

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

**27 February 2023 / 27 février 2023**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

**Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa**

**Contact Person / Personne ressource:**

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**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO INQUIRY I-22-06: OPS Intelligence Gathering**

**OBJET: Réponse à la demande I-22-06 : Collecte de renseignements du  
Service de police d'Ottawa**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du  
présent rapport a titre d'information.**

**INQUIRY**

Would the Service please provide the Board with an analysis of how the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) approaches intelligence-gathering, including which staff are tasked with the effort, their qualifications, and how their findings are tested for bias including any outside professional auditing to assess the Service's intelligence effectiveness.

**RESPONSE**

All members of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) are mandated to attend multiple anti-bias training courses to help them effectively respond to the city's growing and diverse communities. Over the years members have attended training on: implicit bias, systemic racism, Indigenous history, understanding addiction, and other issues that help members better-serve our communities. The goal of these courses is to develop a whole-of-Service approach to everything from investigative work to customer service.

The OPS' Criminal Intelligence Directorate is divided into four primary units; Organized Criminal Intelligence, Witness Protection, Security Intelligence, and Hate and Bias Crime. Each of these areas contribute to the assessment of the overall risks to the community in their respective areas. Intelligence is the confirmation of information that can be collected through different channels. This can include open-source Information that can be retrieved through social media channels, to confidential informants providing direct information. It may also include information sharing among partner agencies, community organizations and other community contacts. The confidence in the information may grow if similar information is provided through more than one of these sources. Ex. A simple social media post on a topic is considered information that may or may not be factual. Work is completed to try and confirm that information through other means. The more sources of the information, the greater the reliance. The more a particular source of information is proven to be correct, the greater the reliance on the information provided in the future.

The OPS is a member of the province's Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO), which operates under the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. CISO works with police jurisdictions across the province and with federal partners to coordinate intelligence sharing, with a specific focus on tracking organized crime and extremism. CISO will provide funding for joint projects worked by two or more member agencies. Regular meetings of various committees share intelligence among partner agencies which is an audit of the information gathered and ensures the information is data focused and reliant.

Intelligence gathering and monitoring is multi-layered and often complex. Its work is used to support investigations and provide safety resolutions to more complex criminal and social activity.

The OPS' Hate and Bias Crime Unit, for example, is a full investigative branch which monitors feeds and assists the Security Intelligence Unit in tracking people or groups involved in extremism.

Officers working in these units are provided with additional training, on top of regular interview techniques, search warrants and investigations coursework, that includes:

- Human source development.
- Intelligence Officers' Course through Criminal Intelligence Service Canada;
- Courses and conferences more specific to areas of expertise (for example, witness protection, hate-motivated incidents, etc.)

The Intelligence Section is additionally supported by a crime analyst that assists with investigations by collecting and arranging data that supports evidence collection. OPS recognizes the need for a Strategic Intelligence Analyst to better interpret and present risk assessments in the future. Their sole function would be the continual collection of data sources, analyze for connection and similarities, then produce and disseminate a report on risk. Currently this workload falls to individuals who have incorporated this into the many other tasks assigned. Current world events, societal move to more disorder and being the police of jurisdiction for the nation's capital demands we acquire this skill set