



Item No. 2
Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality
June 4, 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality

FROM: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 6, 2025

SUBJECT: HRM Police Compliance with Nova Scotia Policing Standards

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

October 2, 2024, Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality (Item No.10.3.1):

MOVED by Commissioner O'Malley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn.

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality request Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) to prepare staff reports assessing compliance of existing police services, related standards, policies, and practices to the Province of Nova Scotia's Updated Standards on Policing including the following:

1. Identify the updated standards to which HRM's policing services are compliant and the areas that HRM policing services are non-compliant with the updated standards;
2. In the case of non-compliance, the report shall detail the nature of the non-compliance to the updated standards, identify any organizational, policy, and/or procedural changes required to achieve compliance with the updated standards; and
3. Develop an implementation plan detailing resource and cost estimates, dependencies, timelines, and associated risks to achieving compliance with the updated standards.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

BACKGROUND

On September 17, 2024, the province of Nova Scotia issued 39 policing standards, following which Attorney General and Minister of Justice Barbara Adams issued a new directive to all police agencies to comply with the standards to ensure consistent service delivery across the province.

The province also announced the creation of a Public Safety Audit Unit to measure police agencies against the standards, and stated that an ongoing comprehensive review of policing may lead to the development of additional standards. The unit will conduct audits, with results sent to the policing agency leader, the respective board of police commissioners or police advisory board, and the Department of Justice.¹ Police agencies will have a one-year preparation period before the first audits begin.

DISCUSSION

The new standards represent five technical areas of policing: emergency management, police investigations, police service, records management, and use of force.

Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment (HRD) have reviewed the standards against existing provisions and assessed that those in place meet the spirit and intent of the new standards.

Attachment 1 outlines a high-level summary against each standard for both agencies.

This should be treated as an interim self-assessment pending results of the official independent audit by the provincial Public Safety Audit Unit. Both HRP and HRD intend to continue reviewing current provisions and planned future actions against the requirements of the standards, prior to the first audits. Where policies are noted as being in draft or under revision, completion of these are prioritized within the broader context of each agency's policy needs at the applicable time.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications have been identified at this time.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required for the purpose of creating this report.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia *Police Act*. 2004, c. 55:

Section (1), states:

- (1) The function of a board is to provide
 - (a) civilian governance on behalf of the council in relation to the enforcement of law, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime in the municipality; and
 - (b) the administrative direction, organization and policy required to maintain an adequate,

¹ [Province Modernizes Policing Standards | Government of Nova Scotia News Releases](#)

effective and efficient police department,
but the board shall not exercise jurisdiction relating to
(c) complaints, discipline or personnel conduct except in respect of the chief officer of the municipal police department;
(d) a specific prosecution or investigation; or
(e) the actual day-to-day direction of the police department.

Section (3), states:

- (3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a board shall...
- (c) ensure that community needs and values are reflected in policing priorities, objectives, goals, programs and strategies;
 - (d) ensure that police services are delivered in a manner consistent with community values, needs and expectations;
 - (e) act as a conduit between the community and the police service providers;

By-law Number P-100 Respecting the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality, section 7 provides:

(2) The Chief of Police shall advise the Board with respect to the provision of efficient, effective and economical municipal police service delivery to the taxpayers of the municipality and may in consultation with the Board undertake in a timely manner, research, strategic planning, policy development and implementation and the reporting of results, in response to inquiries by the Board pertaining to its community governance responsibilities, generally categorized as:

- (a) providing an effective community voice on matters pertaining to policing;
- (b) civilian review of police service delivery;
- (c) ensuring the quality of police service delivery by evaluation processes;
- (d) keeping generally informed of policing operations; and
- (e) insuring police personnel are accountable to civilian authority.

