

AGENDA

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners
May 21st, 2026 @ 5:30 PM
Community Room – Bridgewater Police Service

26' 024

Order

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Land Acknowledgement

Acknowledged that the Town of Bridgewater is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Minutes

26-025 April 2, 2026 Minutes

Correspondence & Information

26-020 Scott Clements – Novacast Media Inc.

26-021 BPS Monthly Report

NSACP AGM May 22, 2026

26-022 CAPG Annual Conference – Alberta Aug 12, 2026

26-023 Letter of Recognition – from Security at SSRH

26-024 Letter to NSFM on Policing Costs

Unfinished/Old Business

South Shore Regional - Security Update

26-025 Strategic Plan Draft

New Business

26-026 Update to SOP's

Next Meeting

Adjournment

There will be an In-Camera meeting held immediately following this meeting to deal with matters under the Municipal Government Act, Sec 22 (2)(c).

Minutes
Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners
April 2, 2026

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on March 5, 2026 at the Bridgewater Police Service, 45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, NS commencing at 5:30 pm with Board Chair Cheryl Fougere presiding.

In attendance: Commissioner Champoux, Commissioner Spencer, Commissioner Lipsett, Commissioner Mitchell, Commissioner Conklin

Regrets: Commissioner Ali, Deputy Chief MacPhee

Also present: Chief Feener, Deputy CAO Mark Flint, Recording Secretary Jillian Croft.

Order

Call to order at 5:30 by Board Chair Fougere

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Strategic Plan update to be added under old / unfinished business

26-020 Motion to have the Strategic Plan updated added to the April 2nd agenda - Moved by Commissioner Lipsett and seconded by Commissioner Conklin. Motion passed

Land Acknowledgement

Acknowledged that the Town of Bridgewater is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Minutes

26-021 Motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2026 regular meeting as amended. Moved by Commissioner Lipsett and seconded by Commissioner Palma. Motion Carried

Correspondence & Information

BPS Monthly Report

doc# 26-017

Chief Feener reports another busy month. Wanted to report the hiring of two (2) more Constables. Further discussion on names of those parties when in camera.

Chief Feener says the call volume/calls for service for the last reporting period were normal for this time of year

Cedar Place

Regarding King Street, there were 23 calls for service over this last reporting period.

Cedar Place closed its doors on March 27th, 2026. Since then, there has been a significant decrease in calls for service related to clients who frequent that address. Roof 25 has seen a 100% reduction in beds, and reports that one evening they had only six (6) occupants, compared to the 20+ average they were reporting nightly in the past.

One call to Kings Court was in relation to a former client (who was PPA/banned by Cedar Place), that was protesting the closure of same. In total, there have been six (6) calls for service since the closure related to only three (3) past clientele.

Deputy MacPhee and Chief Feener attended a meeting at the Courthouse related to the Judicial System. They are seeing a large number of people who are on orders to remain at Cedar Place, requesting address changes for their current conditions.

Observation since the closure is that there not a lot of people seen on the street.

Patrol is also seeing the decrease in call volume, and contact with past residences.

Major Cases

GIS concluded the Petro Canada Armed Robbery with two parties being arrested and charged. This was a lengthy file, and our Detectives worked in conjunction with Halifax Regional Police, and the RCMP to have the successful outcome.

An arrest was also made in connection with the fire at Shipyard Landing last year.

PVEC/Interpol incident. Heavy police presence was seen at the school in the following week (after March Break). PVEC had reached out and asked for the SSRO and another member to attend. A visibly high presence of police was at the school during drop offs/arrivals. The Chief and Deputy Chief attended the school every morning the week the students returned from break. PVEC was very supportive of the police response. Meeting was had with the Superintendent, as well as the Trauma Response Team.

Police were in attendance for peace of mind of students. A few parents were outspoken about the event. By Friday pretty much everyone was back at school.

Commissioner Spencer reporting a student at BES has been withdrawn from the school by their parents as a result of the call. As well, an international student from Columbia has chosen not to attending BJH due to the incident.

NSCPA & NSPGA Fall Conference

doc# 26-018

This was a heads up for the Commission members. If they are looking to attend, we should reserve rooms sooner than later. This year's conference is being hosted by Kentville, Oct 14-16, 2026 at Oak Island Resort and Marina. Kentville did not have any suitable location that was available to run the conference, so they chose to host it at Oak Island Resort. Chester Golf Course will be the location for the golf on Wednesday afternoon, with the Gala Thursday night. Member's wishing to attend will need to notify Jillian, and advise if they are requesting a room be reserved.

Updated SOP's

doc #26-019

Following the last meeting, an update has been done on more SOP's that were rolled out to our members. A total of 46 SOP's will be updated over the course of the next few months.

Unfinished/Old Business

Capital and Operational Budget 2026-2027

Chief Feener reporting there were two (2) Capital items that were preapproved - a new patrol vehicle and a livescan (fingerprint). The patrol car is in the process of going out to tender. And the livescan is on order.

No big changed regarding Operational Budget. Deputy MacPhee and Chief Feener went to a council meeting a few weeks ago to field any questions or concerns.

Board Chair Fougere had a question regarding CCTV Cameras. With Cedar Place closing, is there a need for all the cameras that we originally discussed. Chief Feener says that two (2) cameras were budgeted in the Capital. The current camera at the Ark needs to be replaced, but agreed that less cameras will be required now than originally thought.

Strategic Plan

The first draft has been received; Patrick Hirtle was contracted to produce. It looks good, but a few pictures will need to be changed as they are outdated. New photos will be taken next week, and a rough draft will be sent out next week. Hoping to have the Strategic Plan ready for approval by the May meeting.

Next Meeting

Regarding the June 4th, 2026 regular meeting, the Deputy and Chief will be away and unable to attend, as well as several board members. Request to push the May meeting to mid to late May to combine the May/June meetings. May 21st looks good for all council members that were in attendance.

New Business

No new business.

Next Meeting

May 21st, 2026

Adjournment

26-022 Motion to adjourn regular meeting and go in camera, Commissioner Mitchell and seconded by Commissioner Conklin.

26-023 Moved to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Mitchell and seconded by Commissioner Lipsett at 19:02. Motion Carried.

In camera after regular meeting to discuss matters under the Municipal Government Act, Section 22 (c), Section 51 of the Nova Scotia Police Act .

Recording Secretary
Jillian Croft

Board Chair
Cheryl Fougere



26 ' 020

To: Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners

From: Scott Clements

Re: Request to Address the Board Regarding Police Communications Practices

Date: April 11, 2026

Dear Members of the Bridgewater Police Commission,

I am writing to formally request the opportunity to speak at the next meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners. My intention is to raise concerns about the communication practices used by the Bridgewater Police Service during recent public safety incidents, and to propose a simple, practical improvement that would strengthen public trust and accountability.

During the recent lockdown at South Shore Regional Hospital, the Bridgewater Police Service relied solely on Facebook to communicate information to the public. As you are aware, Facebook throttles content based on their internal algorithms developed in the United States. This reduces the visibility of information including important public safety updates. Many residents did not receive timely updates or at all as a result.

The Mass Casualty Commission's Final Report emphasized that relying on a single communication channel, especially social media, is inadequate for public safety communication. The Commission stressed the importance of multi channel communication, including the use of traditional broadcast media, and highlighted the need for police and public safety agencies to have the capacity to issue information rapidly across multiple platforms.

These principles can apply not only during emergencies, but also during routine, non-emergency communication that shapes public trust.

It is also worth noting that the RCMP already follows this multi channel approach. The RCMP regularly distributes both emergency and non-emergency information through multiple outlets, including direct communication with media organizations. In speaking with other communications professionals, its standard operating procedure that police include media in all releases.



NOVACAST MEDIA INC.
SPORAD AN RÉIMIO

This ensures that important information reaches the widest possible audience and is not limited by social media algorithms or platform specific visibility issues.

With this in mind, my request to the Commission is modest and straightforward:

That the Bridgewater Police Service adopt a policy of copying local media outlets on all public communications that are already being produced and posted to the Police Service website or Facebook page.

This should include, but not limited to, the following local outlets:

- 107.9 GO Rock
- The South Shore Bulletin
- Acadia Broadcasting

This request does not require the Police Service to create any new content. It simply asks that existing public information, already written, already approved, and already posted, be shared simultaneously with local media who can help distribute it quickly and widely.

Local media outlets bypass social media algorithms, ensuring that important information about police activity and public safety events reaches the greatest number of residents. Many people rely on radio, local news websites, and traditional media, especially during emergencies, when social media visibility is unpredictable.

More communication is always better than less. More reach is always better than limited reach. Broader communication builds stronger public trust.

This approach is consistent with the Mass Casualty Commission's broader findings that public safety communication should be multi channel, timely, and accessible to people who may not use or see social media.

Request Regarding Procedural Fairness and Conflict of Interest

In the interest of ensuring the highest standard of administrative fairness and public confidence in the Commission's proceedings, I respectfully request that the Board review whether certain members should recuse themselves from deliberations and voting on this specific matter. This request is made to avoid any perceived or actual bias that could undermine the validity of the Commission's eventual decision.



NOVACAST MEDIA INC.
SPYONAD AN RÉINIO

1. Commissioner David Mitchell. Commissioner Mitchell has previously made public statements characterizing media commentary regarding police communications as “disturbing.” Furthermore, the overlap of communications staff between the Town and the Police Service, both of which this Commissioner oversees, creates a potential conflict regarding the independent evaluation of these very communication practices. To ensure an impartial review, a recusal may be necessary to avoid the appearance of prejudgment.

2. Commissioner Diane Spencer. Commissioner Spencer’s spouse, Town of Bridgewater Councillor Eric Whynot, serves as General Manager for a local media group that maintains a financial and contractual relationship with the Town of Bridgewater. When the Commission discusses policies that directly involve the distribution of information to media competitors or the regulation of media relations, this connection creates a perceived conflict of interest.

The integrity of the Commission’s decisions relies on the principle that they are made by disinterested parties. I raise these points not to question the character of the individuals, but to ensure that the outcome of this request is beyond reproach and serves the best interests of the community’s right to information.

Closing

My goal is to support improvements that help ensure all residents of Bridgewater receive timely, accurate, and widely distributed information during public safety events and in day-to-day policing. Strengthening communication practices and ensuring that decisions about those practices are made without conflict, will benefit the entire community.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to the opportunity to speak at your next meeting.

Sincerely,

Scott Clements
Owner, Novacast Media Inc.

scott@novacastmedia.ca



26' 021

Monthly Report

May 2026

Chief's Update

Two new Constables started May 4th, and both have been assigned to Platoons.

Cst. D Bamforth will be working on Sgt Shipley Platoon. He relocated from British Columbia.

Cst. F Girhiny will be working along side Sgt. Rogers Platoon, and he has come from Ontario.

Currently have an open posting for another Experienced Police Constable.

Job description has been written for the new civilian and gone to MJSB HR for review.

The Part Time Communication Technician hired in April resigned shortly after starting. A new posting was created, and we are currently reviewing applicants.

Capital Project Updates

Police Interceptor Vehicle went out to tender, which is now closed. The successful bid was awarded to Mosher Motors.

The new Livescan has been ordered.

The Call Logger upgrade has been ordered.

Currently working on the RFP for Operational Review.



Police Budget

January 1st – March 31, 2026

	Fiscal YTD	Commitment	Annual Budget
Total Income	1,030,046.99		1,151,540.00
Total Expenses	5,198,101.00	36,866.00	5,823,183.00

- Please note - Currently we are \$588,216 under budget, however our year end has not been completed.

