



# **NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE**

## **2010 Annual Report School Liaison**

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**Report Date: 2011/01/05**  
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## **A. Mandate of the Unit**

Act as liaison between the North Bay Police Service and 6 local High Schools and 28 Elementary and Senior Elementary Schools.

Establish, develop and maintain partnerships with area school stakeholders.

Provide information on community safety issues.

Promote and foster a reduction of crime and victimization in relation to young persons.

Assist in the development of students' understanding of good citizenship.

Divert young persons away from crime and anti-social behaviour. and

Work in partnership with other government and community-based organizations to support positive youth development.

## **B. Executive Summary**

The School Liaison Program was initiated in January of 2000 with the identified need to increase service delivery to area schools in order to foster and maintain safe and non-threatening environment for students, staff and community members. There continues to be a need for positive interaction with the youth of our society and to promote a positive image of police within the school setting. The School Liaison Officer (SLO) provides a visible and positive image of law enforcement to our youth on a more personal level when they have contact with the police.

The SLO responds to numerous calls and demands from all area schools with some calls being deemed non-reportable. During these non-reportable calls the officer provides advice/opinions to school staff and students that don't warrant a general investigation. For this reason, the demand imposed on the SLO is not properly measured by simply identifying the number of reportable incidents or by the statistics gathered by the SLO.

Restorative Justice is a pre-charge measure used as a form of school discipline where the student agrees to participate in a meeting with the other student(s), parent(s), teacher(s), Vice-Principal(s) and/or Principal. In this process a discussion is held in order to address the impact made upon all persons involved in the occurrence. It also provides clarity on what took place and allows all participants to address their feelings and to agree on an appropriate resolution to the problem.

The SLO monitors when the Restorative Justice Process is being used as there have been issues in the past where organizers of the process were not fully aware of the outcome of an investigation. Therefore, the process was not an option due to conditions imposed on a youth charged following an incident i.e. non-communication clauses on release orders

Also, the SLO became aware that in the past, the Restorative Justice Process was being used for crimes of violence or an offence involving a Controlled Substance and was not reported to the police for a proper investigation. Schools have now been informed that certain occurrences need to be reported to the SLO prior to any consideration of the Restorative Justice Process. It is recognized that in the majority of the cases where the Restorative Justice Process has been used properly with the SLO present, that it has been a positive and effective means.

There continues to be a concern regarding drug use within the school setting. The SLO continues to receive many calls regarding drug offences along with drugs found within the school that are turned over to police for destruction.

It is believed that drug offences will continue to rise within the schools and that additional drug awareness presentations will be required to educate students regarding the harmful effects of substances, including health risks and the legal consequences.

### **C. Activities**

The SLO continued to investigate criminal incidents such as assaults (37), threatening/harassment (12), drug offences (19), thefts (23), mischief offences (6), weapon offences (1), arson (1), fraud (1) and bail violations offences (2).

As there is only one officer dedicated as the SLO, the officer had to prioritize calls for service whenever a high volume of calls was received. Although all calls were eventually dealt with appropriately, issues arose when the SLO was occupied with an investigation requiring an extended period of time at a school (i.e. obtaining statements where many youths may be involved in one occurrence). As a result, in some instances the SLO depended on patrol officers to assist in responding to calls.

Other demands imposed on the SLO include increased demand for educational speeches and presentations on topics such as bullying, drugs, safe grad talks, lockdown procedures, etc. These activities are very time-consuming and can sometimes be difficult to schedule due the priority of responding to calls for service at the schools.

## **D. Performance Indicators**

In 2010, there were two hundred and forty-eight (248) school related calls for service. Although not all of these calls were handled by the SLO, they fell within the mandate of the School Liaison Program. These were calls that directly involved either the SLO or other patrol officers.

As previously mentioned, there were a number of calls for service, which were not logged, as they were merely a demand for SLO presence during a talk with a student requiring proper guidance and advice. These non-reportable calls were often resolved by way of explaining to the youth the consequences to their actions or simply educating them on various topics. Most of these non-reportable calls were dealt with by school officials.

