

Media Release/ Communiqué

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OPP RELEASES 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

500 Officers Hired, More than 2 Million Calls Received, Response to a Traffic Event Every 4 Minutes

(Orillia, ON) – The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is pleased to release its 2023 Annual Report. The new enhanced electronic report has interactive content with links to additional information and previous years' statistics for added context and includes embedded videos and podcasts. The Annual Report can be viewed on the OPP's website at opp.ca.

This report aligns with the OPP's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan that provides direction and guides the OPP's actions through its priorities of *People, Work* and *Communities* reaffirming its vision of *Safe Communities...* A Secure Ontario.

Did you know that in 2023, the organization hired and trained more than 500 new recruits and experienced officers? This was an increase of almost 40 per cent from 2022. Through call-takers to dispatchers to officers on the frontline, the OPP received more than 2 million calls for service last year. In 2023, OPP officers were dispatched to a traffic event every four minutes.

In an effort to keep Ontario roadways safe in 2023, OPP officers initiated a traffic stop every 80 seconds representing an increase of 26 per cent over 2022. Unfortunately, drivers continued to choose to drive while impaired. OPP officers issued more than 11,000 impaired charges in an ongoing effort to protect the safety of all motorists.

Additionally, the OPP's Criminal Investigation Branch investigated 160 major crimes including 40 homicides in 2023. The OPP also removed \$15.4 million estimated street value of illicit drugs from the communities we serve through the work of the Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau.

With the incidence of chronic violent offenders given judicial interim release and committing further violent criminal acts thereafter, the importance of bail reform was made clear. Following OPP appearances before several Standing Committees calling for meaningful legislative change, several bail reform initiatives were introduced in 2023, including Bill C-48. This Bill makes targeted changes to the Criminal Code's bail regime to address serious repeat violent offenders with weapons in an effort to enhance the safety of officers and all citizens of Ontario.

These are just a few of the highlights showcased in the OPP 2023 Annual Report that illustrate the OPP's commitment to combat crime and enhance community safety within its jurisdictions across Ontario. The <u>full report can be found here</u>.



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Quote:

"I am immensely proud of our organization's achievements over the past year. Our dedication to the safety and well-being of the communities we serve across the province remains unwavering."

- OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique

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