Calls for Service

February March 22nd – May 12th, 2026

Total calls: 583

Call Type	Total
Other Criminal Code	
Breach of Recognizance to Keep the Peace	1
Failure to comply with undertaking	2
Failure to comply with order	8
Failure to comply with appearance notice or summons	2
Counterfeit money: buy/possess/import	2
Disturbing the peace/Causing a disturbance	1
Resists/obstructs peace officer	1
Failure to comply probation order	2
Other Criminal Code – Public Order Offences	
Forcible entry	1
Other Criminal Code	
Unauthorized possession of a firearm/prohibited weapon or restricted	1
FES – Other FES Statutes	
Corrections & Conditional release Act – Other Activities (including Parole Violations)	1
Non-Smokers Health Act – Other Activities	3



Other Federal Statutes – Firearms Act	
Firearms Act – Other Activities	1
Drug Enforcement – Trafficking	
Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking – Schedule I: Cocaine	1
Crimes Against the Person – Sexual Offences	
Sexual Assault	3
Crimes Against the Person – Robbery/Extortion/Harassment/Threats	
Robbery – Other offences	1
Criminal Harassment	1
Uttering threats against a person	8
Crimes Against the Person – Assaults (excluding sexual assaults)	
Assault	11
Crimes Against Property – Theft under \$5,000	
Other theft under \$5,000	21
Theft of bicycle under or equal to \$5000	1
Theft under or equal to \$5000 – Shoplifting	26
Crimes Against Property - Mischief	
Mischief – damage to property (except motor vehicle)	5
Mischief to motor vehicle	7
Mischief – Obstruct enjoyment of property	2
Crimes Against Property - Fraud	
Fraud (money/property/security) greater than \$5,000	2
Fraud (money/property/security) less than or equal to \$5000	6
Crimes Against Property – Break and Enter	
Break and Enter – Business	4
Break and Enter – Residence	2
Break and Enter – Other	1
Being unlawfully in a dwelling house	1
Crime Prevention /Community Based	
Crime Prevention	1
Common Police Activities – Related Police Activities	
Offender Management	2
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property	18
False Alarms	34
Items Lost/Found – Except Passports	26
Passports Lost/Found (excluding Canadian passports lost in Canada)	1
Person Reported Missing	1
Property Check	2
Peace Bond	6



Breach of Peace	11
Common Police Activities – Assistance to General Public	
Assist General Public	44
Wellbeing Check	18
Common Police Activities – Assistance Files	
Assistance to Canadian Federal Dept/Agency	1
Assistance to Canadian Provincial/Territorial Dept/Agency	6
Assistance to Non-Government Canadian Agency	1
Assistance to Canadian Police (non-RCMP) Agency	2
Traffic Offences – Impaired Operation Related Offences	
Operation while impaired (alcohol) equal to or exceeds 80mg% of motor vehicle	3
Operation while impaired (alcohol and drugs)/equal to or exceeds 80 mg% of a motor vehicle	6
Technical Operations – VIP Visits	
Demonstrations/Protests	1
Provincial Statutes (except traffic)	
Liquor Act (Provincial/Territorial) Offences Only	4
Liquor Act (Provincial/Territorial) Other Activities	8
Child, Youth and Family Services Act – Other Activities	6
Coroner's Act – Sudden Death/Other Activities	3
Dog Act – Offences Only	1
Dog Act – Other Activities	7
Family Law Act – Other Activities	4
Mental Health Act – Other Activities	27
911 Act – Other Activities	36
Provincial/Territorial Wildlife Act – Other Activities	1
Trespass Act – Provincial/Territorial – Other Activities	9
Other Provincial /Territorial Statutes (not otherwise specified)	16
Provincial Statutes – Municipal By-Laws	
Municipal Bylaws – Other	9
Traffic Offences – Traffic Accidents	
Traffic Collision – Non Fatal Injury	2
Traffic Collision – Property Damage – Reportable	8
Traffic Collision – Property Damage – Non Reportable	10
Traffic Offences – Provincial Traffic Offences	
Non-Moving Traffic – Occupant Restraint/Seatbelt Violation	16
Moving Traffic – Intersection Related Violations	9
Moving Traffic – Speeding Violations	9



Other Moving Traffic Violations	25
Motor Vehicle Insurance Coverage Violations	2
Parking Offence	11
Other Non-Moving Traffic	31
Fail to Stop or Remain at Accident Scene	5
Dangerous Driving	1
Driving While Disqualified or License Suspension	4
Traffic Offences – Other Traffic Related Duties	
Motor Vehicle Act – Other Activities (except traffic warnings)	4
Checkstop	2

- 2 Calls for service to 629 King Street during this reporting period.

Major Case Files

All arrests have been made for the Arson and Mischief from Summer of 2025 involving Shipyard Landings Wharf. 2 Y/O face charges of Arson and Mischief and will be appearing in court at a later date. A third Y/O is going through restorative practice.

CID have been busy with three child pornography files, two are being categorized and a third has come in from the United States.

CID made arrests in relation to a fraud over \$20,000

CID is also spending a significant amount of time with Interpol in Poland in relations of threats to school file.



Senior Safety Coordinator

Attached, please find the monthly report for March and April submitted by Ms. Lisa Bennett.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and strokes, representing the name of the Chief.

Chief Scott Feener



Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program Monthly Report –April 2026

Prepared: May 1, 2026

The LCSSP is a free confidential community-based non-profit service that works collaboratively with BPS, RCMP, and many community partners to help address the safety concerns of older adults (55 years of age+), residing in Lunenburg County. Service is provided through awareness campaigns, advocacy, community outreach projects, educational programs, community presentations and one to one support.

“Lunenburg County is stronger when our seniors feel safe, valued, and supported—their experiences and wisdom enrich our communities.”

LCSSP April highlights:

- **The spring Seniors' Safety Academy** has completed its third session in New Germany. May 7th being the last session. It's been small but engaged groups. Thank you to the presenters giving their time and sharing their knowledge with us.
- **April 7th** LCSSP attended with RCMP CST Barz and CST Kay on Scam Prevention at the Chandlers Cove Community Centre in Chester.
- **April 9th** Thank you to our 2 volunteers for helping with the LCSSP table at the Lunenburg Farmers' Market. Thank you, Suki and Letty, for your help. The morning went by very quickly. There were a lot of conversation
- Also, **on April 9th from 2-4 LCSSP** joined the Community Drop in at the Bridgewater Mall.
- Micro Grant Application through the Local Community Health Board for addressing Gift Card Scams/Prevention has been submitted.
- Currently working on the United Way Funding Annual Report requirement
- **April 15th LCSS** attended a Community Partner meeting at the PH Office in Bridgewater. Topics include building closer/collaborative interagency relationships. To better meet the needs of our clients. Homelessness and coordinated access
 - Increasing visibility of substance use harms and community response
 - Addressing stigma and strengthening knowledge translation
 - Rebuilding cross-sector relationships and moving beyond fragmented crisis response toward sustainable collaboration
 - Supporting and aligning solutions focused efforts as well as evaluation of efforts/assessment of progress.

April 19th attended the final **Healthy Aging session** in Lunenburg. Thank you, Councillor Debbie Dauphinee for the invitation. The biggest takeaway is learning about this comprehensive funding resource for seniors. It can be found in this link <https://www.amazon.ca/Comprehensive-Guide-Homecare-Funding-Scotia/dp/B0FXV87MT4>

- **April 22nd** Presented to the **Wise Wednesdays for Seniors** at the Forties Community Centre.
- Virtual meeting on **April 29th** with SSRH MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS – WESTERN ZONE REGIONAL POLICE LIAISON MEETING.
- The Mental Health First Aid – Supporting Older Adults Cohort met virtually to finalize materials to be able to offer this course in person soon.
- **April 29th** Senior Safety Coordinators virtual meeting/training on Digital nGuenuity.





Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program Monthly Report –April 2026

Prepared: May 1, 2026

Please follow the link for important information on intimate partner violence.

<https://www.bridgewaterpolice.ca/services/intimate-partner-violence>

- Collaborative client specific meetings with Provincial Housing Authority, RCMP, CCC, Adult Protection, South Shore Health, South Shore Open Doors and BPS.
- Collaborations for clients also include PHA, RCMP, SSRH, MLA offices, BPS, Continuing Care, St Vincent de Paul.
- Collaborative visits with RCMP, South Shore Health, PHA, SSODA and Continuing Care.

Due to the volume of referrals Clients' needs are being triaged. Initial contact from LCSSP to client occurs within 48hrs upon receipt of referral to help accurately facilitate this process. This reflects in having the ability/time to review files for possible appropriate closing. Winter weather and snow conditions have also been a factor.

Referrals: There were 2 referrals concerning one individual counted as 1 in the stats.
{New Referrals: 10 + Re Referrals: 2} Home/site Visits: 20 Active clients: 97 Closed files: 14

New Referrals Service Area in Municipal Units (#'s have been rounded either up/down)	%
MOC	16%
MODL	33%
Mahone Bay	2%
Lunenburg	16%
Bridgewater	33%

Referral Source:

Community Partner 25% Self/Family 25% RCMP 17% BSP 16.5% AP 16.5%

Areas of concern remain unchanged: Safe/affordable/accessible Housing, Seniors' Mental Health/Addictions, Adult Protection, Hoarding, Scams/Fraud, Cost of living, Community resources/connections, Health Care (no primary care physician). LCSSP is seeing a continued increase of complex issues and concerns at the time of referrals/intakes. This translates into clients being active clients longer and collaboration with multiple disciplinaries.

LCSSP Client Emergency Contingency Fund (CECF):

The CECF continues to serve the community in partnership with other organizations to help mitigate risk for seniors experiencing financial hardship. **The end of April balance \$273.55.**

*'Thank you to all Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program supporters.
We couldn't do what we do without you.'*





Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program Monthly Report –March 2026

Prepared: April 1, 2026

The LCSSP is a free confidential community-based non-profit service that works collaboratively with BPS, RCMP, and many community partners to help address the safety concerns of older adults (55 years of age+), residing in Lunenburg County. Service is provided through awareness campaigns, advocacy, community outreach projects, educational programs, community presentations and one to one support.

“Lunenburg County is stronger when our seniors feel safe, valued, and supported—their experiences and wisdom enrich our communities.”

LCSSP March highlights:

- **** Updated** - Referred a local LCSSP client for the **Senior's Wish** through our We Are Young partner. Margaret “Vallie” Walker received her wish of having a lifetime of compiled jokes formatted into a hard copy book. Thank you “We Are Young” for keeping the smile on this gracious lady’s face. **30 copies have been printed for Vallie to share with her friends and family. The unveiling of the book took place in her home on Friday, March 13th with her sister, friends and her BPS family. Vallie graced us by reading several of jokes included in the book. Thank you to Alex for donating his photography skills. And to all who came out to share Vallie’s moment. Congratulations Vallie!
- Anyone interested in learning more or nominating a senior for a special unfulfilled wish can do so by following this link <https://www.weareyoung.ca/>. “We Are Young” are amazing to work with.
- **A spring Seniors Safety Academy** will take place in New Germany at the Anglican Church Hall Thursday afternoons from 1-3 on April 16th, April 23rd, April 30th and May 7th.
- **March 6th** LCSSP attended the OHC focus group in Chester in fostering/strengthening collaborations.
- **March 10th** Thank you to our 2 volunteers for manning the LCSSP table at the Free Super Income Tax Clinic at the Bridgewater Legion. Utilizing the free Income tax preparation program can be accessed year-round. For a volunteer near you call **1-855-516-4405**
- **March 26th** Zoom Workshop on Capacity in Older Adults training. Offered through CaregiversNS.
- LCSSP reached **600+** in Facebook followers.
<https://www.facebook.com/lunenburgseniorssafety>
- Thank you to the **United WAY of Lunenburg County** for their continued funding support and valued community partner.
- A FVIF/RCMP Grant application has been submitted for review. To initiate a project of awareness and prevention of IPV/domestic violence in older adults. More details at a later date.





Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program Monthly Report –March 2026

Prepared: April 1, 2026

Please follow the link for important information on intimate partner violence.

<https://www.bridgewaterpolice.ca/services/intimate-partner-violence>

- Collaborative client specific meetings with Provincial Housing Authority, RCMP, CCC, Adult Protection, South Shore Health and BPS.
- Collaborations for clients also include PHA, RCMP, SSRH, MLA offices, BPS, Continuing Care.
- Collaborative visits with RCMP, South Shore Health, PHA and Continuing Care.

Due to the volume of referrals Clients' needs are being triaged. Initial contact from LCSSP to client occurs within 48hrs upon receipt of referral to help accurately facilitate this process. This reflects in having the ability/time to review files for possible appropriate closing. Winter weather and snow conditions have also been a factor.

Referrals: There were 3 referrals concerning one individual counted as 1 in the stats.
{New Referrals: 11 + Re Referrals: 3} Home/site Visits: 26 Active clients: 97 Closed files: 13

New Referrals Service Area in Municipal Units (#'s have been rounded either up/down)	%
MOC	20%
MODL	36%
Mahone Bay	7%
Lunenburg	8%
Bridgewater	29%

Referral Source:

Community Partner 29% Self/Family 15% RCMP 21% BSP 21% AP 14%

Areas of concern remain unchanged: Safe/affordable/accessible Housing, Seniors' Mental Health/Addictions, Adult Protection, Hoarding, Scams/Fraud, Cost of living, Community resources/connections, Health Care (no primary care physician). LCSSP is seeing a continued increase of complex issues and concerns at the time of referrals/intakes. This translates into clients being active clients longer and collaboration with multiple disciplinaries.

LCSSP Client Emergency Contingency Fund (CECF):

The CECF continues to serve the community in partnership with other organizations to help mitigate risk for seniors experiencing financial hardship. **The end of March balance \$273.55:** \$51 to purchase specific clothing items for client SM.

*'Thank you to all Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program supporters.
We couldn't do what we do without you.'*





26 ' 02 2

Canadian Association of Police Governance - 78 George Street, Suite 204 - Ottawa, Ontario - K1N 5W1

NOTICE OF 2026 Annual General Meeting

As per Section 4 (1) of the By-laws of the Canadian Association of Police Governance, this is formal notice of the 2026 CAPG's Annual General Meeting of the Association's Membership. Please share this notice with all members of your board.

The 2026 Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday August 12, 2026, commencing at **4:30 pm MOUNTAIN TIME** at the [The Westin Edmonton](#) 10135 100th Street, Edmonton, AB for the purpose of:

1. Confirming the Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting that was held in Victoria BC at the Victoria Conference center 720 Douglas St, Victoria, BC
2. Receiving the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the 2025 Fiscal Year (to be provided in June)
3. Appointment of an Auditor for the 2026 Fiscal Year
4. Ratification of the proposed Amended By-laws (to be provided by email in June)
5. Elections (if positions are contested)
 1. Speeches by candidates
 2. Voting
6. Ratification of the Board of Directors for the term 2026-2027 as submitted by the Zones

Please note this AGM is restricted to voting delegates (PSB members) and their staff. Non-members are not entitled to attend the meeting.

PLEASE NOTE:

In order to ensure an efficient flow in the AGM proceedings, please ensure that we receive one designated voting member that will be in attendance or participating online – name, email, phone number, police service board/commission.

Voting Members will be provided with individual voting handheld devices for the AGM – one (1) per police service board/commission. For those attending virtually, we will be providing an on-line voting function.

Jillian Croft

From: Scott Feener
Sent: April 9, 2026 11:13 AM
To: Jillian Croft
Subject: FW: SSRH Lockdown April 06 2026

26 ' 02 3

Please print for May's commission meeting

Good morning Mayor Mitchell,

I understand the lockdown event which occurred at SSRH on Mon April 6th has attracted a lot of attention; understandably so.

As the Security Supervisor for SSRH, I was impressed with the professionalism of Bridgewater Police throughout the incident. The on-duty Security Officers received regular updates (both in-person and via phone) from BPS, which allowed us to maintain appropriate video surveillance, locked doors, and inter-hospital communications.

My team and I felt reassured with the timely police response. I observed BPS Officers simultaneously coordinate a search through difficult wooded terrain, while reviewing video footage, and also fielding many questions from concerned hospital staff.

Specifically, Constable Kennedy and Dispatcher Susan exhibited textbook inter-agency cooperation between BPS and SSRH Security.

If there is anything further I can offer to help support the Town or BPS, please reach out.

All the best,

Tyler Bisnauth, CHSS
South Shore Regional Security Supervisor
tyler.bisnauth@nshealth.ca
(902) 521 0636



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**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

26' 024

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902 424-5550 Fax 902 424-0581 • novascotia.ca

May 4, 2026

David Mitchell
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
Via email: david.mitchell@bridgewater.ca

Dear David Mitchell:

Under the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Minister of Municipal Affairs must provide to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities 12-months' notice of any provincial legislation, regulation, or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities. This letter is intended to provide notice of such changes for fiscal year 2027-2028 and beyond.

The Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA) canvassed all provincial departments to seek information on plans for legislative, regulatory, and policy changes in the coming fiscal year. Below you will find a summary of the results of that process.

Department of Cybersecurity and Digital Solutions

- 1) Starting in 2026-27, the Department of Cyber Security and Digital Solutions (CSDS) will begin working with affected municipalities to offboard from the following SAP-related services:
 - Customer Care and Service (CCS) Utilities (e.g., property tax and revenue): Amherst, Annapolis, CBR, Cumberland, East Hants, Queens
 - Materials Management: Amherst, Annapolis, CBRM, Cumberland, East Hants, Queens, HRM
 - HR Pay: CBRM, HRM
 - Environment Health and Safety Management: HRM
 - Success Factors HR: HRM

CSDS is issuing notice and will be communicating with municipalities directly.

Department of Emergency Management

- 1) The Department acknowledges that elements of ongoing work to strengthen fire services in Nova Scotia may have a financial impact on some municipal units.

With the introduction of the *Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services*, the Department is providing one-year notice that all municipalities – whether they oversee fire services or not – will be required to:

- conduct a fire protection service review in order to ensure municipalities and fire service providers make evidence-based decisions about the services they provide to their community,
- ensure that local firefighter competencies, training, and personal protective equipment meet the service standard required by the fire protection service review, and
- participate in a common records management system.

The possible impacts of these new requirements, which will be further detailed through regulations and standards, may vary significantly based on local context, including existing governance and collaboration models, levels of municipal readiness, and voluntary fire service provider capacity.

This legislation is part of an ongoing commitment to strengthening the fire service sector through:

- access to specialized firefighter training and the certification process,
- education/training for municipal elected officials,
- procurement support,
- mutual aid and service agreement templates,
- the new Fire Records Management System, and
- a risk-based assessment tool to facilitate council decision-making around fire protection service levels.

Department of Growth and Development

- 1) A review of the *Peggy's Cove Commission Act* is seeking to modernize planning for the Peggy's Cove area. Given the location of Peggy's Cove within the boundaries of HRM, any proposed changes to the Act or its administration could have an impact on the municipality, for example, shifting responsibility for planning approvals.

- 2) The Department is undertaking a review of the Regional Enterprise Networks (RENS) program. Key areas of focus include improving consistency in service delivery across the province, improving how businesses access and navigate existing programs and services and aligning delivery with provincial economic development priorities. Addressing these areas may involve adjustments to the current REN model, which would have implications for municipal partners.

Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

- 1) Under our trade policy responsibilities, Intergovernmental Affairs advises that there are procurement thresholds under several free trade agreements that could impact municipalities. Every two years, Global Affairs Canada updates its thresholds for covered procurements under the Canada-Europe Trade Agreement (CETA), the Canada-UK Trade Continuity Agreement (TCA), and the Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). Municipal procurements are covered under these obligations. All procurements above the thresholds must be publicly tendered unless subject to an exemption.

The threshold values in Canadian dollars for the period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2027, are as follows:

FTA	Goods	Services	Construction
CFTA	Province		
	\$34,700	\$139,000	\$139,000
	Municipalities and MASH		
	\$139,000	\$139,000	\$347,400
CETA/TCA	Crowns, Utilities, etc.		
	\$694,700	\$694,700	\$6,943,900
	Province, Municipalities and MASH		
	\$368,000	\$368,000	\$9,200,000
CFTA	Crowns		
	\$653,200	\$653,200	\$9,200,000
	Utilities, etc.		
	\$736,000	\$736,000	\$9,200,000

Department of Justice

- 1) The Nova Scotia Comprehensive Policing Review was released in June 2025. Since that time, the Department of Justice has met with all municipalities to discuss implementation of the six foundational changes and the expanded role of the provincial police service. These foundational changes are designed to strengthen public safety across the province and support more effective, consistent, and sustainable outcomes. As part of implementation:
 - Municipalities are required to meet established provincial policing standards. Municipalities that are unable to meet these standards independently will be required to contract with the provincial police service for the delivery of those services and, effective April 1, 2027, will be required to purchase those services on a fee basis. While these changes are intended to enhance public safety and ensure greater consistency across jurisdictions, they may result in increased costs for some municipalities. At this time, the specific nature and extent of any financial impacts cannot be determined for any individual municipality.
 - The Province will continue to enhance and modernize its policing standards over time. The creation or expansion of standards may result in additional costs for municipalities.
 - The Province will procure a province-wide records management system (RMS) in fiscal year 2026–27. The Province will fund the acquisition and associated start-up costs. It is anticipated that beginning in 2027–28, as part of implementation, municipalities with their own police agencies will be required to contribute annual licensing fees associated with the RMS. For municipalities policed by the RCMP under the provincial policing model, RMS-related costs will be incorporated into the provincial billing model.
 - The Province will continue to work toward the development of a new municipal billing model for provincial police services during fiscal year 2026–27. Municipalities will continue to be engaged throughout this process. The specific structure of the model and the extent of any financial impacts cannot be determined at this time for any individual municipality; however, changes to the billing model could result in increased costs for some municipalities beginning in 2027–28.
- 2) The National Police Federation is the certified union representing regular members and reservists of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) below the rank of Inspector. The current Collective Agreement expires on March 31, 2025, and labour negotiations between the National Police Federation and Treasury Board Secretariat Canada are ongoing. The cost implications cannot be determined at this time.

- 3) The 'H' Division (Nova Scotia) Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have provided the Department of Justice with the annual Multi-Year Financial Plan (MYFP), that reflects the organization's budget requests for the next fiscal year, and strategic planning for subsequent years. The cost implications cannot be determined at this time.
- 4) Biological Casework Analysis Agreement provides municipalities with DNA analysis arising from criminal investigations. Costs will be determined upon the release of the "Total Uniform Assessment" by Municipal Affairs.
- 5) Municipalities in Nova Scotia are prescribed under the *Accessibility Act* which means they must have an accessibility advisory committee, prepare and make publicly available accessibility plans, and comply with accessibility standards (regulations) once they are enacted.
 - o The Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations under the *Accessibility Act* were approved on March 7, 2025. Compliance with the standard is required beginning April 1, 2026. These regulations apply to newly constructed and newly installed elements of the built environment such as pedestrian facilities, recreational spaces, and outdoor infrastructure. These regulations include technical design requirements for infrastructure. The regulations also introduce requirements for accessibility planning for both new and existing infrastructure, including municipal infrastructure. These infrastructure plans are due April 1, 2026. There is no requirement to retrofit existing infrastructure, and as a result the cost implications are minimal.
 - o The Department of Justice is expected to share the proposed accessibility standard for employment, and goods and services for public review in 2026-27. This would be an opportunity for municipalities to review the proposed standard to provide input into the feasibility and cost implications of the proposed standards on municipalities.