-and-

(4) The Chief of Police is accountable to the Board with respect to the provision of policing in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment (HRD): Nova Scotia Policing Standards

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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Report Approved by: Chief Don MacLean – Halifax Regional Police
Acting Chief Superintendent Don Moser – RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment
Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety, 902.490.8545

Attachment 1

Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment (HRD): Nova Scotia Policing Standards

<u>PART 1 – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</u>			
Standard	Agency	Spirit and intent of the Standard assessed as met?	Description
Alert Ready	HRP	✓	HRP policy 'Alert Ready – Direct Access'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual 'Police-Initiated Public Alerts'. H Division supplemental policy 'Serious Incident Alert'.
Amber Alert Program	HRP	✓	HRP policy 'Amber Alert'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual and H Division supplemental policy 'Amber Alert'.
Critical Incident Response	HRP	✓	HRP policy chapter 'Police Emergency Plan'. In addition, HRP policies which include elements relevant to critical incident response, including but not limited to 'Major Occurrences', 'Deployment of the Emergency Response Team', 'Crisis Negotiation Team', 'Active Aggressor Threats and Response', 'Critical Incident Stress Management', 'Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) Investigations', 'Ground Search and Rescue', 'Use of the Risk Assessment Form and SMEAC Planning Tool', and 'Acoustic Hailing Device'.

	HRD	✓	RCMP national Tactical Operations Manual contains policy related to the 'Incident Commander Program' and details policy for 'Incident Commanders', 'Emergency Response Team', 'Crisis Negotiation Team', 'Containment Teams', 'Public Order'. New policy: 'Critical Incident Program Resource Modernization' (2025-03-31) takes an evidence-based approach to mitigate identified risks and organizational obligations under the <i>Canada Labour Code</i> to improve public and police safety. Operations Manual contains policy 'Incident Management Intervention Model' (IMIM) and 'Public and Police Safety' policy for 'Immediate Action Rapid Deployment'. H Division has supplemental policy related to 'Critical Incident Program Activation' and 'Public Order'.
Disaster and Emergency Response Coordination	HRP	✓	<p>HRP policy chapter 'Police Emergency Plan'.</p> <p>In addition, HRP policies which include elements relevant to disaster and emergency response, including but not limited to 'Major Occurrences', 'Deployment of the Emergency Response Team', 'Crisis Negotiation Team', 'Active Aggressor Threats and Response', 'Critical Incident Stress Management', 'Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) Investigations', 'Ground Search and Rescue', 'Use of the Risk Assessment Form and SMEAC Planning Tool', and 'Acoustic Hailing Device'.</p>
	HRD	✓	<p>RCMP national Operations Manual 'Emergency Management' prescribes policy for the preparation of emergency plans as legislated by several federal government documents including the <i>Emergency Management Act</i>, Federal Policy for Emergency Management and the RCMP Strategic Emergency Management Plan.</p> <p>National and H Division supplemental policy, is in place related to the Critical Incident Program. As per the RCMP national policy definition, critical incident program resources refer to critical incident commanders, emergency response teams, critical incidents, crisis negotiation teams, police dog service teams, tactical police explosive technicians, tactical medics, remotely piloted aircraft systems teams, search and rescue teams, emergency management teams, and emergency support unit personnel, including all communications, media relations, and operational centre personnel.</p>

			Collateral policies which intersect as appropriate (i.e. Ground Search and Rescue / Alert Ready). The RCMP Policing Services Agreement refers in Article 8. In 2024, HRD developed an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which is intended to assist during emergency incidents.
Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR)	HRP	✓	HRP policy 'Ground Search and Rescue'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual and H Division supplemental policy 'Search and Rescue'. The H Div policy also includes Search and Rescue and is currently under revision.
School Safety Planning	HRP	✓	School Action for Emergencies (SAFE) plans for every school within HRM. In addition, Emergency Response Plan and other policies which include elements relevant to school safety planning, including but not limited to 'Major Occurrences', 'Active Aggressor Threats and Response', 'Deployment of the Emergency Response Team', 'Crisis Negotiation Team', 'IES Active Aggressor Protocol', 'Critical Incident Stress Management', 'Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) Investigations', 'Ground Search and Rescue', 'Use of the Risk Assessment Form and SMEAC Planning Tool', and 'Acoustic Hailing Device'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual and H Division supplemental policy 'School Action for Emergencies (SAFE) plan'.
Underwater Recovery Operations	HRP	✓	HRP has formalized access to the RCMP Underwater Recovery Team.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter "Underwater Recovery Team" addresses duties, training, equipment and diving operations. The program is regulated by Canada Occupational Health & Safety Regulations, Part XVIII, Diving Operations.

