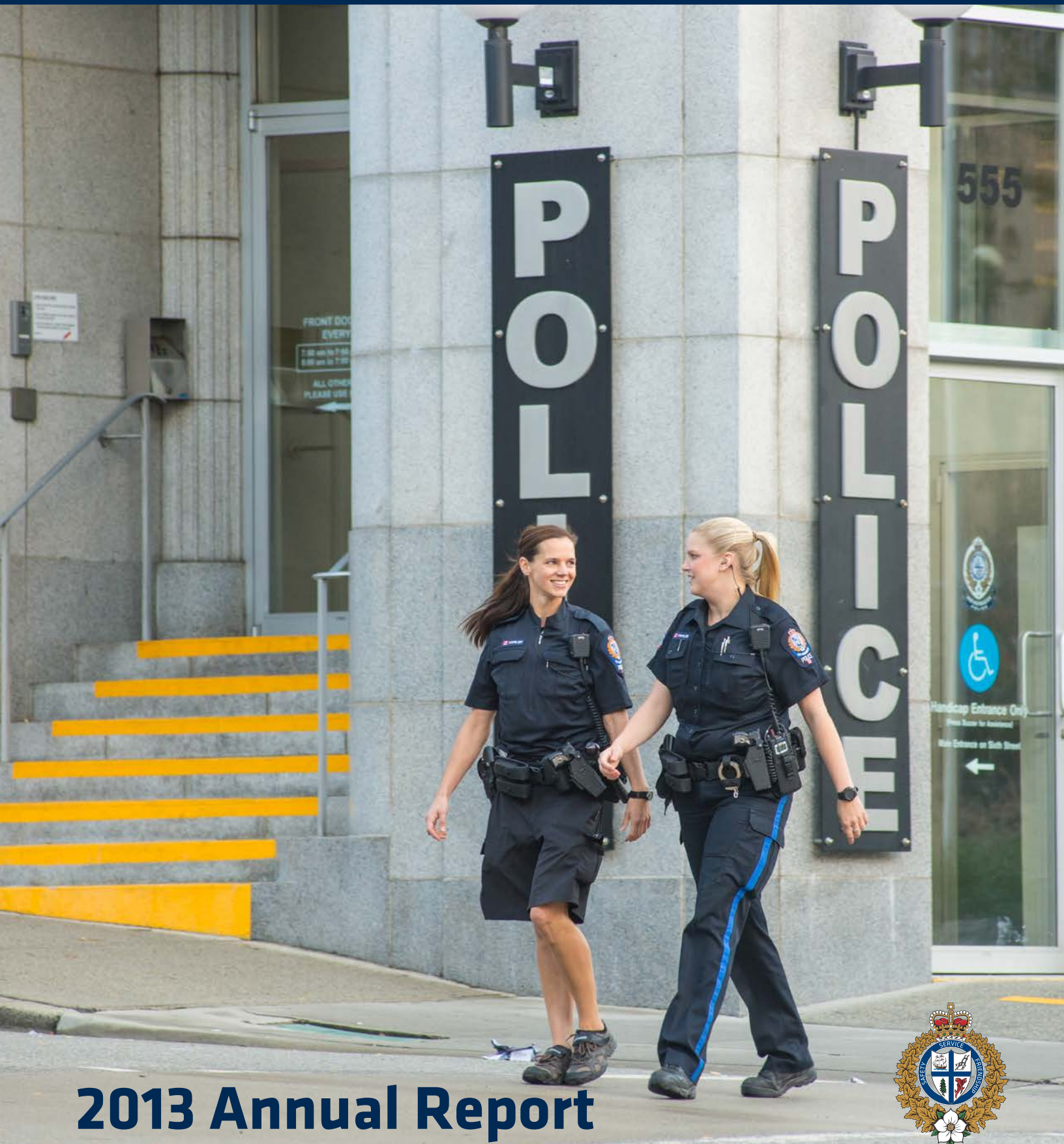


# New Westminster Police Department



**2013 Annual Report**



# Message from the Chief Constable



I'm pleased to present you with the New Westminster Police Department's 2013 Annual Report.