Department of Public Works

- 1) The recoverable cost to municipalities for adjustments to catch basins, manholes, and water valves during construction work will increase June 1st, 2027. Manhole and catch basin adjustments will increase from \$600 to \$1200, and water valve adjustments will increase from \$300 to \$600.

David Mitchell
Page 6

Department of Service Nova Scotia

- 1) Nova Scotia's new FOIPOP Act will come into effect on April 1, 2027 and regulations are currently under development to support the new Act. The legislation requires municipalities to adopt new privacy policies and practices, requires mandatory reporting of significant privacy breaches to affected individuals and the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and gives the Information and Privacy Commissioner oversight over municipal privacy programs for the first time. It is anticipated that these changes will require municipal resources in the form of personnel to undertake privacy assessments for any new projects or programs where personal information is being collected, for mandatory privacy breach notifications when there are significant privacy breaches, and for responding to privacy complaints filed with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC). The Province will support municipalities through creation of templates, training materials, and education campaigns to help mitigate some of these impacts.

Yours truly,



Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Juanita Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, NSFM



Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2029

2025





TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Executive Summary
4	Strategic Planning Sessions
5	Strategic Priorities
6	Purpose of this Report
7	Overview of the Process
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners developed the 2026–2029 Strategic Priorities through a structured, community-informed planning process designed to balance public expectations, policing realities, and governance responsibilities.

Purpose of the Planning Process

The Board's role under Nova Scotia's Police Act includes setting policing priorities that reflect community values while ensuring the Police Service remains effective, sustainable, and accountable. This strategic planning process was undertaken to:

- Respond to evolving community concerns
- Assess what remains relevant from the previous 2022–2025 Strategic Plan
- Consider current and future operational pressures
- Establish clear priorities to guide planning, budgeting, and annual work plans over the next three years

Community Input

Community input was a key foundation of the strategy. The Bridgewater Police Service conducted a Community Input Survey that was open for seven weeks between November 24, 2025, and January 12, 2026, receiving 219 responses.

Across responses, residents consistently highlighted:

- Drug use and drug-related harm
- Traffic safety and unsafe driving and
- Downtown safety concerns, particularly along King Street

Survey results also showed that police visibility and responsiveness strongly influence how safe residents feel, and that while issues such as homelessness and mental health are complex and not police-created, the community still expects police involvement in the absence of other supports.

The Board used this input to identify the community issues that must be reflected at a strategic level, while remaining mindful of the Police Service's mandate and role.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS

The Board held two facilitated, in-person strategic planning sessions in January 2026. Participants included Board members, the Chief and Deputy Chief of Police, and senior municipal leadership.

The sessions used a structured facilitation approach that combined:

- Individual reflection
- Small-group and whole-group discussion
- Priority ranking and voting; and
- Collective “sense-checking” from community, operational, and governance perspectives.

The first session focused on reviewing the existing 2022–2025 Strategic Plan alongside community feedback.

The second session added two critical lenses: police operational realities and Town Council considerations. This ensured the final priorities would be achievable, publicly defensible, and recognizable to the community.

Moving Forward

The 2026–2029 Strategic Priorities will guide the Bridgewater Police Service’s planning, budgeting, and annual work plans.

The priorities also provide a clear, transparent account to the community of how their input was considered and how policing priorities were set.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Through this process, the Board identified four strategic priority areas for the next three years:

- ✓ **Governance:
Operational Review**
- ✓ **Workforce Sustainability:
Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Officers**
- ✓ **Safe Community:
Traffic Safety in a Growing Community**
- ✓ **Crime Reduction:
Drug Supply Reduction**

These priorities reflect where leadership focus will matter most to support community safety, organizational sustainability, and effective policing in Bridgewater.



PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report documents the process and outcomes of two strategic planning sessions facilitated for the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners (the “Board”) to develop the 2026–2029 Strategic Priorities for the Bridgewater Police Service (BPS). The report serves three primary purposes:

- ✓ Official Record – to capture how the Board fulfilled its governance responsibilities under the Police Act in establishing strategic priorities;
- ✓ Institutional Memory – to provide future Boards, facilitators, and staff with a clear record of the methodology and decision-making used; and
- ✓ Strategic Input – to inform the development, communication, and publication of the 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, including alignment with budgets and annual work plans.

This document focuses on how decisions were made, not on operational detail.

Governance Context

The Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners is the governing body of the Bridgewater Police Service and provides civilian oversight on behalf of Town Council. Under the Police Act, the Board is responsible for:

- Providing governance related to law enforcement, crime prevention, and public order
- Establishing administrative direction, organization, and policy to ensure an adequate, effective, and efficient police service
- Determining, in consultation with the Chief of Police, priorities, objectives, and goals for policing in the community
- Ensuring programs and strategies are in place to implement those priorities
- Ensuring community needs and values are reflected in policing priorities and service delivery; and
- Acting as a conduit between the community and police service providers

The strategic planning process described in this report was designed to directly support these responsibilities.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS

Session Details

Two facilitated, in-person strategic planning sessions were held:

- Session 1: January 20, 2026 (5:30–8:30 p.m.)
- Session 2: January 27, 2026 (5:30–8:30 p.m.)
- Location: Best Western, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia

Participants

Participants included members of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners,

- The Board Chair
- The Chief and Deputy Chief of Police
- Town Council appointees
- Citizen representatives
- Municipal staff resources; and
- External facilitation support

The sessions were designed to ensure balanced participation from governance, operational, and municipal perspectives.

Facilitation Method

The sessions were facilitated using Liberating Structures, a structured engagement approach that encourages equal participation, reflection, and collective sense-making. Across both sessions, the following methods were used:

- Individual silent reflection
- Small-group breakout discussions
- Whole-group dialogue and clarification
- Priority ranking and structured voting; and
- Group “sense-checking” against governance, operational, and community lenses

This approach supported transparency, reduced dominance by any single perspective, and helped the Board move from broad inputs to focused strategic priorities.

COMMUNITY & BOARD INPUT

Community Input Survey Overview

The Bridgewater Police Service conducted a Community Input Survey to inform the strategic planning process.

- Survey period: November 24, 2025 – January 12, 2026 (49 days)
- Distribution: Online survey posted on the BPS and Town of Bridgewater websites
- Total responses: 219

Key Themes Identified by the Community

Across responses, three dominant themes consistently emerged:

- Drug use and drug-related harm
- Unsafe driving and traffic enforcement; and
- King Street as a focal point for safety concerns

Additional findings highlighted:

- Strong concern about visible drug use, public disorder, and discarded needles in downtown areas
- Broad consensus across demographics on traffic safety
- The importance of police visibility and perceived responsiveness in shaping feelings of safety; and
- Recognition that issues such as homelessness and mental health are complex and not police-created, while still expecting police involvement in the absence of alternatives

How the Board Used the Survey Results

The Board used the survey as a strategic input rather than an operational directive. Individually, members reviewed survey responses and identified recurring themes and strongly expressed concerns. In small groups, these themes were discussed, merged, and categorized as:

- Must-have strategic priorities,
- Important but operational, or
- Outside the police mandate.

Only themes identified as “must-have” were advanced for voting and consideration as strategic priorities. This approach ensured community voices were meaningfully reflected while remaining aligned with the Board’s governance role.

SESSION 1

REVIEWING EXISTING PRIORITIES AND COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

Purpose

The purpose of Session 1 was to generate an initial list of strategic priority areas by considering:

- What remained relevant from the 2022–2025 Strategic Plan
- What required adaptation to reflect current realities; and
- What leadership attention would matter most over the next three years

Key Outcomes

Through structured discussion, the Board:

- Identified priorities from the previous plan to retain, adapt, or treat as operational; and
- Integrated community survey themes into the strategic conversation

Community-identified concerns related to traffic safety, drug use, and downtown safety were confirmed as “must-have” considerations, with care taken to ensure wording remained strategic, compassionate, and within police governance responsibilities.

For more details, refer to Appendix: Session 1 Output.



SESSION 2

INTEGRATING OPERATIONAL AND MUNICIPAL PERSPECTIVES

Purpose

Session 2 was designed to complete the strategic picture by explicitly incorporating:

- Police Service operational realities; and
- Town Council pressures and considerations

The objective was to arrive at a set of priorities that were achievable, defensible, and recognizable to the community.

Process

Participants worked in two perspective-based groups (police service and municipal governance) to identify their top three concerns for the next three years. These were shared, clarified, and combined with Session 1 outputs. For more details, refer to Appendix: Session 2 Output: Council Pressures & Concerns; Session 2 Output: Police Service Needs.

All proposed priorities were grouped under broad strategic themes and subjected to structured voting. Each participant received six votes, with a maximum of two votes per priority. For more details, refer to Appendix: Voting Results of All Priority Outputs.

The final step involved a collective sense-check, asking:

- Are these priorities achievable from a policing perspective?
- Are they defensible from a Town Council perspective?
- Will the community recognize their concerns reflected here?

(Continued ...)



SESSION 2

REVIEWING EXISTING PRIORITIES AND COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

Final Strategic Priority Areas (2026–2029)

Through this process, the Board aligned on the following strategic priority areas:

- Governance: Operational Review
- Workforce Sustainability: Staffing and Retention
- Workforce Sustainability: Training and Development
- Safe Community: Traffic Safety in a Growing Community; and
- Crime Reduction: Drug Supply Reduction.

These priorities reflect a balance between community expectations, operational sustainability, and the Board’s governance responsibilities.

CONCLUSION

The strategic planning process undertaken by the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners was deliberate, inclusive, and grounded in governance best practices.

By integrating community input, operational insight, and municipal considerations, the Board established a focused and realistic set of strategic priorities for 2026–2029. This report provides a clear record of that process and will support the development, communication, and implementation of the Strategic Plan in the years ahead.