PART 2 – POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

Standard	Agency	Spirit and intent of the Standard assessed as met?	Description
Confidential Sources, Informants, and Agents	HRP	✓	HRP policy 'Development and Maintenance of Confidential Human Sources'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Human Sources'. H Division has supplemental policy which is currently under review.
Major Case Management	HRP	✓	HRP policies which incorporate elements of Major Case Management, including but not limited to 'Major Incidents', 'Investigative Procedures', 'Criminal Investigation Division', and 'Court Procedures'. The Major Case Management model is used by the Integrated CID Major Crime team.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Investigative Aids' prescribes policy for 'Major Case Management'. H Division supplemental policy titled 'Major Case Management' (MCM). Major cases within the RCMP will be conducted utilizing the principles of MCM.
National Security and Counter-terrorism	HRP	✓	HRP works in partnership with the RCMP, which has responsibility for national security and terrorism. This allows for formalized access to training, sharing of information and resources, and/or transfer of jurisdiction, as appropriate and proportionate to the investigation.
	HRD	✓	RCMP National Security and Counter-terrorism policy 'National Security Investigations'. This policy references agreements signed pursuant to Section 6(2) of the <i>Security Offences Act</i> between the Solicitor General of Canada and the Attorney-General of each province and the RCMP Commanding Officers and the Chiefs of Police in each division; MoU between CSIS and the RCMP.

Organized crime	HRP	✓	HRP policy chapter 'Criminal Investigations Division' including but not limited to policies 'Criminal Intelligence Unit', 'Fraud Unit', 'Human Trafficking and Missing Persons', 'Development and Maintenance of Confidential Human Sources', and 'Crime Analysis Unit'. In addition, HRP policies 'Automated Criminal Intelligence Information Systems', 'CPIC Transactions', 'CAD Hazards', and 'Mobile Data Computer'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national 'Criminal Intelligence Program' and subsequent chapters 'Organized Crime/Criminal Group Investigations'. H Division has supplemental policy pertaining to Division Criminal Analytical Section (DCAS).
Police Dog Services	HRP	✓	HRP policies 'Canine Unit' and 'Deployment of Canine Unit and Care of Police Dogs'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Operational Support Services' prescribes policy for 'Police Service Dogs' and 'Specialty Service Dogs'. RCMP has accredited Police Dog Service Training Centre (PDSTC).
Forensic Identification Services	HRP	✓	HRP has several policies which reference forensic analysis services and/or the responsibilities of the Forensic Identification Section (FIS) in their operational capacity. HRP FIS employees attend the Canadian Police College which is an accredited training facility for forensic identification.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Forensic Support Services'. This includes Forensic Video Services and Forensic Facial Imaging and Forensic Art. The Canadian Police College is an accredited training facility for forensic identification.
Suspect Surveillance Services	HRP	✓	HRP policy 'Tactical Surveillance'.

	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Surveillance' which includes Electronic and Physical Surveillance. H Division supplemental policy also addresses Surveillance.
Undercover Investigations	HRP	✓	HRP utilizes operational plans for every undercover deployment, and all undercover operatives undertake accredited training.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual 'Undercover Operations'. H Division has supplemental policy which is under revision.
Violent Crime and Linkage Analysis	HRP	✓	HRP policy 'ViCLAS' (Violent Crime and Linkage Analysis System).
	HRD	✓	RCMP National Operations Manual chapter 'Operational Databases' prescribes policy for 'ViCLAS'. H Division supplemental policy is under revision.

