



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2008 Annual Report Youth Office

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A. Mandate of the Unit

- Investigate and conduct follow-up inquiries into offences and incidents involving young persons.
- Support the investigative efforts of Patrol personnel and provide support in an advisory and/or active role.
- Interview young offenders on referral of field personnel.
- Liaise with local agencies on matters relating to young persons.
- Refer young offenders to any pre-charge diversion or Extrajudicial Measures pursuant to the Youth Criminal Justice Act and service policies.

B. Executive Summary

The Youth Office is comprised of one Detective Constable who reports to a Detective in the Criminal Investigations Section. The two major responsibilities of the Youth Section are to investigate criminal offences against children and to conduct Youth Referrals where the youth is alleged to be involved in a criminal offence.

With the continued implementation of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, combined with social issues that every community faces, our service continues to see a growth in requests for our assistance in dealing with youth issues. Throughout 2008, agencies such as the Algonquin Child and Family Services continued to experience waiting lists to accommodate youths and families in crisis. This trend does not appear to be subsiding and our service will be required to adjust and prepare to meet the community needs in dealing with the increase without disrupting the quality of service. The Youth Office continues to play a vital role within our service and offers to our community a valued resource to better assist our youth.

Therefore, in 2008 the Youth Office provided assistance to parents and/or guardians who were having difficulty dealing with youths residing in their residence. These 12 incidents were recorded under the "Trouble with youth" category on RMS. During these sessions, the youth officer conducted interviews similar to that of a youth referral in an attempt to identify areas of concern, provide advice to all concerned and provide information regarding the appropriate resources available in our community. This early intervention was done in an attempt to assist youths prior to them reaching the age of criminal responsibility (12 years) or prior to them being dealt with by the police for criminal behaviour.

C. Activities

The Youth Office is associated to various groups and organizations within the community. The Child Abuse Committee of the District of Nipissing is one of the

organizations that the Youth Office has shared endeavours with in the past and continues to build on a healthy working relationship.

Due to the continued increase in referrals to the Youth Justice Committee Program since its inception and new offences being added to the mandate, there has been a need to increase the number of volunteers. Therefore, the Youth Justice Committee Program, headed by Lynn Racicot of YES Employment, recruited new volunteers. The Youth Officer assisted in the recruitment and interview process for all volunteer candidates. As well, the Youth Officer remained involved as a steering committee member. The committee is another resource in dealing with youth crime. Section 18 of the Youth Criminal Justice Act gives the Committee of Citizens the authority to assist in any aspect of the administration of the YJCA or in any programs or services for young persons. This committee has proven to be invaluable to the North Bay Police Service in dealing with young offenders. The relationship between YES Employment, the Crown Attorney's office and the North Bay Police Service has strengthened throughout 2008.

The Youth Officer, along with Lynn Racicot of the Youth Justice Committee Program, presented three guest lectures to students at Nipissing University on the topic of Bullying. These lectures were well received and provided a forum to bring forward information about the Youth Justice Committee Program and the functions of the North Bay Police Service's Youth Office. It is anticipated that there will be further speaking engagements of this nature in the upcoming year.

In 2008, the Youth Office also formed a new partnership with the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder North Committee as a member. Unfortunately, due to time restraints and the case load of the Youth Office, this could not continue. The Youth Officer has remained as a contact person for the committee and was able to make new connections with other organizations during this time, which has already proven to be a useful.

D. Performance Indicators

For the reporting year of 2008, the youth office was involved in 19 occurrences dealing with investigations of sexual offences against young persons. Of these 19 occurrences a total of 20 criminal charges were laid. The charges included sexual assault, sexual interference, sexual exploitation and invitation to sexual touching under the criminal code.

Another mandate of the youth office is to interview youth offenders on referrals of officers. This is in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure on Youth Crime as it relates to Extrajudicial Measures and more specifically, Youth Referrals. For the reporting year of 2008, there were a total of 119 Youth Referral interviews conducted.

During 2008 the Youth Officer was required to assist the Criminal Investigations Section on several occasions with interviewing young persons and adults, as well as being assigned investigations outside of the mandate. This resulted in the Youth Office being involved in an additional 31 investigations with 15 of these being directly assigned to the Youth Officer and an additional 12 criminal charges being laid. These assigned investigations were in relation to offences such as Attempt Murder, Criminal

Harassment, Missing Persons, Sudden Death, Sexual Assault with adult victims, Assault with youth victims and Robbery.

A comparison of performance indicators from 2006, 2007 and 2008 are attached in Appendix "A" – Youth Referral Chart and Youth Investigations Chart.

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

In early 2008, the Youth Officer, along with Lynn Racicot of YES Employment and John Holland of the Crown's Office, presented in-service training to all platoons and the criminal investigations section. This proved to be useful as it was a refresher to experienced officers and informative for newer officers. As a result, the number of referrals continued to increase throughout 2008. Therefore, it is recommended that this be a yearly endeavour as the mandate of the Youth Justice Committee Program is ever changing to include new offences and the success of the program continues.

