experienced human resource challenges this past year due to one full-time Special Constable being off on long-term disability (LTD) and the resignation of one part-time Special Constable in late July.

F. Conclusion

Although some efficiencies have been achieved in operational areas like the number of escorts and total working hours, our approved staffing levels must be maintained to ensure the availability of personnel at peak times.