

# Chief's Verbal Report

## June 23, 2025

### OPENING REMARKS

Good evening. Bonsoir, Members of the Board.

We've had a busy spring with a steady run of major events.

I want to highlight a six-day stretch starting on May 24<sup>th</sup> with the Race Weekend—with over 36,000 runners and spectators— from May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, the Royal Visit of King Charles III, then May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, CANSEC, Canada's largest defence and security trade show. This was followed by the 2025 Special Olympics School Championships that the OPS hosted, all while managing daily demonstrations.

I'm happy to report there were no major incidents. That's a credit to the planning teams and the officers and members on the ground. I can't tell how proud I was of our entire team that delivered for the community during that very busy time.

### CANADA DAY

We have another major event on the horizon. Canada Day is coming, and we are about 9 days out. Planning is well underway. There are multiple celebration sites, which means a city-wide footprint.

Downtown will be busy, but so will the rest of the city. We are working with Canadian Heritage, the City of Ottawa, RCMP, OPP, Gatineau Police and others. Extra officers are coming to ensure we have the resources we need.

### ROAD SAFETY

Our focus on traffic safety continues with a combination of education and enforcement. Every day and weekend our officers are out addressing the concerns of residents and dealing with issues like car rallies.

One day in late May, as part of the ongoing Residents Matter traffic enforcement initiative, we issued 11 Offence Notices in Greenbank Road and Strandherd Drive area.

The stops included:

- A 22-year-old man who was spotted at 137 km/h in an 80 zone. He was charged with Stunt Driving and having an Obstructed Plate. This was his second stunt driving charge in 3 years.
- A 21-year-old man was stopped on Strandherd Dr doing 137 km/h in a 70 zone. He was charged with Stunt Driving, Unnecessary Noise, No Muffler, and Fail to Surrender Insurance.

You will continue to see more officers out there, especially at night, not just watching for impaired drivers but for speeding, distracted driving, not wearing seatbelts.

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### CRIME ANALYSTS

This evening, we will hear from Inspector St. John and U-nan Li from our Crime Intelligence Analyst Section. In my last verbal I mentioned several analysts who were up for awards. One of those people, Alyson Yaraskovitch was just named Ontario's Outstanding Crime Analyst of the Year. She'll tell you it's "just her job," but last year that job meant testifying in multiple homicide trials and building new tools that save detectives hours. That kind of quiet innovation keeps us moving ahead.

### SHOOTINGS

We've had several gun-related incidents in the past few weeks. So far this year we have seen 21 shootings. Our Guns and Gangs Unit has been working these cases very hard and ensuring they lead to charges. Here are four examples of our teams solving these difficult incidents in recent weeks.

Back in May, shots were fired in a parking lot on Castlefrank Drive in Kanata. Thankfully, no one was hurt. Our Guns and Gangs Unit identified a suspect and tracked him to Toronto. He was arrested and is now facing a long list of firearm related charges.

At the beginning of June, there was a shooting on Ashwick Court in Nepean. Following an investigation, two Ottawa residents were charged with several serious firearm offences. Both are in custody. That case moved quickly, thanks in large part to members of the public who came forward.

Then a week later, our Vanier–Overbrook team conducted a traffic stop on McArthur Avenue. A search led to the seizure of a firearm and a large amount of crack cocaine. Two teens were arrested and are facing multiple charges under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. I really like that when our members are proactive and find these types of charges.

Most recently, a few weeks ago, officers responded to a shooting on Bank Street. One man was seriously injured and rushed to hospital. A suspect was arrested, and the investigation is ongoing. We believe this was a targeted incident, but we're still looking to speak with anyone who may have witnessed it.

I want to thank every officer who acted quickly and every community member who picked up the phone. Continuez à nous parler. Your information pushes these investigations forward and keeps your neighborhoods safer as witnessed by the charges laid in these incidents.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

I'll switch topics to Human Trafficking. Last month, our Human Trafficking Unit laid serious charges against a man in connection with a complex and deeply disturbing investigation. The offences date back several years and involve multiple victims. 27-year-old Anthony Badibanga-Mukendi, faces charges including trafficking in persons, assault, procuring, forcible confinement, and more.

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Since the first charges were laid in March, more victims have come forward. Thanks to their courage — and with support from the public — our investigators have now laid more than 50 additional charges.

There may still be others out there who don't know his real name but recognize him.

I want to thank the Human Trafficking Unit for their tireless work on this case. And I want to thank the survivors who've already come forward — your strength is helping protect others.

### SPECIAL CONSTABLE BADGE CEREMONY

Just a few weeks ago we welcomed 20 new Special Constables. They come from all walks of life and various work experiences with some highly educated people. Some hold master's degrees and PhDs in forensic science, neuroscience, and chemistry. That mix of lived experience and technical skill makes us stronger on day one.

They'll step straight into the goal of Project Complement. Processing evidence, supporting investigations, handling hospital guards, and giving frontline officers room to breathe.

Thank you to Solicitor General Michael Kerzner and the province for funding this program.

### CANADIAN SWEARING IN

Last week, we had the honour of hosting a citizenship ceremony right here at our headquarters. Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada swore in five new Canadians. It's a big moment for them and honestly, for us too. To the six new citizens, welcome!

This event was followed by our annual Diversity Day celebrations outside our Office on Elgin street. We had a lot of officers and members of the community attend to watch some great entertainment, eat some food, and meet people from various diverse communities. And the weather hung in there. Merci à notre équipe de la diversité et des relations interraciales pour l'organisation de l'événement.

### GOOD NEWS STORY

I want to end with a story that says a lot about the people who wear this badge.

Last month, a member of our Tactical Team, Kevin Brown was off duty, tossing a frisbee with his kids near the Portage Dam. He saw a man face-down in the water. No movement. Kevin yelled for help, sprinted in, and pulled him to shore. The man was grey and not breathing. Kevin started CPR and kept him alive until paramedics took over.

We are happy to report, he's now recovering with his family. Kevin credits his recent combat-casualty training for the calm and the know-how. Kevin won't call himself a hero, but I will. When the moment comes—uniform or swimsuit—our people step in. One father went home that night because another father never stopped. Thanks Kevin, you've reminded us what service really means.