PART 3 – POLICE SERVICES

Standard	Agency	Spirit and intent of the Standard assessed as met?	Description
Community Patrol and Service Response	HRP	✓	HRP policies/policy chapters including, but not limited to, 'Patrol Duties', 'Calls for Service', 'Priority Call System', and 'General Procedures'.
	HRD	✓	Reference RCMP problem-solving model 'CAPRA' Model (Clients, Acquire & Analyze, Partnerships, Response, Assessment), national Operational Communications Centre (OCC) Manual establishes service priority standards. RCMP national policy Operations Manual 'First Response Investigations', 'Crime Reduction', "Community Policing" and H Division

			supplemental policy 'Investigative Guidelines' and 'Crime Prevention/Community Policing'.
Missing Persons Investigations	HRP	✓	HRP policy 'Missing Persons'. This policy is currently under revision.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Assistance to General Public' and H Division supplemental policy 'Missing Persons'.
Parental and Non-Parental Child Abduction	HRP	✓	HRP policies 'Amber Alert', 'Missing Persons', and 'Child Custody Disputes'. The 'Missing Persons' policy is currently under revision.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Criminal Code Offences – Person' prescribes policy for 'Parental Abduction', and Chapter 'Assistance to General Public' provides policy for 'Missing Children'. The National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains policy centre is at National HQ.
Response to Vulnerable Persons	HRP	✓	HRP policy chapter 'Special Victims Section', which includes policies on sexual assault investigations, internet child exploitation, and human trafficking and missing persons. In addition, HRP policies on 'Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act', 'Emotionally Disturbed Persons', 'Amber Alert', 'Intimate Partner Violence', 'Children and Family Services Act', and 'Hate Crime and Hate Incident Response'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operational Manual chapter 'Assistance to the General Public' prescribes policy for "Lost/Overdue Persons", 'Persons with Disabilities', 'Victim Assistance'. National policies that intersect are 'Missing Persons', 'Amber Alert' (if a child is suspected abduction). Vulnerable Persons Unit (Policy Centre) located at National HQ. H Division supplemental policy 'Vulnerable Missing Person Alert'.
Search and Seizure	HRP	✓	HRP policies 'Searches of Persons', 'Search Warrants', 'Search Guidelines', 'Search and Seizures of Weapons', 'Seizure of Vehicles', 'Seizures of Drugs', and 'Seizures of Blood'. HRP has a Legal Application Support Team (LAST) which assists with production orders.

	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Search and Seizure' includes authorities, personal search, search without warrant, search warrants, assistance orders, preservation demands, preservation orders and production orders. H Division supplemental policy 'Search Warrants', 'Production Orders'.
Technological and Internet-Related Crime	HRP	✓	HRP policies 'Internet Child Exploitation' and 'Digital Data', and property policies which include procedures for the seizure of digital evidence. HRP has a Cyber Crime Unit and Digital Forensic Unit which are located within the Integrated CID.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Internet Facilitated Crime' includes Child Sexual Exploitation on the Internet, 'Cybercrime', 'National Digital Forensics Program' and 'Using the Internet for Open Source Intelligence and Criminal Investigations'. National Cybercrime Coordination Centre (NC3) located at National HQ as well as National Child Exploitation Crime Centre. H Division supplemental policy 'Internet Facilitated Crime' and 'Child Pornography on the Internet'.
Traffic Law Enforcement	HRP	✓	HRP policies 'Motor Vehicle Accidents', 'Traffic Stops', 'Patrol Duties', 'Seizure of Vehicles', 'Summary Offence Tickets', and 'Impaired Driving'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Traffic Services' as well as H Division supplemental policy.
Vehicle Pursuits	HRP	✓	HRP policy 'Vehicle Pursuits'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Traffic Services' prescribes policy for 'Emergency Vehicle Operations (Pursuits)'. H Division supplemental policy.

PART 4 – RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Standard	Agency	Spirit and intent of the Standard assessed as met?	Description
Legal Advice	HRP	✓	HRP policy chapter 'Custodial Care of Witnesses, Suspect, and Prisoners', which includes policy on 'Legal Counsel' and 'Young Persons – Access to Legal Counsel', and policy chapter 'Court Procedures'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Legal Proceeding' includes policies related to laying of charges, disclosure, testimony in court, and liaising with the Crown.
Police Interim Release	HRP	✓	HRP policy chapter 'Custodial Care of Witnesses, Suspect, and Prisoners' which includes policy on 'Judicial Interim Release (Remands)', and policy 'Charge Files, Crown Briefs, and Case Disclosure'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Prisoners' prescribes policy for 'Release of Prisoners' and 'Judicial Processes' (Laying of Charges).
Police Investigation Records	HRP	✓	HRP policy chapters 'Information Distribution' and 'Case Management'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operational Manual and Information Management Manual (IMM) contain policy which address 'Management of Information Resources' and 'Management of Operational files and Physical or Digital Objects'.
Property Handling and Seized Property Management	HRP	✓	HRP policy chapter 'Property', and policies 'Drug Seizures', 'Seized Exhibits', and 'Prisoner Property'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Exhibits' prescribes policy for 'Processing', 'Accessing' and 'Disposal'. It also addresses firearms,

