



# **NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE**

## **2009 Annual Report Forensic Identification**

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## **A. Mandate of the Unit**

Provide forensic identification support to all sections of the North Bay Police Service and to submit local samples to the National DNA Data Bank. The section endeavors to advance with on-going technical change to maintain a constant and reliable level of expertise in accordance with the integrity of the North Bay Police Service.

## **B. Executive Summary**

The Forensic Identification Unit continues to provide support to members of the Service by providing the level of expertise required to effectively collect and preserve physical evidence for court and investigation purposes. A second Forensic Identification Officer was hired in March 2009 to fill the vacancy that resulted from a resignation.

Over the past 12 months there has been no noticeable change in the types of occurrences to which the Forensic Identification Unit responds. The number of serious crimes that the members of the Unit were called upon to investigate decreased for the reporting period but the overall number of calls for service has increased substantially.

## **C. Activities**

The number of persons fingerprinted for criminal purposes increased in 2009 ending a trend that was observed during the previous 3 years. The number of persons fingerprinted for non-criminal purposes rose slightly over the 2008 total. In previous years a marked increase was apparent in non-criminal fingerprints due to the screening of candidates by private industry, government and volunteer organizations.

The production of photographic line-ups on the RMS system has been successfully implemented, resulting in more consistent quality and increased objectivity in the selection of subjects for photographic line-ups. The introduction of this process was facilitated by the creation of "Ident/fingerprint Reports" on the RMS system. Extensive training of Special Constables was required to develop the computer skills to capture the information and images for this data base.

Crime scene fingerprints are being routinely forwarded to the R.C.M.P. Latent Fingerprint/CPSIC Operations for searching through the Fingerprint Databank. This process has increased the number of fingerprint identifications of suspects and consequently increased the number of resolved crimes.

The acquisition of an Alternative Forensic Light Source kit has resulted in the development of greater numbers of latent fingerprints on exhibits. The light

source will also be utilized during the investigation of serious crimes to identify trace evidence, fingerprints and biological evidence.

A total of 131 convicted offender DNA samples were obtained and processed for inclusion in the National DNA Data Bank. Crime scene samples are routinely submitted for analysis and comparison to the National Data Bank. Crime Scene DNA to Convicted Offender Profile hits and Crime Scene to Crime Scene hits are received monthly from the Center of Forensic Sciences and the information disseminated to investigators.

The use of digital cameras by patrol officers and major crime investigators continues to work well.

A process for the documentation of exhibits stored in the Forensic Identification area, that are no longer of value, has been established. A process to document and facilitate disposal of exhibits and files has been discussed.

#### **D. Performance Indicators**

A chart comparing the number of occurrences the unit was involved with from 2007 to 2009 is attached.

Please refer to Appendix A.

#### **E. Anticipated Issues for the Future**

A budgetary request has been presented for the acquisition of a Cyanoacrylate Fuming Chamber for the purpose of safe and accurate fingerprint analysis.

Changes to the Ministry Accredited Training Standards for Forensic Identification Officers in 2008 requires certification for Forensic Identification Officers to be completed by 2011. Certification testing of both members of the unit is scheduled for the fall of 2010. Increased training will be required to ensure that the knowledge, skills and abilities of Forensic Identification Unit members are current and adequate in preparation for certification.

A process will be developed for the disposal of exhibits and files within the Section that are of no further value.

#### **F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year**

In the next year ongoing in-service training will be provided to uniform, I.S.S. officers and Special Constables regarding the collection of exhibits, digital

photography and data collection. Exhibits stored in the Forensic Identification area will be removed and disposed contingent upon the availability of time and resources to commit to this activity.

**G. Other**

N/A

**H. Appendices**

See Appendix A

## Appendix A

<b>Occurrences</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Calls for Service	222	186	356
Sudden Deaths	32	31	39
Sexual Assaults	7	Not tracked	11
Persons Fingerprinted - Criminal	1190	1006	1277
Persons Fingerprinted- Non Criminal	131	183	186
DNA Data Bank Samples	61	97	131
DNA Consent Samples	11	Not tracked	Not tracked
Photo Line-ups	47	Not tracked	30
Prepared Fingerprint charts / reports for Court	1	0	2
Centre Of Forensic Science Submissions	57	40	38