APPENDIX - SESSION 2 OUTPUT

Image 1: Final Priorities as captured at strategic planning sessions

Image 2: Voting results of all Priority inputs

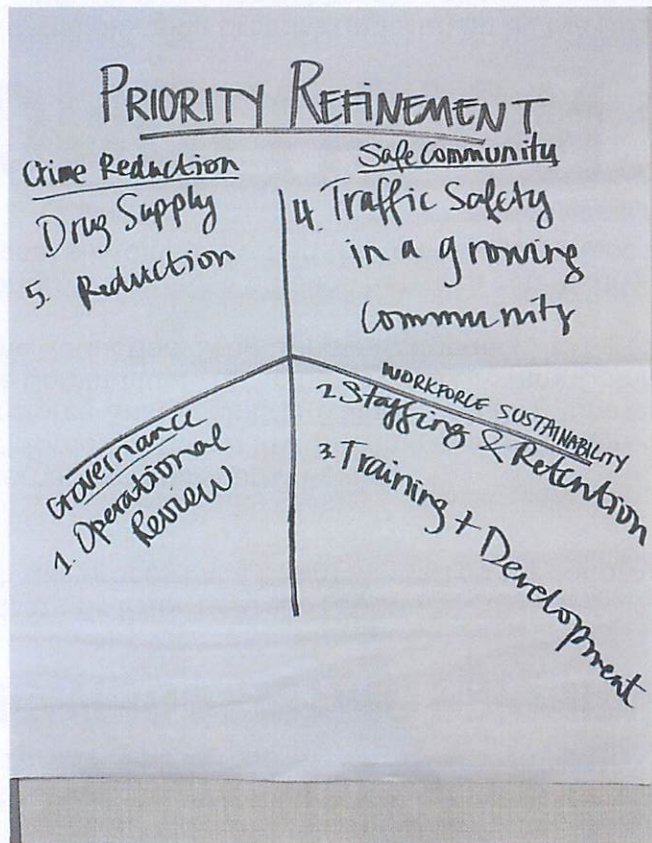


IMAGE 1

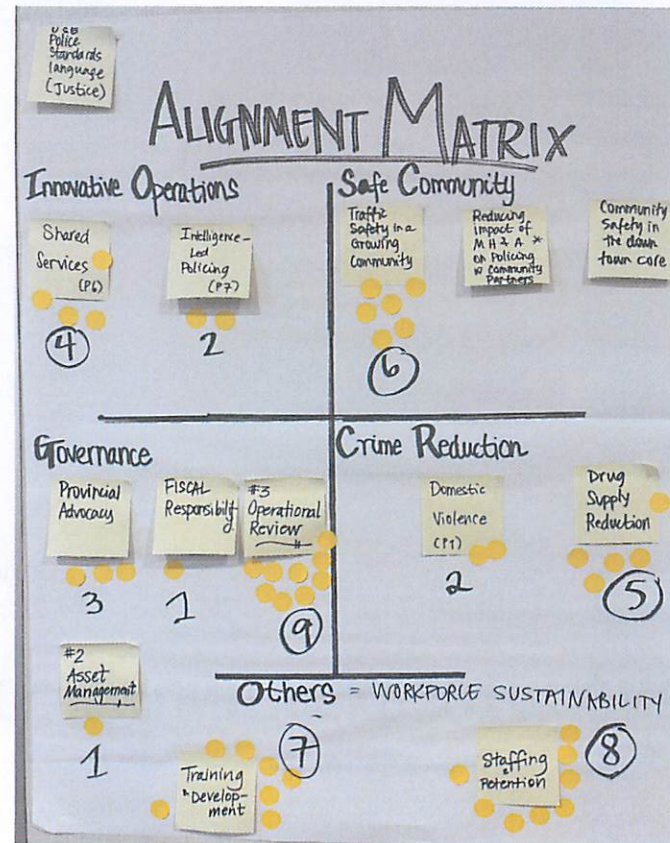


IMAGE 2

APPENDIX - SESSION 2 OUTPUT

Image 3: Town Council Pressures and Concerns

Image 4: Police Service Needs

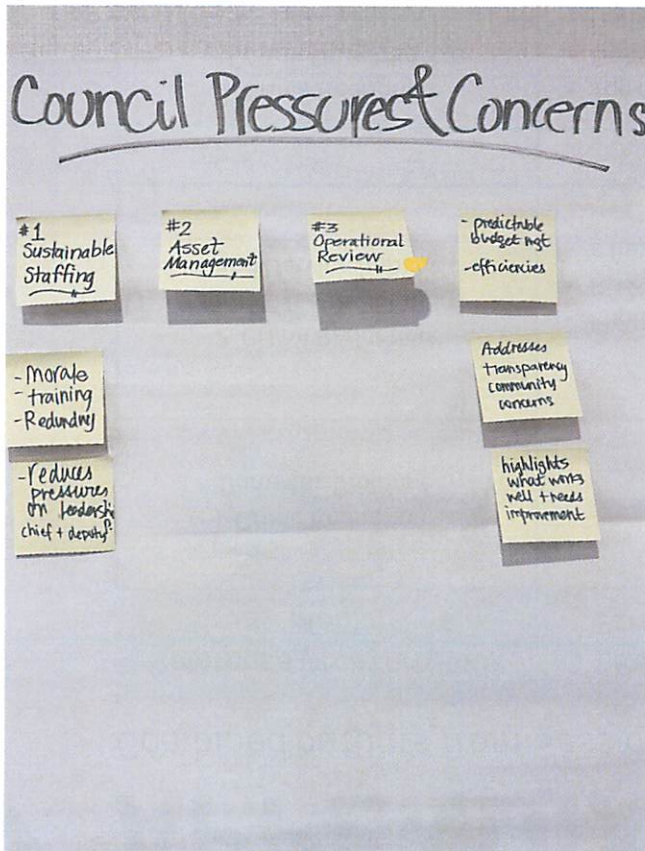


IMAGE 3

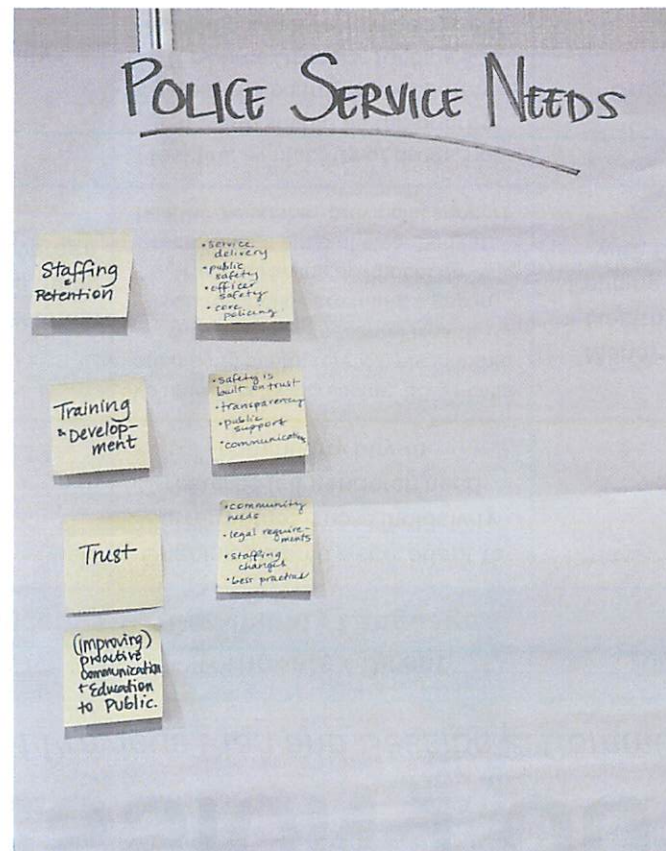


IMAGE 4

APPENDIX - SESSION 1 OUTPUT

Combined outputs from Session 1: Review of Previous Plan and Session 2: Community Input Survey.

Reference (from previous plan)	Recommendation / Strategic Importance	Rationale / Direct Community Language	Agreed Wording
1. Crime Reduction: Domestic Violence	Keep	Ongoing chronic issue: adapt to current times -more inclusivity required (all genders); need community buy-in	
2. Crime Reduction: Mental Health Solutions and Service Impact	Adapt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implies police own the solution • Risks reinforcing “police filling a health gap” without leverage 	Volume of calls increasing; 35%+ calls are mental health related; partnership with province on Mental Health required; police are filling a gap in Health; Having an impact on recruitment; appoint clear budget; healthy ownership, provincial support	Managing Impact of Mental Health & Addiction Calls on Policing Through Partnerships with Community Partners
3. Crime Reduction: Youth Drug Use	Adapt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too narrow • Doesn't reflect community reality or police data 	Tackling availability of drugs, not just youth should be the priority across the board; School Safety Resource Officers; funding & education; federal justice system “catch & release” not helping	Drug Supply Reduction
4. Safe Community: Public Awareness	Operational (not strategic)	Needs resourcing; more details, stats, successes, public information; more communication updates (via social media) of good & bad; improve messaging	

APPENDIX - SESSION 1 OUTPUT

Combined outputs from Session 1: Review of Previous Plan and Session 2: Community Input Survey.

Reference (from previous plan)	Recommendation / Strategic Importance	Rationale / Direct Community Language	Agreed Wording
5. Safe Community: Traffic Enforcement	Keep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine with Community Input Survey: • Traffic Safety Issues 	Needs staffing; invest in more technology, enforcement and education (TSA); provincial tools; growing community	Traffic Safety in a Growing Community
6. Innovative Operations: Shared Services	Keep	Develop more inter-provincial relationships; province is saying if you don't have MOUs in place then RCMP services will be used; on-going MOU's/partnerships	
7. Innovative Operations: Intelligence-Led Policing	Keep	Currently cannot prioritize; Need to track better stats to know what trends are up and down or what to prioritize/fund; stats available to the police from province are not in useful format (PDF); police need better stats;	
8. Governance: Fiscal Responsibility & Board Advocacy	Adapt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two ideas competing • "Fiscal responsibility" can sound like internal budgeting only 	Focus on advocacy efforts for provincial funding and resources \$ for \$; lobby government + good representation of community members; competing priorities	Provincial Advocacy & Fiscal Responsibility

APPENDIX - SESSION 1 OUTPUT

Combined outputs from Session 1: Review of Previous Plan and Session 2: Community Input Survey.

Reference (from previous plan)	Recommendation / Strategic Importance	Rationale / Direct Community Language	Agreed Wording
Community Survey Priority: King Street/JHS	<p>Must-have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names a specific organization (politically sensitive) Risks deflection or defensiveness Narrower than the actual issue 	<p>“Needles; John Howard Society; intoxicated people; Inordinate amount of time police spend on King Street; king street drug addicts”</p>	<p>Community Safety in the Downtown Core</p>
Community Survey Priority: Traffic Safety Issues	<p>Must-have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay strategic, not tactical Reflect public experience, not internal police mechanics Avoid promising infrastructure changes (sidewalks) police don't control 	<p>“Running reds; lack of sidewalks in and out of town; police should be deployed when there is a lot of construction around town; road rage; Extremely bad drivers who do not obey traffic laws”</p>	<p>Combine with #5</p> <p>Traffic Safety in a Growing Community</p>
Community Survey Priority: Drug Use	<p>Must-have</p>	<p>“Drug addicts using on the sidewalks”</p>	<p>Fold into # 3</p>

APPENDIX - SESSION 1 OUTPUT

Image 5: Voting Results of Final Community Survey Input Themes

<u>Q#</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SAMPLE LANGUAGE</u>
	<u>Drug Use</u>	Transparency 1
7		
	Social Support Services	3
	<u>Traffic Safety Issues</u>	8
	Property Crimes	
	<u>King St / JHS</u>	9
	Professionalism	
	Visibility	2
	Partnerships w mental health	

IMAGE 5

APPENDIX - SESSION 1 OUTPUT

Community Input Themes - Public Safety

Theme	Quotes	Status	Importance
Drug Use	Needles; John Howard Society	Aligned & needs adaptation from current plan	Must-have
Traffic Safety	Too much traffic for a small town people are driving too fast		Managing Impact of Mental Health & Addiction Calls on Policing Through Partnerships with Community Partners
Social support services	Homelessness, addiction, mental health; addiction, crime, and drug use are connected	New since last plan	Outside mandate -Partnership
Drugs and Liquor	JHS, intoxicated people;		
Traffic safety issues	Running reds, lack of sidewalks in and out of town, police should be deployed when there is a lot of construction around town, road rage	Already in current plan	Must-have
Property crimes	Thefts, mischief, vandalism	Already in the plan under Governance/Advocacy (needs adaptation)	Operational

APPENDIX - SESSION 1 OUTPUT

Community Input Themes - Public Safety (continued)

Theme	Quotes	Status	Importance
Homelessness & JHS			
Drugs	Drug addicts using on the sidewalks		
Traffic	Extremely bad drivers who do not obey traffic laws		
King Street / JHS	Inordinate amount of time police spend on King Street; king street drug addicts	Emerging need	Must-have
Visibility			

APPENDIX - SESSION 1 OUTPUT

Community Input Themes - Police Strengths

Theme	Quotes	Status	Importance
Response time	They respond swiftly ensuring timely support (24/7)	Aligned	Operational
Professionalism	They have been fantastic, friendly, courteous, helpful. Kind, empathetic, respectful	Aligned	Must-have
Visibility		Aligned	Must have
Youth engagement	I like that the are connected to the schools; it's a beautiful place to live	Already in plan	Operational

APPENDIX - SESSION 1 OUTPUT

Community Input Themes - Future Priorities

Theme	Quotes	Status	Importance
Traffic		Core policing	Must-have
King Street JHS		Aligned	Must-have
Visibility		Aligned	Must-have
Drugs		Aligned	Must-have
Partnerships to respond to mental health calls		Aligned	Must-have Advocacy of Board
Continued professionalism		Aligned	Operational
Transparency – more details, stats, successes, public information		Aligned	Must-have (Operational)

APPENDIX - SESSION 1 OUTPUT

2022-2025: What continues from the current plan?