In 2010, there were sixty-two (62) school related criminal charges laid (36 laid by the SLO), two (2) Provincial Offence Notices issued, seventy-seven (77) Verbal Cautions/Warnings given and twenty-nine (29) Youth Referral Notices served (25 by the SLO).

Charges laid by the SLO were as follows: assaults - 12, assault causing bodily harm – 2; uttering threats – 4; possession of a controlled substance – 2; indecent act – 2; theft under \$5000 – 1; mischief under \$5000 – 1; breach of probation – 6; breach of undertaking – 2; breach of recognizance – 1; identity fraud – 1; dangerous operation of a motor vehicle - 1 and cause disturbance by fighting - 1.

Offences which resulted in a Youth Referral Notice were as follows: possession of a controlled substance – 9; assaults – 8; theft under \$5000 – 3; possession of stolen property – 2; carry concealed weapon – 1; mischief under \$5000 - 1 and cause a disturbance by swearing - 1.

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

### Drugs

As mentioned in the past two annual reports, the use, possession and distribution of both illicit and prescription drugs in our schools continues to be a major concern for both school officials and the SLO. Although this year, there were only two drug-related charges laid, there were nine Youth Referral Notices served for drug possession offences. Furthermore, the SLO has recovered illicit drugs from school officials for destruction on numerous occasions where there were no suspects. There continues to be a clear indicator that drug-related activities are taking place in our schools and increasing. Intervention and education is needed by way of presentations and talks and there is a need for an

additional officer to deliver that service as the SLO alone cannot provide the adequate time required in this area.

### Assaults

In 2010 14 assault related charges were laid, 8 Youth Referral Notices served and many verbal cautions/warnings given for minor altercations. Last year (2010), school officials have done a better job reporting violence within their schools as explained to them at the beginning of the school year in the fall of 2009. The SLO is monitoring the number of assaults in order to address the need for future presentations on violence. In the past, certain minor assaults were merely dealt with by way of school suspensions or by way of Restorative Justice Process, which did not follow the guidelines set within the School/Police Protocol.

### Education on Lockdown Procedures

Schools are now mandated to perform bi-annual practices of the “lockdown” procedure. It is important that those consistent educational practices are provided to staff and students on this procedure in order that all the schools follow a similar process. Schools are also being made aware of two other procedures which are more commonly utilized. They are known as “Shelter in Place” (used during hazardous incidents happening near a school, i.e. a chemical spill, where all staff and students remain within the school with doors and windows closed along with the ventilation system turned off) and “Hold and Secure” (used when there is a possible threat near a school, i.e. a violent person in the area, where the school needs to be secure with outside doors and windows locked with staff and students safely within).

Although there is a demand for the SLO to be present during these practices, there is also a need to attend the schools to educate them on proper procedures prior to putting them into practice. The North Bay Police Service has recently created a Power Point presentation, which would facilitate educating the staff. In 2011 it is anticipated that the newly created position of Community Resource Officer will be able to deliver the presentation.

### Staffing and facilitating the duties of the SLO

There continues to be only one SLO assigned to school-related calls. It is anticipated that this will remain the same for next year; however, the North Bay Police Service has created a new position, the Community Resource Officer (CRO), which will commence in February 2011. The CRO would be in a position to assist the SLO with presentations, thereby creating a more proactive approach in dealing with Youth Crime and social disorder.

A close working relationship with the CRO could lead to decreasing the crime rate in our schools. This would also create an opportunity for greater police presence and improve the police/youth relationships.

This past year grades 7 & 8 from Alliance Public School (formerly known as Centennial Public School) amalgamated with Chippewa Secondary School (CSS). The SLO and the staff at CSS were trying to monitor the effect of this amalgamation. It is still unknown as to whether or not this amalgamation will create more problems within the schools; however, it should be kept in mind that high school level students will have an influence over these younger students or may even begin to manipulate them to engage in various criminal activities.

