



PARTNERS IN POLICING

HALIFAX

Drug Exhibit Audit Update

February 27, 2017

Audit Recommendations

- All 34 recommendations have either been completed or are ongoing
- A significant amount of work has gone into addressing the gaps outlined in the audit:
 - enhanced training
 - strengthened quality assurance and oversight
 - improved infrastructure
 - in the process of amalgamating numerous policies into one comprehensive policy
- All of these measures are designed to improve exhibit handling, safeguard our employees and our organization, and allow us to better serve our citizens.

Disposition of Evidence

- Tasked the Special Enforcement Section (SES) with locating 74 missing/misplaced exhibits
- Later discovered 2 items listed as missing/ misplaced had been found in May 2016, bringing the total down to 72
- Comprehensive methodology used to locate each exhibit
- Located 34 items
- Unable to locate 38 items:
 - 32 items (drugs, drug paraphernalia and miscellaneous non-drug items) believed to be destroyed
 - 6 items (cash) believed to be deposited in SES bank account
- No evidence to suggest items were misappropriated, however, conclusion is not definitive

Full Inventory of Drug-Related Exhibits

- Conducted physical inventory of 9,792 exhibits from Sept '16 to Feb '17
- Findings were consistent with those of Drug Exhibit Audit – in particular, electronic documentation and quality assurance were lacking
- When compared to the electronic inventory, revealed approximately 3,000 drug-related exhibits were outstanding, including 228 cash items totalling approximately \$100,000 (includes a variety of currencies).
- Review Team prioritized outstanding items and first focussed on determining the disposition of cash exhibits; located approximately \$73,000 with either the courts, SPMD, IPOC; in SES bank account, or having had been returned to owner or used to pay court fines.
- Will turn their attention to outstanding drug exhibits next
- Aware of one court case that has been affected, resulting in the dropping of one of numerous charges

The way forward

- Continue to uphold the recommendations that have been implemented
- Continue to act on those recommendations that are currently ongoing
- Continue to reconcile outstanding items in the full inventory
- Report to the Board of Police Commissioners, media and the public monthly about our progress on the recommendations and the full inventory
- As per the draft HRP Budget and Business Plan, the Board of Police Commissioners has approved the addition of a new evidence custodian. This position will aid in addressing the challenges and recommendations identified in the Drug Exhibit Audit.