Priority #	Emerging Recommendation Keep / Adapt / Stop	Key Rationale	Emerging Realities
1	K = 1, 1, 1	Ongoing chronic issue; a lot of buy-in from community and partners	Don't have enough quantitative (benchmark) data; no provision for same-sex couples
2	K = 1,1 A = 1 Partnership	35%+ calls are mental health related	Working to come up with a solution that is not only a police response – need provincial support; police are filling a gap that belongs to health
3	A = needs to be adapted because it isn't just youth	Drugs and drug addiction is the major issue	Giant federal government disconnect hampering ability to enforce reduction; shouldn't just be focused on youth; police are filling the gap from health services; education is still relevant
4	S = Operational issue related to staffing that should continue but not a strategic issue. Look to support from the Town	Public wants more transparency; police need specific skillset	Improve the messaging; build on the reports we have; need more public facing information; trendline for public consumption would be helpful
5	K =	Proactive and controlled; invest in technology enforcement and education (TSA)	Hasn't been staffed for the past year; shortages; daily responsibility of the force; could be handled via social media & public

APPENDIX - SESSION 1 OUTPUT

2022-2025: What continues from the current plan?

Priority #	Emerging Recommendation Keep / Adapt / Stop	Key Rationale	Emerging Realities
6	K =	Policing review will have an impact on this priority	Province is saying if you don't have MOUs in place then RCMP services will be used
7	K =	If we don't track officially then we won't know what trends are up and down or what to prioritize/fund	Need resources for this; Have not explored this – currently not staffed and not tracking statistics
8	A =	If the province wants us to implement their priorities, they need to pay for them	Focus on advocacy efforts for funding and resources

APPENDIX - SESSION 1

2022-2025 PLAN - PRIORITIES AND UPDATES

1. Crime Reduction: Domestic Violence

Challenge: Chronic cases of domestic violence in the community.

Desired Outcomes:

- Decreased instances of domestic violence
- Increased awareness and education around domestic violence as preventative tactic.
- Working with partner organizations to support an all-gender intervention role and to support survivors.

What has been done:

- All new employees have received training on ODARA (Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment) and Domestic Violence Protocol.
- The Deputy Chief chaired the Provincial High-Risk Working Group for Nova Scotia and led updates to the High-Risk Domestic Violence Protocol for use across all provincial partner agencies.

2. Crime Reduction: Mental Health Solutions & Service Impact

Challenge: Mental health calls have an impact on policing services, often putting pressure on core policing services as a result of time/calls.

Desired Outcomes:

- A balanced solution is found that reduces the strain on policing resources, while ensuring that response to calls involves appropriate resources leading to better outcomes.

What has been done:

- Chief Feener participated as the law enforcement representative in interdepartmental discussions on the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act (IPTA) with Department of Health and Department of Justice.
- Legislative and operational changes to IPTA have been proposed and are currently under review by the Department of Health.
- Additional recommendations include pilot initiatives to expand mental health counsellors within the 911 Communications Centre's, the inclusion of 811 services, and the expansion of the Mobile Mental Health Team.
- We also have monthly meetings with the Police Health Liaison committee locally which included BPS, RCMP and Mental Health Staff, with a focus on improving response coordination and service delivery.

APPENDIX - SESSION 1

2022-2025 PLAN - PRIORITIES AND UPDATES

3. Crime Reduction: Youth Drug Use

Challenge: Concern over increase in youth cases involving drug use and its impact on Bridgewater area.

Desired Outcomes:

- Decreased rates/occurrences of youth using drugs.

What has been done:

- Continued advocacy with the Department of Justice for stable and consistent funding for the School Safety Resource Officer (SSRO).
- The department's Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) delivered two training sessions for South Shore educators, focusing on emerging drug trends and their effects.
- The DRE Officer also provided an information session with Department of Community Services (DCS) staff to support their interactions with families and the public.

4. Safe Community: Public Awareness

Challenge: Need to communicate accurate statistics for crime/violations in Bridgewater; demonstrate the value in annual investment in policing and accountability.

Desired Outcomes:

- Benchmark statistical comparisons with like communities in quarterly or semi-annual reports to the Board.

What has been done:

- The format of the monthly reports provided to the Board of Commissioners has been revised to include the total calls for service during a defined reporting period, along with statistics for specific call types.
- These reports are publicly accessible and posted on the department's website to enhance transparency and community awareness.

APPENDIX - SESSION 1

2022-2025 PLAN - PRIORITIES AND UPDATES

5. Safe Community: Traffic Enforcement

Challenge: Traffic enforcement frequently raised during community engagement and surveying as safety issue.

Desired Outcomes:

- Traffic enforcement increased; decrease in collisions.
- Strong public education and awareness regarding rules of the road.

What has been done:

- A dedicated traffic officer position was created to focus on high-collision and high-complaint areas, allowing patrol members to be redeployed to core duties.
- A traffic unit was developed in collaboration with the local union, with a position established and filled to address traffic enforcement, road safety complaints, and complaint driven enforcement areas.
- The role also includes responsibility for the majority of property damage collisions and the collection of traffic speed data using speed signage.
- This position is currently vacant due to staff shortages.

6. Innovative Operations: Shared Services

Challenge: Cost and efficiency. Is there a way to reduce the cost of policing, increase organization efficiencies through collaborative relationships with others or adopting new technologies?

Desired Outcomes:

- Opportunities are identified and potentially implemented to share services, increasing efficiency.
- Municipal Collective for Services is explored as an option.

What has been done:

- Memorandum of Understandings (MOU's) have been established with other municipal police services to provide and receive specialized policing services, including - K-9, Ident, Major Crime Unit and Public Order.
- BPS continues to collaborate with partner services in Southwest Nova, Annapolis Royal and Kentville, providing staffing support for major events such as the Apple Blossom Festival, Natal Day celebrations.
- In return, partner agencies have assisted BPS during major events such as Exhibition week, at no additional cost.

APPENDIX - SESSION 1

2022-2025 PLAN - PRIORITIES AND UPDATES

7. Innovative Operations: Intelligence-Led Policing

Challenge: Increasing use of analytics to assist in resource allocation and the development of crime-reduction strategies may make a safer community.

Desired Outcomes:

- Increased understanding of crime and trends/modelling in Bridgewater.
- Application of trends/data in policing to lead directly to crime reduction.

What has been done:

- No changes have been implemented in this area at this time.

8. Governance: Fiscal Responsibility & Board Advocacy

Challenge: Provincial and federal policies can impact policing, positively and negatively. This, combined with ongoing community growth and need for services, can disrupt fiscal responsibilities and service.

Desired Outcomes:

- The Board ensures policing costs remain reasonable and valuable for the community.
- The BPC Board is effectively communicating challenges and concerns to provincial/federal governments.

What has been done:

- The Board continues to actively monitor the police services budget and responsibly invest in investigation tools and technologies, including CCTV systems and Body-Worn Cameras.



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GENERAL

The Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) takes the safety and well-being of children seriously, and will investigate all reported allegations of neglect and abuse involving children.

DEFINITIONS

- 01 **Child** – Anyone under the age of sixteen (16) years.
- 02 **Child in need of protection** – any child who has:
 - a. Suffered physical abuse;
 - b. Suffered sexual abuse;
 - c. Suffered emotional abuse demonstrated by:
 - i. Anxiety
 - ii. Depression
 - iii. Withdrawal
 - iv. Self-destructive or aggressive behaviour
 - v. Delayed development
 - vi. And there are reasonable grounds to believe that the emotional abuse suffered by the child results form actions, failure to act or pattern of neglect on the part of any person having charge of the child.
 - vii. The child requires medical treatment, which is not being provided.
 - viii. The child has been abandoned.
 - ix. The child suffers from a mental, emotional or developmental condition that requires treatment, which is not being provided.

POLICY

- 03 **Duties of Lead Investigator**
 - a. When a complaint of child abuse/neglect is received notification is to be made to Child and Family Wellbeing (CFW).
 - b. When required a joint interview is to conducted with the investigating officer and a CFW worker.



- i. If the allegation is sexual abuse in nature an officer trained in youth sexual abuse interviewing will be assigned to obtain the joint interview.
- c. Ensure that current interview practices are used in the recording of the victim, witnesses and suspects.
- d. Investigate the past conduct by the suspect towards children, where necessary, including making appropriate checks with other agencies in communities where the suspect previously resided.
- e. Ensure that Victim Services are made available to the child victim, other siblings of the child victim, the non-offending parent and/or the person having charge of the child victim.

04 Apprehension from a Premise

- a. A Police Officer or Child and Family Wellbeing caseworker has the authority to enter a premise without warrant search for and remove a child, using force if necessary, if there is "substantial risk" to the child's health or safety during the time required to obtain a warrant.
 - i. Authority granted under Section 34(3) and 34(5) of the Children and Family Service Act in the Province of Nova Scotia.
- b. CFW is the lead agency with all planned child apprehensions with police attending the scene to keep the peace as required.
- c. CFW will provide a signed Court Order confirming authority for apprehension to be added to the police occurrence.
- d. Police on exigent circumstances may apprehend an at-risk child under Section and Act.
 - i. Attending BPS officers will immediately notify the CFW on call caseworker 1-866-922-2434 to facilitate turning care over to the appropriate agency.

05 Duties of Patrol Supervisor

- a. Attend and support any child abuse, neglect or apprehension occurrences.



- b. Ensure best practices are followed in investigations, interactions, documentation and file management.
- c. Notify the Deputy Chief or their designate if there were any policing partner concerns or failures.



GENERAL

The Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) is dedicated to community patrol employing a variety of patrol types and techniques. Supervisors will develop community patrol strategies to support the achievement of the Police Service's performance objectives; which include Crime prevention, crime detection and apprehension and traffic safety.

DEFINITIONS

- 01 **General Patrol** – routine patrols including using a police vehicle, bicycle or foot patrol officer for the purposes of observation, interaction with the public, identification of problems and enforcement.
- 02 **Preventative Policing** – the recognition, anticipation and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of action to remove or reduce it.
- 03 **Proactive Policing** – a specifically planned response to a particular pattern of crime or situation of concern that may develop in certain locations at certain times.
- 04 **Reactive Policing** – the capability to respond to calls for service relating to crime, traffic and social order complaints.
- 05 **Directed Patrol** – a concentrated patrol presence in a high crime or high occurrence place, area and time. It may be utilized to respond to public disorder, community events and road safety problems.
- 06 **Projects** – proactive campaigns developed to address specific concerns within an identified time-frame.

