



# 2016

**New Westminster Police Department  
Annual Report**  
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*We're here for you*





*Community*  
PROGRESSIVE  
*Leadership*  
TEAMWORK  
*Innovation*  
PARTNERSHIPS  
*Accountability*

**OUR VISION**

New Westminster: A safe community to live, work and play.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Keeping New Westminster safe and secure.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

## DAVE JONES

Chief, New Westminster Police Department

On behalf of all the men and women of the New Westminster Police Department, I am pleased to present the 2016 Annual Report to the community and our members.

Crime rates were down for the year, and they are but one measure of how we review our accomplishments. The community's sense of safety and well-being is also important, and that comes from our members being visible and engaging with all members of the public. We often hear of how polite and professional our members are which reflects on the quality of police officer working here in New Westminster.

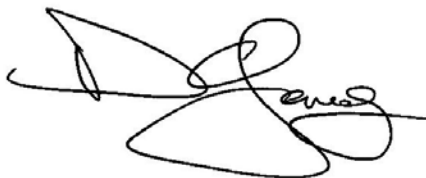
After a year of consultation with citizens, businesses, and community groups, the New Westminster Police Department was proud to share our strategic plan. It set out three major strategic directions and their respective objectives, which provides clear direction and organizational accountability.

Ensuring our members own health and safety has also become a priority for us. The strains and stresses that come with the job of being a police officer requires that we pay more attention and put together both resources and training plans to ensure that your police department remains not only physically but mentally healthy as well.

Outreach and engaging young people continues to be a major focus in 2016. Our School Liaison Officers hosted numerous public forums for parents and youth about how young people can safely leverage social media for their benefit. We created a buzz by hosting a design contest to wrap a Hummer H2 that was granted to the NWPD through the provincial government's Civil Forfeiture Program. The Hummer's patriotic and eye catching design can be spotted at numerous community events throughout the year.

In order to take advantage of the latest technology available to us we also launched a refreshed website featuring improved navigation, new features and an updated look and feel.

We will continue to serve our unique and diverse community with a passion for policing and a strong commitment to community safety. Thanks to the involvement of residents, the Police Board, members, staff, and volunteers, who continue to assist us in finding ways to improve and grow with the needs of the community.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE POLICE BOARD

**MAYOR JONATHAN X COTE**

Chair, New Westminster Police Board

On behalf of the New Westminster Police Board, I am pleased to present highlights of the New Westminster Police Department's 2016 achievements.

This past year has been another successful partnership between the Police Board, residents, and New Westminster senior management team. The Police Board provided civilian oversight, strategic direction, and worked with the diverse communities of the city to see how the department could best meet their needs. Together, we work to ensure New Westminster continues to benefit from top levels of safety and service to our community.

Last year marked the first year of the New Westminster Police Department's Strategic Plan. Key goals include supporting healthy communities and providing inclusive and equitable police services.

This year, in an effort to continuously improve, creative and resourceful solutions have been brought forward. With the creation of a naloxone policy, the decision to adopt the ECOMM P25 radios, and review of the School Liaison Officer Program the department continues to show its commitment to crime prevention, community wellness, and public engagement.

I would like to thank my Board colleagues and Chief Jones for their vision and leadership along with members of the New Westminster Police Department for their work and partnerships in keeping New Westminster safe.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, looping 'J' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

# 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

**Jonathan X. Cote - Chair**

**Christine Dacre**

**Allen O. Domaas**

**Carla Hotel**

**Baj Puri**



# 1 Million Dollars in Drugs Seized

## DRUGS CAME DIRECTLY FROM SOURCE COUNTRY

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In March 2016, the NWPD started an investigation into the importation of heroin, cocaine, and oxycodone into Canada, following the seizure of several mail packages by Canada Border Services Agency. The packages were destined for numerous post office boxes within the lower mainland, all of which were rented by using false pretences by the same suspect.