It is apparent that grade 7 & 8 students are easily intimidated by the older students. It was anticipated when the decision was made to amalgamate that they would be separated from the older students; however, the SLO has noticed that this was not the case and that younger students were often found participating in various police related occurrences.

Grade 7 & 8 students from Cite des Jeunes will be amalgamating with Ecole Secondaire Algonquin (ESA) in the fall of 2011. This seems to be the direction the School Boards are now taking. It is anticipated that in the future, other schools may follow suit (ie. Grades 7 & 8 at St-Hubert Public Elementary with St. Joseph/Scollard Hall Secondary School, Grades 7 & 8 at Silver Birches Public Elementary with West Ferris Secondary School and Grades 7 & 8 at W.J. Fricker Public Elementary with Widdifield Secondary School).

The SLO should continue to monitor these amalgamations and begin to create statistics involving these grades 7 & 8 students who are part of a high school in comparison to grades 7 & 8 students remaining in the elementary school setting.

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

### Proper diversion measures and documentation of School-related incidents

This past year, the SLO ensured that youths who were dealt with by way of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, were classified properly in reports as either “witness”, “accused” or most importantly as “youth diverted – YD” where an extrajudicial measure was given as a form of disposition to an incident. In the past, it was noticed by both the SLO and the Youth Officer that officers were not properly classifying youths as being diverted which would in turn go unnoticed by the SLO or Youth Officer. This would then cause this same youth to receive an inappropriate consequence such as a second Youth Referral Notice when a charge may have been a better consequence.

## Educating and creating awareness for our youth population

This continues to be a topic of concern for the upcoming year. The matter should be addressed with the assistance of the newly created Community Resource Officer (CRO). There has always been a need for additional educational lectures and presentations within the school on various topics such as: Drug Use; Bullying and Cyber-bullying; Physical Violence in the Schools; Domestic Violence in relationships and Internet Safety.

It is anticipated that by delivering more presentations in our schools and creating more awareness on various topics and issues, that youth crime will decrease and in turn create a safer environment for both students and faculty. With the amount of physical violence and drugs within the schools, we cannot simply be reactive to these incidents but rather develop a proactive approach in decreasing the number of incidents.

### **G. Other**

The North Bay Police Service has now begun the first phase of a proactive initiative. A school survey will be given out in the 2011 to randomly selected students ranging from grades 7 to grades 12 at various schools in the city of North Bay.

In October of 2009, the SLO participated in an exchange program with the Abington Township Police Service in Abington, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in order to gather information on youth crime.

As part of the recommendations following this exchange, it was determined that phase 1 of a proactive approach to youth crime would be to administer a survey to students in order to gather valuable information. This survey was intended to provide police with valuable information as it relates to combating crime within the schools.

The survey was also intended to solicit feedback regarding the relationship between police and youth. Although the relationship between the SLO and students is seen as a positive relationship, the North Bay Police Service is aware that we can always seek ways of improving that relationship.

### **H. Appendices**

Appendix "A" – School Liaison Performance Indicators

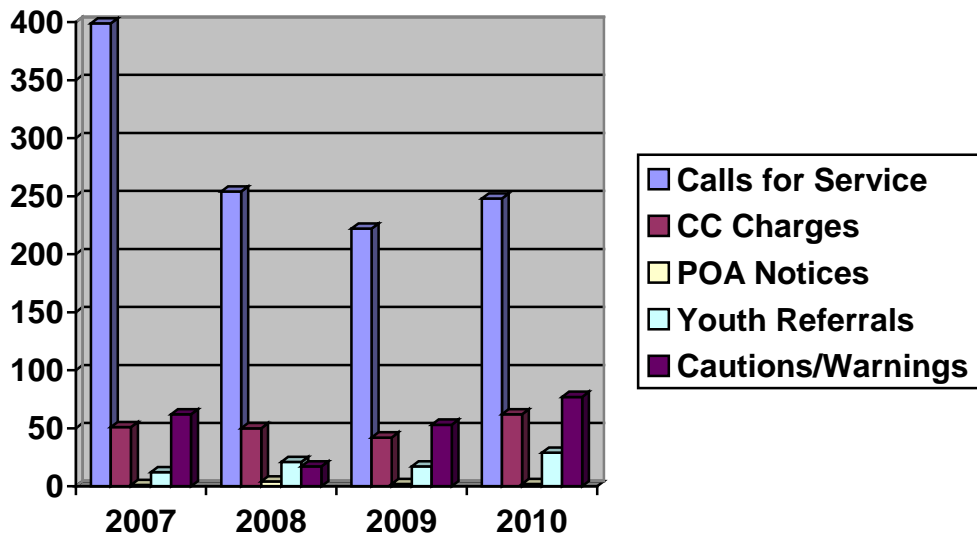
Appendix "B" – Outline of Criminal Charges

