

NEW WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



Partnership with the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team

Our city saw an increase in homicides this past year, as there were five isolated homicide investigations within New Westminster in 2021. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) assumes responsibility for the investigation of any homicide that occurs in New Westminster, and the NWPD Major Crime Unit (MCU) supplements IHIT with resources and assistance to progress the investigations. IHIT is the largest homicide unit in Canada, responsible for investigating homicides, suspicious deaths, and high-risk missing persons where foul play is suspected. The NWPD currently has two of its officers seconded to IHIT. The NWPD is committed to partnerships with integrated and specialized units to provide the best possible police service to the citizens of New Westminster.



Gang Violence

British Columbia saw a sudden surge in gang violence and crime in the lower mainland over 2021. Over a five months period, the region witnessed more than twenty shootings linked to gang violence. The New Westminster Police Department Gang Suppression Unit worked with the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit on enhanced overt and covert operations, proactive enforcement targeting those who pose the highest risk to public safety, and interacting with those involved in gangs. The Gang Suppression Unit works year round on community outreach and liaising with key stakeholders and partner law enforcement agencies.



COVID response – Keeping people safe

The New Westminster Police Department has adapted and remained flexible and responsive to the various ebbs and flows that were experienced during the pandemic. We continued to use our Department Operations Centre to manage the planning and response to Covid-19. This was continuously reviewed and refined as our response to the pandemic evolved and we started to see restrictions easing, creating ongoing challenges. We collaborated with the Province of British Columbia, the City of New Westminster, our policing partners, and the City of New Westminster Emergency Operations Centre to obtain the most reliable and current information, which allowed for effective decision making and the ability to maintain best practices. Special recognition goes to all New Westminster Police Department staff whose dedication to public safety did not waver despite the obstacles that placed in their way. In addition, we are grateful to the public who were both understanding, patient, and compassionate.



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (DEIAR) Framework

In 2020 the New Westminster Police Board endorsed a motion for the New Westminster Police Department to take part in the creation of the city-led Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (DEIAR) Framework. The framework will assist NWPD in further building an inclusive public service, and a safe, respectful and inclusive work environment. In 2021 the NWPD worked in partnership with other city departments on creating the DEIAR framework. Staff participated in both surveys and focus groups and documents and best practices were audited to inform the creation of the DEIAR framework. The framework is anticipated to be complete in 2022.



New Senior Leadership

In the past two years the New Westminster Police Department welcomed both Diana McDaniel and Andrew Perry in the role of Inspector. Both Inspector Perry and Inspector McDaniel have worked in a variety of roles within the NWPD, making them well suited to this leadership role. Within the last few years Inspector McDaniel initiated the Vulnerable Person Liaison Officers positions in the Community Services Section and has taken on such projects as the Calls for Justice, new Street Check Policing Standards and assisting to manage the department throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Inspector McDaniel was promoted in 2020. Inspector Perry has been involved in overseeing the Administration Services, Prevention Services and most recently the Criminal Investigations Sections. Most recently Inspector Perry has been working to make the New Westminster Police Department an employer of choice by improving and streamlining our application process. His team finalized a contract jointly with the City of New Westminster to implement Applicant Tracking System software to help with sourcing, and recruiting civilian and sworn member applicants and this will be implemented in 2022. Inspector Perry also lead an internal committee which reviewed and submitted recommendations for Constable level position tenure which is expected to be finalized in 2022. The New Westminster Police Department is looking towards a future where we both strive for long term excellence while navigating some challenging and exciting times. Both Inspector Perry and Inspector McDaniel have the skills to help in achieving these goals. We look forward to working with them as we move forward.