Throughout the investigation, police uncovered a complex, transnational marijuana trafficking operation that saw upward of 100 pounds per week being shipped all across the country through shipping companies as far as Nova Scotia.

“Drug traffickers of this size are at the commercial level, and directly contribute to the opioid crisis we’re currently experiencing on the west coast.” said Sergeant Collin Betts.

In June 2016, following an intense four month multi-jurisdictional investigation, our Emergency Response Team executed simultaneous search warrants on 3 locations - one residence in Coquitlam, one large rural property in Chilliwack, and one large rural property in Surrey. Both rural locations were found to have large commercial size marijuana grow operations which were dismantled by police.

The main suspect was arrested and charged with numerous drug and fraud related offences. Four properties and two vehicles were seized as well as \$60,000 cash and over \$1 million street value in drugs.

This is said to be one of the largest drug files in NWPD history.

# Home Invasion

## LONE RESIDENT WAS ASSAULTED BY TWO PEOPLE

On July 6, 2016, shortly after 0400 hours, members of the NWPD attended the scene of an interrupted break and enter in the 400 block of Queens Avenue. The 65 year old victim and lone resident was assaulted by at least two suspects who later fled the residence in a light color sedan.

The victim suffered a broken nose, soft tissue injuries, and multiple lacerations, requiring overnight hospitalization.

“This law abiding resident must have feared for his life,” stated Sergeant Felipe Correa, “It was a terrifying and confusing ordeal and I became immediately concerned that these individuals might inflict further harm to others.”

Given the serious and apparently random nature of this incident, members of the Major Crime Unit were called in early to assume conduct of this file.

Investigation led to the early identification of one suspect, less than 24 hours after the home invasion occurred. This was followed by the arrest of two additional suspects believed to have played an active role in this offence. Close to a dozen judicial authorizations were obtained to search two residences, two vehicles, cell phones, and clothing.

To date, three individuals have been arrested and charged with a total of 17 charges. Two of the three remain in custody while the third is on house arrest. This file is currently before the courts.



# Painting a complete picture

## EXCELLENCE IN FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION SERVICES

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Forensic Identification Services (FIS) supports all facets of the New Westminster Police Department through their efforts to solve crime affecting our community. This very busy unit is comprised of four sworn Forensic Identification Specialists and one civilian Forensic Video Analyst, who are all highly trained in their respective disciplines.

Since 2010, with the aim of improving services, FIS has undergone positive change consisting of: staffing changes; expanding capabilities through technology, equipment acquisitions and renovations to lab areas; increasing call load capacity; educating members on the unit's capabilities; and fostering a more broad minded approach and methodology towards how crime scenes are examined.

During this time FIS has continually taken on as much work as possible, keeping in mind the number of members available and their individual capabilities. The Forensic Identification Specialist position requires great commitment, approaching scenes that are often physically taxing in a relentlessly meticulous and methodical manner, frequently resulting in long hours of investigation.

In each of the past seven years, the unit has increased the number of criminal identifications produced. With success has come the inevitable and welcomed increase in service requests by members trying to solve crimes, but also an unprecedented increase in hours spent testifying as experts in court.

In 2016 Forensic Identification Services sworn members completed 668 calls for service, involving the examination of literally thousands of evidentiary exhibits.

The effort by Forensic Identification Services members in 2016 resulted in 126 criminal identifications, eclipsing all prior records, including the previous record of 112 set in 2014 and 2015. This effort and resulting success translates directly to intelligence, investigative success, file solvency for the New Westminster Police Department, and ultimately support for our community.



# Missing newborn baby

## HIGH RISK TO BOTH MOTHER AND BABY

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On December 13, 2016, the Surrey RCMP reported that a female delivered a baby in her bathtub without the assistance of a health care practitioner. The victim then got a ride into New Westminster with the newborn baby. Upon further enquiries, police learned that the Ministry of Children and Family Services were prepared to apprehend the child at birth, therefore it was believed the mother fled the residence so she could keep custody of her child.