The Youth Office benefited from a very positive working relationship with the School Liaison Section throughout 2008. This was extremely helpful in information sharing regarding youths being referred to the Youth Office, intelligence gathering and during investigations conducted by both the Youth Office and the School Liaison Office. It is strongly recommended that this relationship be taken into consideration if or when a personnel change is required in either section.

In late 2008, there appeared to be a new program being implemented by some schools in North Bay and area to deal with behavioural problems within its student body. These programs are in the form of restorative justice type programs that are quite similar to what the Youth Justice Committee Program offers. These types of programs are suitable for issues that are not of a criminal nature or a "police matter" that should be dealt with by the School Liaison Officer. They have been applied to school discipline issues throughout 2008. However, in late 2008 there was an instance where this was applied to a matter which our School Liaison Officer had already responded to and resulted in charges being laid. Therefore, there was a breach of the offender's release conditions being facilitated by school authorities through this program. The Youth Officer, Lynn Racicot of YES Employment and John Holland of the Crown's Office have been scheduled to represent their respective organizations, as well as the Youth Justice Committee during a presentation to the directors from all school boards in the Nipissing District. This presentation is scheduled to take place on the 13th of January 2009 and will hopefully assist to address this issue. This presentation will also provide a forum to bring forth information regarding the Youth Referral process and hopefully alleviate any future difficulties of this nature.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

The Youth Office is looking forward to maintaining the community partnerships that have been built over the past several years, as well as being eager to take on new challenges with them in 2009.

It is anticipated that the number of youth referrals will continue to increase as the Youth Criminal Justice Act is still in place and has not seen any dramatic changes in relation to Extrajudicial Measures programs. Another factor to consider is the addition in late 2008 of new offences being added to the mandate of the Youth Justice Committee Program.

The Youth Criminal Justice Committee is contemplating the Youth Office maintaining statistics on the recidivism rate of youths who are referred to the Youth Justice Committee Program by our service. At this time the Ministry of the Attorney General does not require this statistical information. However, keeping this information updated in reference to the Youth Justice Committee Program referrals and our own service's in-house referrals may assist in assessing the success of our youth referral process.

With the majority of the investigators in the Criminal Investigations Section receiving training in 2008, as well as having gained more experience, it is anticipated that the Youth Office will have more time to concentrate efforts on its own mandate in 2009. This will hopefully facilitate new ventures being explored such as the one attempted with the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder North Committee in 2008.

G. Other

The Youth Criminal Justice Act continues to provide a variety of methods to deal with youth related crime. For the 2008 calendar year, the Youth Office conducted 119 Youth Referral interviews. These are instances where the Act allows the diversion of the youth from the court process and being charged criminally, while at the same time holding them accountable for their actions. This process also allows the youth officer some flexibility. The results of such diversions and consequences issued can be examined on the attached charts (Appendix 2 – Distribution of Referrals), listing the action taken. The charts provide a contrast between the calendar years of 2006, 2007 and 2008. Due to changes to the referral process for the TAPP-C program (arson prevention program for children) and insurance issues for youths completing Community Service Hours, the chart has been changed for 2008 as these referrals are now facilitated through the Youth Justice Committee Program. It was common practice to have the youths present their written apologies to the victims in person along with a verbal apology and restitution when appropriate.

The Youth Officer and Detective Constable Brewer presented to employees with the City of North Bay Parks and Recreation Department on the topic of Graffiti. This was influential in initiating discussions between the Youth Justice Committee Program and the city for possible placements of youths required to complete Community Service Hours in the future. One placement that was arranged prior to this presentation was in relation to graffiti to city property and proved to be a successful venture. As well in 2008, a youth completed Community Service Hours at the North Bay Police Service for damage to one of our vehicles. The Youth Office, in conjunction with the Youth Justice Committee Program, will continue to explore new avenues for this type of Extrajudicial Measure as it is always best suited for the youth offenders to complete the hours directly for the affected organizations or victims.

H. Appendices

Appendix "A" – Youth Referral Chart and Youth Investigations Chart

Appendix "B" – Distribution of Referrals

APPENDIX "A"

	2008	2007	2006
Sexual Offence Investigations (Child victims)	19	15	26 (all invest.)
Other Investigations	15	5	
Charges	32	12	27
Ass't other Dep't/Officers	16	1	N/A
Trouble with Youth Interviews	12	N/A	N/A
Youth Referrals	119	106	68

Note: N/A = Not Available

APPENDIX "B"

Distribution of Referrals

	2008	2007	2006
Written Apology	52	8	13
Youth Justice Committee Program	55	76	11
Returned to Patrol	8	5	N/A
Verbal Caution	1	11	31
Verbal Apology	6	N/A	N/A
Essay	0	0	3
Restitution	0	0	6
Community Service Hours	0	1	1
TAPP-C	1	2	1
Other	5	3	2
Total Youth Referrals	119	106	68
Males	75	60	N/A
Females	44	46	N/A

Note:

- Restitution and essay statistics were not calculated in 2008 as all incidents involving identifiable victims were resolved by written warnings and/or a verbal apology and restitution where applicable.
- All referrals requiring Community Service Hours and TAPP-C were forwarded to the Youth Justice Committee Program due to insurance issues and a new referral system for the TAPP-C program.
- N/A = Not Available