			prohibited weapons, munitions, explosives, biological, currency and negotiable instruments. Drug Exhibits are dealt with under chapter 'Drugs'.
Prosecution Files and Court Dockets	HRP	✓	HRP policy chapter 'Court Procedures', including the policy 'Charge Files, Crown Briefs, and Case Disclosure'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Legal Proceeding' includes policy for 'Judicial Processes'. H Division supplemental policy 'Offences', 'Young Persons', and 'Early Case Consultation'.
Public Policy Publication Standard	HRP	✓	HRP policies 'Policy Governance' and 'Strategic Communications'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP policy is pursuant to federal privacy laws and provincial/territorial legislation and policy.
Warrants and Other Judicial Authorizations	HRP	✓	HRP policy chapter 'Court Procedures', including a section on 'Warrants'.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Arrest' prescribes policy related to 'Warrants of Arrest or Committal'. Chapter 'Search and Seizure' also prescribes policy related to warrants. H Division has supplemental policy 'Warrants'.

PART 5 – USE OF FORCE

Standard	Agency	Spirit and intent of the Standard assessed as met?	Description
Conducted Energy Weapons	HRP	✓	HRP training and policy on 'Use of Force' which has a section on incidents involving the use of a conducted energy weapon. This policy is currently under revision.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Incident Management Intervention Model' (IMIM) prescribes policy specific to Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs).
Crisis Intervention & De-escalation	HRP	✓	All HRP officers receive initial and refresher Use of Force training, which includes the use of de-escalation techniques. Crisis Intervention Training is also delivered to officers.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Incident Management Intervention Model' (IMIM) has policy specific to IMIM intervention principles and assessment.
Firearms	HRP	✓	HRP training and policies 'Use of Force', 'Firearms and Weapons', 'Firearms Use Of', 'Firearms Handling Of', 'Firearms Maintenance Of', and 'Storing, Transporting, Carrying and Wearing Firearms'. The 'Use of Force' policy is currently under revision.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Firearms' has specific policy related to qualifications, storage, discharge of firearms, reporting. IMIM policy prescribes policy related to use of force and justification for use of force.

Impact Weapons	HRP	✓	HRP policy and training on 'Use of Force'. This policy is currently under revision.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Incident Management Intervention Model' prescribes policy and training for 'Less Lethal Use of Force'.
Intermediate Weapons	HRP	✓	HRP policy and training on 'Use of Force'. This policy is currently under revision.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Incident Management Intervention Model' prescribes policy and training for 'Less Lethal Use of Force'.
Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force	HRP	✓	HRP policies 'Use of Force' and 'Subject Behaviour Officer Response Reporting'. The 'Use of Force' policy is currently under revision.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Incident Management Intervention Model' prescribes policy for 'Subject Behaviour/Officer Response Reporting (SBOR)'. <i>RCMP Act</i> and national policy related to "Professional Responsibility Unit (PRU) apply. H Division has supplemental policy.
Specialty Munitions	HRP	✓	HRP policies 'Use of Force' and 'Emergency Response Team', and a draft policy 'Armoured Rescue Vehicle'. The 'Use of Force' policy is currently under revision.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Tactical Operations Manual prescribes policy for 'Chemical Agent Munitions and Irritants', 'Blunt impact/Less Lethal Munitions' 'Training and Equipment'.

Vascular Neck Restraint	HRP	✓	HRP policy and training on 'Use of Force'. This policy is currently under revision.
	HRD	✓	RCMP national Operations Manual chapter 'Incident Management Intervention Model' prescribes policy the Carotid Control Technique (Vascular Neck Restraint).