Major Crime Unit assumed conduct of the file given the potential risk to both mother and baby. A large team of investigators was deployed to search areas frequented by the mother and interview her friends. This eventually led to the identification of a building where the mother had been within the last 12 hours.

“There are varying levels of stress and ambiguity surrounding any missing person investigation, but the circumstances of this missing newborn were particularly alarming,” stated Detective Constable Andrew Wickham, “Many of us have children, or nieces and nephews, and it was disturbing to think of the potential outcomes of the investigation. The newborn’s health status and the mother’s intentions were unknown.”

The owner of the property refused to cooperate with the police providing little to no information. As a result, police officers remained in the area until the mother returned, without the baby. When she was interviewed, she initially denied having given birth at all; however, later agreed to take members to the baby, who was located and transported to hospital. The baby was unharmed; however, spent the next two months in hospital being treated for heroin withdrawal symptoms.

“Our investigative team remained focused on the objectives, which were to locate the baby as quickly as possible, and ensure they were taken to a hospital. The investigation was successful due to the collective efforts of numerous NRPD members, and we’re all very grateful for the positive outcome.”

The Ministry of Children and Family Services has custody of the baby, who was placed with a foster family.






Margaret Patchell was Police Matron from 1914 to 1922.

**1914**

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Margaret Patchell



**THEN &  
NOW**

Constable Mula joined NRPD in 2012. Before Constable Mula began a career in law enforcement she worked in the financial industry. Constable Mula finds the most rewarding part of her job mentoring young people, working within the community, and assisting those who are vulnerable. Constable Mula finds it fulfilling to give something back to the community and be in a career that can impact people's lives in a positive way.

**2016**

**Constable Mula**



2015-2016 Crime Statistics	2015	2016	change 2016 vs. 2015
Total Calls for Service	23,782	22,863	-4%
<b>Criminal Code</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	
1000-Persons (Violent) Offences	746	613	-18%
2000-Property Crime	3,477	3,050	-12%
3000-Other Crime	1,101	991	-10%
<b>Total Criminal Code</b>	<b>5,324</b>	<b>4,654</b>	<b>-13%</b>
<b>1000-Persons (Violent) Offences</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	
Homicide	1	1	n/c
Murder-Attempted	3	1	↓
Sexual Assault	31	33	↑
Assault-Comm/Tresp	298	236	↓
Robbery	70	45	↓
<b>2000-Property Crime Offences</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	
Break & Enter Business	190	149	↓
Break & Enter Residence	177	126	↓
Break & Enter Other	59	53	↓
Motor Vehicle Theft	267	215	↓
Theft from Motor Vehicle	733	701	↓
Theft Other Over \$5000	16	10	↓
Theft Other Under \$5000	523	428	↓
Mischief \$5000 or Under	539	486	↓
Fraud Related	294	280	↓

3000-Other Crime	2015	2016	change 2016 vs. 2015
Breach/Bail Violation	176	190	↑
Breach Probation-Adult	123	135	↑
Cause a Disturbance	617	540	↓
Counterfeiting Currency	10	12	↑
Indecent Acts/Exposures	44	17	↓
<b>4000-CDSA</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	
Total Drugs	299	184	-38%
<b>8000-9000 Municipal &amp; Traffic</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	
Bylaw - Other	185	185	n/c
Bylaw - Noise	420	396	↓
Domestic Dispute-No Assault	661	606	↓
Assist Public/Unwanted Guest	1649	1713	↑
Unspecified Assistance	77	25	↓
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Occurrence	1367	1204	↓
False Alarms	509	412	↓
Recovered Stolen Vehicle	69	84	↑
Impaired Op MV (Drugs)	3	8	↑
Impaired Op MV (Alcohol)	112	84	↓
Dangerous Operation of MV	7	7	n/c
Collision-Non-Fatal Injury	179	143	↓

Source: Police Records Information Management Environ-



**New Westminster  
Police Department**