POLICY

- 07 **General Patrol**
 - a. General patrol is accomplished by utilizing a police vehicle, bicycle or foot patrol in the community of jurisdiction.
 - b. The patrol section is designed to be a high-profile representative of the police service. The highly visible patrol units assist with creating public confidence in the police service and a greater sense of public safety.
 - c. The patrol section provides 24-hour daily response to calls for service and emergencies.
 - d. The patrol section will determine if police involvement is routine, urgent or emergency in nature and respond accordingly.



- e. The patrol section also assists with crime prevention, crime detection, traffic safety, traffic education and property checks.
- f. General patrol is preventative, proactive and reactive in nature and responsibility.
- g. The patrol section is responsible for answering calls for service, maintaining traffic observation and traffic enforcement.
- h. Community based policing dictates that complainants are updated on the outcome of their complaint, when able to.
- i. The patrol section is supervised by the Patrol Sergeant or in their absence the senior officer on duty.

08 Foot Patrol

- a. Bridgewater Police Service is dedicated to the concept of community-based policing. We believe foot patrol presents a perfect opportunity for BPS officers to interact with members of the general public in non-confrontational situations.
- b. BPS adheres to the belief that the high-profile nature of foot patrol officers lends itself to one of education and further supports the theory that "presence is prevention".

09 Directed Patrol

- a. Directed patrols are one of many different ways to address patrol issues preventatively. A directed patrol is a concentrated proactive patrol presence used to respond to an identified problem or potential area of concern.
- b. Directed patrols should be considered when conventional patrol methods are not effective in addressing an identified problem(s). The use of call analysis, citizen concerns, crime trends, geographic profiling, criminal intelligence and road safety analysis are examples of helpful tools in determining the type of police response required.

10 Patrol Supervisors

- a. Patrol supervisors will assign, manage and review the day to day operations of the patrol shift and/or any other supporting officers on duty.



- b. Patrol supervisors will request follow up investigation, tasks or notifications as required.
- c. Patrol supervisors will update the BPS Management team of any notable occurrences, equipment issues, schedule changes or community concerns in a Shift End report prior to going off duty.
- d. Patrol supervisors will review all incidents and determine if investigative information should be shared with any other policing agency.
- e. Patrol supervisors must give clear direction to front line officers regarding the purpose of the directed patrol as well as how the directed patrol is to be completed and reported.
- f. Patrol supervisors will continually update and assess the directed patrol techniques being employed. These assessments and amendments to directed patrols should be communicated with all officers.
- g. Patrol supervisors will also be able to determine effectiveness of the directed patrols by the presence or absence of the particularly identified problem in the daily reported incidents.

11 Projects

- a. Projects may arise when a community need and/or risk need to be addressed in a timely manner.
- b. Projects will have an identified lead investigator, clear goal, investigative plan, operate under current legislation and case law within a defined timeframe.
- c. Projects will be approved by and report to the Deputy Chief or their designate.

12 Deputy Chief

- a. The Deputy Chief will be responsible for scheduling, shift coverage, and long-term assignments, per our Collective Agreement, current needs and best practice.
- b. The Deputy Chief will be responsible for operational police response, serious incident response and Court files.
- c. The Deputy Chief will be notified if assistance was requested or required from another police agency in a time sensitive incident.



GENERAL

The Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) will investigate all reports of missing persons within our jurisdiction.

DEFINITIONS

- 01 For the purposes of this standard, the following definition will apply:
- a. **Missing Person** – a person reported to the police, who has been missing for a 24-hour period, with the following exceptions:
- i. Serious medical condition;
 - ii. A history of mental illness;
 - iii. Suicidal;
 - iv. Youth or elderly persons;
 - v. Vulnerable persons (physical impairment)
 - vi. Suspected foul play

POLICY

02 Investigating Officer

- a. Take the report of a person missing and shall:
- i. Conduct a preliminary investigation into the circumstances surrounding the disappearance;
 - ii. Submit an investigative report that outlines the investigative steps taken which shall include at minimum the missing persons:
 1. Identity
 2. Physical description;
 3. Known medical conditions;
 4. Any known emotional disturbances, mental illness or developmental disability; and
 5. A recent photograph of the missing person.



- b. Provide a description of the missing person and any other pertinent data to communications centre for broadcast, and to the patrol supervisor.
- c. Conduct preliminary interviews with the reporting individual(s) and associates of the missing person.
- d. Ensure that a description of the missing person and other pertinent data has been entered on CPIC.
- e. Ensure the description of the missing person is removed from CPIC when the person is located.

03 Patrol Supervisor

- a. Will assess the situation and assign additional resources to assist in the initial investigation if required.
- b. Ensure appropriate resources are immediately deployed to attempt to locate the missing person.
- c. Notify the Deputy Chief or their designate and keep them informed of the status of the investigation.
- d. Ensure that a preliminary search has been conducted by police of the residence, all outbuildings and vehicles.
- e. When suspicious or unusual circumstances are present notify the Sergeant in charge of CID.

04 Non-residents of Bridgewater – Last seen in Bridgewater Police Service’s jurisdiction

- a. When a request is received by this police service from another police agency for investigative assistance into a person reported from their jurisdiction, such assistance will be given.



GENERAL

The Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) will investigate all instances of Parental and Non-Parental abductions within our jurisdiction.

POLICY

- 01 First Officer on the scene** – on receiving information that a child abduction has occurred, the responding officer will:
- a. Notify the Patrol supervisor of the incident;
 - b. Follow the BPS Standard Operating Procedure for Missing Persons, Child Abuse & Neglect and AMBER Alert;
 - c. Determine whether any current custody order exists pertaining to the child;
 - d. Determine if an abduction, as defined in the Criminal Code has occurred;
 - e. Ensure details regarding the child are immediately entered on CPIC and broadcast to patrol officers by the communication centre;
 - f. With the approval of a supervisor, issue an AMBER Alert message by contacting RCMP Operational Communication Center (OCC) (local, Provincial or Canada wide, as appropriate) outlining:
 - i. The circumstances of the abduction;
 - ii. Name and description of the suspect;
 - iii. Name and description of the child;
 - iv. Description of any vehicle involved;
 - v. Probable destination(s) if known;
 - vi. If reasonable grounds for arrest exist;
 - vii. If a warrant is being obtained; and
 - viii. Other information deemed appropriate.
 - g. Submit an investigative report that outlines the investigative steps taken; and
 - h. Document all activity in their notebook.
- 02 Patrol Supervisor** - on receiving information that a child abduction has occurred, the patrol supervisor will:



- a. Notify the Deputy Chief or their designate;
- b. Determine if additional resources are immediately required to assist in the investigation;
- c. Authorize additional resources as required;
- d. Authorize, if required, the AMBER Alert;
- e. Notify on call case worker at Child and Family Wellbeing;
- f. Consider notifying Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA);
- g. Oversee the initial investigation;
- h. Where a warrant is obtained, ensure its entry on CPIC;
- i. Document their supervision on an investigative report and their notebook; and
- j. Ensure a ViCLAS submission is completed.



GENERAL

The Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) is committed to ensuring that the search of a person complies with the legal, constitutional, case law requirements and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

POLICY

- 01 Investigating officers will ensure:
 - a. A search incidental to arrest of persons is to be conducted at the scene by the arresting officer to gather evidence, to ensure officer safety and prevent escape or harm to the prisoner.
 - b. A complete search will be conducted on return to the cell block. All items seized are to be documented on a Prisoner Report C-13, and secured with the prisoner property.

- 02 Strip Search – When extraordinary circumstances exist that evidence or contraband may be hidden on the prisoner then a strip search may be warranted under the following guidelines:
 - a. No strip search will be conducted without a supervisor's approval;
 - b. The search shall be conducted by a member of the same gender as the person to be searched;
 - c. A strip search shall be conducted in a place in which the privacy of the person will be assured;
 - d. A minimum number of officers should be present while the search is being conducted;
 - e. The search shall be conducted in a manner which avoids unnecessary body contact;
 - f. The person shall be encouraged to remove their own clothing;
 - i. The person shall not be entirely naked during the search;
 - ii. Once an article of clothing is removed, it will be replaced before the search continues;
 - g. The strip search procedure shall not be videotaped or monitored on CCTV;



- h. The circumstances of the strip search must be documented on the investigator's report.

03 Body Cavity Searches

- a. When undertaking a body cavity search of a person it must comply with legal, constitutional, case law requirements and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- b. Body cavity searches will be conducted in private by a qualified medical practitioner, other medical staff if required, and in the presence of an officer of the same gender as the person to be searched.



GENERAL

The Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) will comply with legal, constitutional and case law requirements for undertaking a search of a premise, as well as for a vehicle/conveyance searches and the contents found within.

POLICY

- 01 Section 8 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that everyone is protected from unreasonable search and seizure.
- 02 Section 24 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that the infringement or denial of these rights could result in the court (having regard for the circumstances) excluding the evidence if the admission of the evidence would bring the administration of justice in disrepute.
- 03 The search of premises will be conducted within the prescribed boundaries of the law.
- 04 Searches are to be conducted in the interest of officer and public safety.
- 05 The purpose of this standard is to update the procedure for conducting searches of premises.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 06 Investigating officers will:
 - a. Ensure a Search Warrant Operational plan is complete and has received supervisory approval prior to the execution of a warrant to search;
 - b. Conduct searches which are planned, organized, supervised according to the Operational plan;
 - c. All officers must sign the search warrant to establish that legal justification exists to conduct the search and seize property;
 - d. Ensure that before conducting a search of a dwelling, the officer in possession of the warrant to search will, where practicable and unless safety or operational requirements clearly dictate otherwise, indicate the reason for their attendance and request the door be opened;
 - e. Ensure that evidence seized be collected, handled, packaged, labeled, recorded, transported and stored in accordance with the police service's standards for collection, preservation, and control of evidence and property;



- f. Ensure all officers will treat people's property with respect and dignity while avoiding unnecessary damage;
- g. Ensure the details of the search, investigation and results are fully documented in the current Record Management System occurrence;
- h. Ensure proper notes are kept pertaining to the search. All appropriate reports must be submitted detailing the results of any search conducted;
- i. Ensure that the search of a person(s) found within a premise be conducted in accordance with the police service's procedures on the search of a person.

07 Supervisor responsibilities:

- a. Review all Information's to Obtain or Affidavits with Warrants to Search to ensure adequate detail;
- b. Review submitted Search Warrant Operational plan. Approve or correct as required.
- c. Ensure that sufficient personnel be deployed to conduct the search and provide scene and officer safety. Officer safety is a paramount concern;
- d. Ensure Reports to a Judge or Justice and/or Order of Initial Detention of Disposition are completed and filed when applicable.

08 Lead Investigator Responsibilities:

- a. Ensure that all officers comply with the legal and constitutional requirements for undertaking the search;
- b. Ensure that all searching officers are visibly identifiable as police officers;
- c. Ensure all officers read and sign the Warrant to Search;
- d. Ensure there is a briefing and that the approved Operational Plan is reviewed and understood by all participating officers;
- e. Appoint an exhibit officer to retain custody of all the evidence gathered and ensure that they are equipped with the proper exhibit handling equipment;
- f. Ensure that the communication section is made aware of the search;
- g. If the search is to be conducted in another jurisdiction, notify the police agency in the area prior to any search;
- h. Ensure that the results of the search are thoroughly documented;



- i. Task all attending officers to complete their investigational report and officer notes;
- j. Ensure that any damage to property is photographed and documented in their report;
- k. Ensure a copy of the Warrant to Search is left at the scene and provided to the owner of the property;
- l. Notify the Deputy Chief or their designate of any officer safety, property damage, investigation/operation concerns.