Appendix "C" – Outline of Youth Referral Notices

## APPENDIX "A"

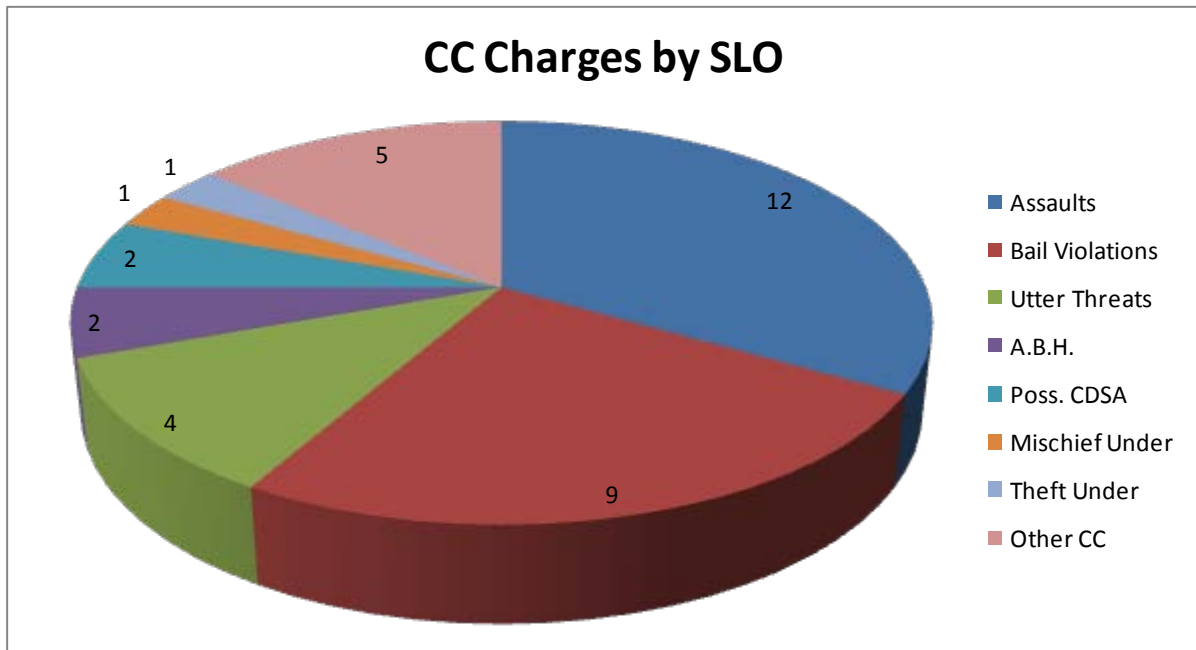
### SCHOOL LIAISON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Calls for Service	399	254	222	248
Criminal Code Charges	51	50	42	62
Provincial Offences Notices	1	4	2	2
Youth Referrals	12	21	17	29
Cautions/Warnings	62	17	53	77



## APPENDIX "B"

### OUTLINE OF CRIMINAL CHARGES



## APPENDIX "C"

### OUTLINE OF YOUTH REFERRAL NOTICES