It was another year of changes and progress for our department. Challenges were faced head-on by all members and civilian staff, who continued to work hard to keep the citizens of New Westminster safe and provide great customer service and support.

One big change we faced this year was moving our dispatch services over to E-Comm, allowing us to continue to provide our community with great police service while utilizing E-Comm's advanced technology and ability to cross-communicate among agencies.

I'm also happy to say that we created and filled the much-needed mental health position. The Mental Health Coordinator is able to provide real-time support to officers during crisis calls, as well as integrate case management to ensure adequate support for clients after police contacts.

And as always, I was proud to present the Chief Constable's Awards to deserving members who demonstrated teamwork and exceptional decision-making, bringing difficult, often dangerous situations to a safe resolution.

As we move forward, we continue to look for ways to improve and grow with the needs of our community. I can say with confidence that our nearly 200 members and civilian staff are committed to providing the highest level of service to our residents and are dedicated to keeping New Westminster a safe and livable city.

*In 2014...*

*We will improve traffic safety and enforcement by implementing a Commercial Vehicle Inspection Team consisting of two special constables.*





## **Transitioning Dispatch to E-Comm**

**Seamless integration as a result of extensive planning.**

On June 4th, 2013, the New Westminister Police Department's emergency call-taking and dispatch services successfully integrated into the E-Comm regional emergency communications centre. The successful changeover was the result of months of extensive operational and technical planning by NWPD and E-Comm.

The department announced in February 2013 that it would be moving its police call-taking and dispatch operations to E-Comm in order to continue providing its community with quality police service while lowering potential risks and offering increased operational benefits and efficiencies. E-Comm's consolidated dispatch system provides enhanced cross-communication between agencies, a larger workforce for better coverage during major and extended emergency events and access to top-tier technology. New Westminister is the thirteenth police agency dispatched by E-Comm, which also dispatches for 19 fire departments (including New Westminister Fire and Rescue Services) throughout southwest BC.

By partnering with E-Comm, NWPD is able to work even more closely with many of the other police agencies dispatched by E-Comm, including neighbouring Richmond RCMP and the Burnaby RCMP. The size and scope of the E-Comm centre means that when there is a major event in one of the communities dispatched by the organization, E-Comm can draw from its large contingent of highly-trained staff and quickly re-deploy resources to help manage the increase in 911 calls. This provides an increased level of service an individual agency would be hard-pressed to achieve on its own.

Nineteen NWPD call-takers and dispatchers moved to E-Comm where they will continue to perform the duties they were responsible for at NWPD.

E-Comm has been a proud partner of the New Westminister Police Department since 2002 when they first joined the E-Comm radio system and of New Westminister Fire and Rescue Services, which also use the E-Comm radio system and for whom E-Comm has been dispatching for since 2005.

*In 2014...*

*We will improve our ability to perform crime analysis through the utilization of the Vancouver Police Department C.R.I.M.E. Crime Analysis Program.*

# Getting a hold on mental health

In May 2013, the New Westminster Police Department's Constable Wlodyka stepped up to the role of mental health intervention coordinator, a position that was created by the department after identifying a need for such a role in the community.

The mental health coordinator provides real-time support to officers during crisis calls, as well as integrated case management to ensure adequate support for clients after police contacts. Constable Wlodyka's case load consists of residents in New Westminster who have severe mental illness and generate excessive or high risk police contacts. The mental health intervention coordinator has received over one thousand referred files in the past year.

Cst. Wlodyka has worked with community mental health care teams, probation officers, corrections officers, crown counsel and other community partners to develop strategies designed to support and reduce the client's incidents of crisis. As a result, citizens of New Westminster receive the support they need after police contacts, which reduces their reliance on emergency services such as police and hospitals.