GENERAL

The Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) will not allow current officers to complete technological and internet related crime examinations, data searches, recoveries and downloads.

POLICY

- 01 In this evolving reality of criminal investigations police officers frequently partake in investigations where technology and/or internet access is relevant to the offence(s). BPS officers are to use best practices in exhibit handling, documentation and search and seizure to safely secure data, devices and any other equipment.
- 02 Bridgewater Police Service investigators will request services from the Atlantic Region – Digital Forensic Services (DFS) when required in an investigation.
 - a. Investigational background, authorities and property to be examined will be documented on Assistance Request H Division – Digital Forensic Services Form # H4074 and signed by the requesting BPS unit (Patrol, CID, SSRO etc.) approving supervisor.
- 03 Depending on service availability Bridgewater Police Service reserves the right to request Technological Crime assistance as needed from a partnering police service that meets the provincial standard in a formalized Memorandum of Understanding.
- 04 The BPS management team officer (Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police) or their designate will make all partnering police service requests under this standard.
- 05 BPS investigators and involved officers will follow the operational and investigational standards of the partnering police service where applicable.



GENERAL

Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) is dedicated to traffic safety employing a variety of patrol types and techniques. Supervisors will develop local traffic strategies to support the achievement of the Police Service's traffic safety goals; which include the enforcement of traffic laws and the promotion of vehicle and pedestrian safety. All uniformed BPS officers are responsible for promoting safe driving habits while enforcing Criminal and Provincial traffic offences.

DEFINITIONS

- 01 **General Patrol** – routine patrols including using a police vehicle, bicycle or foot patrol officer for the purposes of observation, interaction with the public, identification of problems and enforcement.
- 02 **Preventative Policing** – the recognition, anticipation and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of action to remove or reduce it.
- 03 **Proactive Policing** – a specifically planned response to a particular pattern of crime or situation of concern that may develop in certain locations at certain times.
- 04 **Reactive Policing** – the capability to respond to calls for service relating to crime, traffic and social order complaints.
- 05 **Directed Patrol** – a concentrated patrol presence in a high crime or high occurrence place, area and time. It may be utilized to respond to public disorder, community events and road safety problems.
- 06 **Projects** – proactive campaigns developed to address specific concerns within an identified time-frame.

POLICY

- 07 **Traffic Safety**
 - a. Traffic safety management is a core function of front-line policing that is addressed in every community patrol type. Patrol Officers are expected to monitor traffic safety throughout their shift. Approved tactics include:
 - i. General Patrol;
 - ii. Traffic Safety officer;
 - iii. Static patrol at intersection and/or known problem area;



- iv. Speed tracking;
 - v. Response to community complaint;
 - vi. STEP - Selective Targeted Enforcement Project;
 - vii. Check points.
- b. BPS officers will investigate all reportable Motor Vehicle Collisions within their jurisdiction. All reportable collisions require a completed Report of Motor Vehicle Collision – MV58A submitted to Driver Compliance with Transportation and Active Transit. The following occurrences are reportable collisions:
- i. Injury and/or death;
 - ii. Damage over provincial reporting threshold;
 - 1. Including all vehicles, public and private property
 - iii. Pedestrian collision;
 - iv. Fail to Remain at scene of collision.
- c. BPS officers will enforce both Criminal and Provincial traffic offences. Patrol officers will conduct traffic enforcement by:
- i. Completing traffic stops;
 - ii. Conducting motor vehicle check points;
 - iii. Issuing written warnings;
 - iv. Serving Summary Offence Tickets (SOT);
 - v. Laying criminal charges.
- d. BPS will publicly promote local and provincial traffic safety initiatives including:
- i. Impaired operation;
 - ii. Distracted driving;
 - iii. Occupant restraints;
 - iv. Any other current local traffic initiative as approved by the Deputy Chief



08 Impaired Operation

- a. Impaired operation of a motor vehicle is an extremely dangerous offence that can lead to serious injury and/or death to the driver, occupants, other traffic, pedestrians and responding police officers. BPS offers zero tolerance for impaired operators. Patrol officers will detect impaired operation offenders by various investigative means including;
 - i. Officer observations;
 - ii. Witness accounts;
 - iii. Operator interactions;
 - iv. Traffic stop or Collision scene;
 - v. Video surveillance evidence;
 - vi. Officer experience;
 - vii. Approved Screening Devices;
 - viii. Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST);
 - ix. Breath Testing by a Qualified Technician;
 - x. Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE);
 - xi. Bodily fluid sample analysis.
- b. Detailed evidence, officer notes, reports and appropriate documents are key factors in impaired operation prosecutions. BPS officers will follow best practices in Investigation records, Property Management and Prosecution files.

09 Vehicle towing and mechanical inspections

- a. BPS has contracted McCarthy's Towing and Recovery for police related vehicle tows and storage if applicable. The following occurrences are approved for towing:
 - i. Seized vehicle under Provincial Act;
 - ii. Seized vehicle under Criminal Code;
 - iii. Abandoned vehicle on public roadway;
 - iv. Vehicle impeding traffic or effecting public safety
- b. If a vehicle is involved in a reportable collision and it is believed that a mechanical failure played a role in the cause of the collision



McCarthy's Towing and Recovery are contracted to complete Mechanical Inspections.

- c. Seizures of motor vehicles will be documented, returned and disposed of in accordance with the applicable legislation it was seized under.

10 Investigative Assistance from Police partners

- a. If a traffic collision results in serious injury and/or death and the services of specialized Traffic Collision Analyst or Reconstructionist would assist in the investigation, BPS will rely on the Provincial Police for support.
- b. The BPS Management Team reserves the right to explore and enter into formalized Memorandums of Understanding with other police partners offering the same accreditation.



GENERAL

The Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) will conduct a vehicle pursuit only when a serious criminal offence has been committed.

DEFINITIONS

A **Vehicle Pursuit** occurs when a police officer attempts to direct the driver of a motor vehicle to stop, when reasonable and probable grounds exist that a serious criminal offence has been committed, and the driver refuses to obey the police officer.

POLICY

01 Public Safety

- a. Public safety is the paramount consideration in any decision to initiate, to continue, or to discontinue a vehicle pursuit.
- b. Public safety represents a balance that may change rapidly and must be continually assessed.
- c. A police pursuit is the choice of last resort and will be considered only when other alternatives are unavailable or unsatisfactory.
- d. A police officer shall consider the immediate need to apprehend or identify the individual.
- e. During a vehicle pursuit, a police officer **SHALL** continually reassess the determination made to pursue and shall discontinue the pursuit when there is a risk to public safety.
- f. Vehicle pursuits may be initiated **ONLY** where the police officer has reason to believe a **SERIOUS** criminal offence, has been or is about to be committed.
- g. Vehicle pursuits will **NOT** be initiated for cases involving noncriminal or Provincial Statute offences.
- h. When a vehicle pursuit has been initiated, it will be discontinued upon motor vehicle or driver identification.
- i. Vehicle pursuits will not be considered when the suspect is operating a motorcycle, ATV, UTV or snowmobile, etc.
- j. A debriefing shall be conducted by all officers involved in a vehicle pursuit at the conclusion of same.



- k. If a vehicle pursuit occurs and there is injury to any of involved party, the Patrol Supervisor will notify the Deputy Chief or their designate immediately. If the suspect is injured then the matter is referred to the Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT).

02 Special Restrictions

- a. Police officers shall not discharge their firearm for the sole purpose of attempting to stop a fleeing motor vehicle.
- b. A police officer in an unmarked police vehicle shall not engage in a vehicle pursuit.
- c. A police officer operating a marked police vehicle involved in a vehicle pursuit shall follow the fleeing motor vehicle at a safe distance ensuring that all police emergency equipment has been activated. Ensure that a preliminary search has been conducted by police of the residence, all outbuildings and vehicles.
- d. When a vehicle pursuit enters into a neighbouring jurisdiction, we will immediately notify the police agency of jurisdiction, who will assume control of the pursuit when they arrive on scene.

03 Communications Centre responsibilities -- upon being notified of a vehicle pursuit, the Communication Technician shall;

- a. Advise other operational units of the pursuit;
- b. Notify the on-duty patrol supervisor;
- c. Control radio communications during the pursuit;
- d. Inform other police agencies in the vicinity that a pursuit is in progress in order to ensure maximum co-ordination and co-operation.
- e. Request a radio patch if entering neighbouring jurisdiction.
- f. Notify the on-duty patrol supervisor when the pursuit is discontinued.

04 Involved Officers responsibilities -- upon commencing a vehicle pursuit an officer shall:

- a. Notify the Communications Centre
- b. Activate all emergency warning equipment
- c. Comply with any directions from the Supervisor.
- d. Remain on the assigned channel, unless instructed by the Communication Technician or Supervisor.



- e. Provide the Communication Technician with the following information:
 - i. The nature and seriousness of the offence;
 - ii. The area travelled;
 - iii. The speed of the pursuit;
 - iv. The presence of pedestrians or other traffic;
 - v. Road and weather conditions; and
 - vi. The manner in which the fleeing motor vehicle is being operated at the time of initiating the vehicle pursuit.

- f. Upon terminating a vehicle pursuit, the officer shall:
 - i. Safely pull to the side of the road;
 - ii. Put the vehicle in park;
 - iii. Turn off emergency equipment when safe to do so;
 - iv. Advise the Communication Centre that the pursuit has been terminated; and
 - v. Once the pursuit has been discontinued, as per the above, the involved officer, with the supervisor's approval, may continue along the route of the fleeing vehicle in a safe manner, within the speed limit, without emergency equipment activated, to determine whether any incident has occurred subsequent to the pursuit being discontinued.

05 Patrol Supervisors responsibilities – upon being notified of a vehicle pursuit the patrol supervisor shall:

- a. Assume control of the pursuit.
- b. Monitor the progress of the pursuit to ensure compliance with this standard.
- c. Order additional units to assist if necessary.
- d. Order unnecessary units to resume normal patrol.
- e. Ensure neighbouring police agencies are aware of the pursuit.
- f. Terminate the pursuit at anytime if the risk to the public outweighs the need to apprehend.
- g. Lead a debriefing with involved officers when the pursuit has concluded and it is safe to do so.
- h. Notify BPS Management Team of pursuit and outcome.



GENERAL

The Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) will work with community partners to develop programs for preventing and responding to complaints of elder and vulnerable adult abuse.

DEFINITIONS

- 01 Vulnerable Adult** – In the context of this policy a vulnerable adult is any adult person who, due to mental or physical disability, is susceptible to or has been a victim of physical, psychological, emotional, financial or other form of abuse or neglect that affects their personal well-being.

POLICY

02 Investigations

- a. All BPS officers who investigate incidents involving a vulnerable adult will ensure that the investigation receives priority, and be completed in a timely fashion.
- b. BPS officers will make a written referral to Lunenburg County Senior Safety Coordinator.
- c. Officers, based on the experience and recommendation of the Senior Safety Coordinator, will make a referral to Adult Protection Services at 1-800-225-7225. Officers will provide their contact information and detail why the adult needs protection.
- d. All BPS officers who learns that a victim of vulnerable adult abuse requires special assistance in the areas of shelter, finances, food, clothing and legal advice will refer them to the appropriate agency.
- e. All substantiated occurrences involving vulnerable adult abuse in residential care facilities or institutional settings will be investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division.

03 Duties of Patrol Supervisor

- a. Ensure best practices are followed in investigations, interactions, documentation and file management.
- b. Notify the Deputy Chief or their designate if there were any policing partner concerns or failures.