Secondary roles for the mental health officer include improving mental health training for front line police officers, reducing hospital wait times for patients apprehended under the Mental Health Act, and enhancing community partnerships.

*In 2014...*

*We will participate in Canada's second Real Time Intelligence Centre, which will provide immediate analytical support to assist in coordinating responses to serious crimes.*





## A difficult decision

### Chief Constable's Awards

On Saturday, August 10, 2013, the New Westminister Police Department received a call from a friend of a possible suicidal male. The caller was calling from out of town and advised police that he spoke to his friend, a chronic alcoholic who had hit rock bottom and wanted to kill himself - and that he had two loaded firearms.

Constables Reid, Basran, Hagen, Long, Hackman, Thom and Acting Sergeant Schultz all attended the scene. While outside the suite, members already on scene heard a gun rack 7-8 times, after which the door to the suite opened and the male could be seen in the door frame. Constable Hackman gave numerous loud verbal commands to the male to "show us your hands", but the male was non-compliant.

Constable Reid then observed the male take his left hand and lift up his t-shirt revealing a portion of his stomach and the waistband of his shorts. He saw a flash of silver and what appeared to be a dark coloured grip of a gun. Constable Reid then saw the male reach his right hand towards his waistband and the gun. The male was given verbal commands to which he was again non-compliant. He then reached into his waistband and briefly grabbed what appeared to be the stock or handle of a hand gun. By that time Constable Hagen had the less lethal shotgun loaded with bean bag rounds aimed at the male's right leg area.

Constable Hagen saw the male motion with his hand towards his waistband. At that point, Constable Hagen fired a round at the male's leg. The male remained standing and a second round was fired. He then began to move towards the members in the other hallway. A third round was fired and the male listened to commands. After hearing commands to lie on his stomach, the male immediately lay down in front of the doorway to his suite.

The male was taken into custody by police and once handcuffed, the male was searched and a Berretta 9mm handgun was located in his waistband. The firearm was later secured and it was confirmed to have been loaded with one round in the chamber. The male was later arrested and chartered for "careless use of a firearm" and "possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose."

The police officers involved were awarded Chief Constable's Awards for their actions at the annual Awards & Commendations evening held in November at The Columbia.

*In 2014...*

*We will enhance the coverage of our canine units by implementing a partnership with the RCMP Integrated Canine Team.*

# Integration with RCMP Lower Mainland District ERT

On January 21, 2013 New West Police Department officially signed a memorandum of understanding to contribute two full-time police officers to the Lower Mainland District Emergency Response Team (LMD ERT).

This team is comprised of 67 employees, mostly police officers and two support staff.

The two new officers have actively trained with the LMD ERT. The two officers are based out of New Westminster but work with teams across the District and attend as required. The teams cover 13 RCMP detachments and now, the jurisdiction of New Westminster.

Integrated units are an effective way to deal with cross-jurisdictional crime and provide specialized services resulting in enhanced public safety. The move by the NWPD to the RCMP LMD ERT team is seen as the next step in the evolution of providing quality public safety services to the citizens of New Westminster.

The Integrated Teams are in recognition that criminal activities are multi-jurisdictional and complex. As highly experienced, well-trained, well-equipped specialists, they are able to produce excellent results for the citizens served by the Lower Mainland District Regional Police Service (LMDRPS). This LMDRPS is a leader in integration of policing services in areas that required highly specialized tactical and investigative support. The LMD contains five integrated teams and New Westminster Police are already part of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT).

*In 2014...*

*We will develop and implement a new internal intranet system that will provide an effective communications tool, and will increase productivity and effectiveness between members and staff.*





## Message from the Mayor

### Chair of the Police Board

As Chair of the Police Board, I have the privilege of working with my fellow board members to oversee the growth and progress of the New Westminster Police Department, ensuring top levels of service to our community in every aspect of the department. When I see the hard work and dedication sworn members and civilian staff put into their work, I can confidently say that New Westminster is in good hands.

In 2013, the Police Board and Senior Management Team continued to work together to ensure the department was on track and was making progress on the three strategic directions outlined in the Strategic Plan: reduce crime and enhance safety, improve communications and strengthen relations, and optimize use of resources.

All three of the strategic directions mentioned above were addressed in several changes the department made in 2013, including the decision to move their dispatch to E-Comm and to integrate with RCMP's Lower Mainland District ERT. I am confident that these decisions will result in increased departmental efficiency by strengthening relations with other law enforcement agencies and by making the most of our resources in order to better serve and protect our city.

In 2014, the NWPD will enter into a partnership with the RCMP Integrated Canine Team in order to enhance the coverage of our canine units. The department will also continue to enhance and enforce traffic safety with an emphasis on commercial vehicle safety by hiring two new Commercial Vehicle Inspectors. City residents can continue to expect people-focused, proactive policing from the New Westminster Police Department as they work with residents, volunteers, and civilian staff to keep New Westminster safe and livable for all.

## New Westminster Police Board

The New Westminster Police Board is responsible for providing oversight and direction to the Police Department in a fashion that is consistent with the Police Act. The Board works with the Chief Constable and the Senior Management Team to develop and approve a strategic plan, an annual plan/budget and objectives, and policies. The Chief Constable and the Senior Management Team are responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the New Westminster Police Department within the parameters of the strategic plan, the annual plan/budget, objectives and policies approved by the Board.

### Members

**Wayne Wright - Chair**

**Allen O. Domaas**

**Carla Hotel**

**Baj Puri**



2012-2013 Crime Statistics	2012	2013	% Change 12-13
Total Calls for Service	22,527	22,524	0%
Criminal Code	2012	2013	% Change 12-13
1000-Persons (Violent) Offences	838	824	-2%
2000-Property Crime	3,455	3,441	0%
3000-Other Crime	1,138	1,200	5%
<b>Total Criminal Code</b>	<b>5,431</b>	<b>5,465</b>	<b>1%</b>
1000-Persons (Violent) Offences	2012	2013	% Change 12-13
Homicide	2	3	50%
Murder-Attempted	1	1	0%
Sexual Assault	29	34	17%
Assault-Comm/Tresp	317	304	-4%
Robbery	67	62	-7%
2000-Property Crime Offences	2012	2013	% Change 12-13
Break & Enter Business	143	207	45%
Break & Enter Residence	257	279	9%
Break & Enter Other	119	72	-39%
Motor Vehicle Theft	209	216	3%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	730	719	-2%
Theft Other Over \$5000	13	5	-62%
Theft Other Under \$5000	562	508	-10%
Mischief \$5000 or Under	680	609	-10%
Fraud Related	224	264	18%

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3000-Other Crime	2012	2013	% Change 12-13
Breach/Bail Violation	133	131	-2%
Breach Probation-Adult	93	81	-13%
Cause a Disturbance	672	743	11%
Counterfeiting Currency	4	23	475%
Indecent Acts/Exposures	18	23	28%
4000-CDSA	2012	2013	% Change 12-13
Total Drugs	310	337	9%
8000-9000 Municipal & Traffic	2012	2013	% Change 12-13
Bylaw - Other	164	299	82%
Bylaw - Noise	443	548	24%
Domestic Dispute-No Assault	758	703	-7%
Assist Public/Unwanted Guest	1422	1250	-12%
Unspecified Assistance	174	165	-5%
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Occurrence	1107	1336	21%
False Alarms	1239	1311	6%
Recovered Stolen Vehicle	73	64	-12%
Impaired Op MV (Drugs)	2	4	100%
Impaired Op MV (Alcohol)	208	205	-1%
Dangerous Operation of MV	11	13	18%
Collision-Non-Fatal Injury	182	189	4%
Collision - Damage<> \$1000	606	677	12%

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Source: Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME) CCJS Founded Offences Only-New Westminster Police Department data only.



# New Westminster Police Department

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[www.nwpolice.org](http://www.nwpolice.org)