



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Integrity ▪ Excellence
Transparency ▪ Accountability
Professionalism



INDEPENDENT
Investigations Office of BC

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF CIVILIAN DIRECTOR



I am pleased to present the fourteenth annual report of the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) of British Columbia for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

This is the second annual report I have overseen as Chief Civilian Director (CCD) of the IIO, and the first following a full year in the role. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve the more than 5.6 million people of British Columbia in this capacity over the past 18 months.

On a personal note, I am energized to be leading the IIO during a time of growth and change. Former Chief Operating Officer Sandra Hentzen retired after a distinguished career that included a term as interim CCD. I extend my sincere thanks to Ms. Hentzen for her many contributions and for her steady leadership over several years at the IIO. I also wish to acknowledge and thank the IIO's dedicated staff who continue to fulfill the organization's important mandate every day of the year, despite the resource challenges presented by the current fiscal environment.

In 2025, legislative changes came into force that expanded the IIO's mandate to include oversight of on- and off-duty detention guards. These amendments to the *Police Act* followed several years of advocacy and engagement by stakeholders seeking strengthened civilian oversight.

The IIO also continued its work to improve investigative excellence. This included the hiring of a digital forensic analyst, which has increased the IIO's capacity to efficiently process video evidence – an increasingly critical function given the expanded use of body-worn cameras by police agencies. Additionally, the IIO formally opened its regional office in Kelowna, with the goal of reducing response times across the BC Interior. These and other operational improvements have contributed to a reduction in the average number of days required to complete an IIO investigation, compared to the previous three fiscal years.

Earlier work to improve investigator compensation has helped to maintain the IIO's attrition rate within a typical range and we continue to operate close to a full complement of investigative staff.

This year, as in previous years, the IIO continues to be faced with the reality of an over-representation of Indigenous Peoples as affected persons in IIO investigations. The IIO began formally tracking this data in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, and addressing this disparity remains a persistent and complex issue. The IIO continues to be committed to identifying and removing barriers to meaningful engagement by Indigenous Peoples

in the civilian-led police oversight process, including the consideration of recommendations set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

The IIO has developed its 2025-2028 strategic plan, building on the objectives of the previous strategic plan. The commitment to our core goals, and to serving the people of British Columbia, remains steadfast. I am encouraged by the progress to date as we continue to identify additional ways to strengthen and improve police oversight into the future.

This report highlights many of the IIO's successes and challenges over the past fiscal year. I encourage you to take the time to learn more about the important work we do on behalf of the people of British Columbia.

Yours truly,



Jessica Berglund
Chief Civilian Director
Independent Investigations Office of BC





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The IIO is mandated to conduct investigations into incidents of death or serious harm involving any officer¹ or detention guard whether on- or off-duty. The IIO's jurisdiction extends to all police services throughout the province, whether an officer is on- or off duty at the time of an incident. Police services are required under the *Police Act* to notify the IIO of an incident that may fall within its jurisdiction.

This report covers the 2025–2026 fiscal year (April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026) and provides updates on caseloads, trends, and key statistics.

In 2025-2026, the IIO:

- Commencing 195 new investigations (see [open Investigations](#));
- Concluding 48 investigations by releasing a [public report](#) (see public reporting);
- Concluding 34 investigations by issuing a concluding [media release](#) (see public reporting);

- Prior to a change in reporting practice, the IIO referred seven investigations to the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of charges (see [referrals to BC Prosecution Service](#)); and
- Conducting outreach with many important partners (see [community outreach](#)).

This year's key trends include the continued overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in IIO investigations, a slight drop in notifications from police, an increase in the number of new investigations, and fewer police-involved shootings compared to the past two years.

The community outreach section describes the IIO's continued dedication to developing and maintaining strong relationships with Indigenous communities, community and advocacy organizations, police agencies and associations, and the broader public.

¹ Any individual appointed under the *Police Act* who meets the definition of "officer."



WHO WE ARE

The IIO is a civilian-led police oversight agency responsible for investigating incidents involving any officer or detention guard that results in death or serious harm. Established in 2012, the IIO continues to deliver on its mandate through independent investigations conducted with a commitment to transparency. Operating under the authority of the *Police Act*, the IIO is structured to ensure impartiality, including the requirement that the CCD can never have been a police officer.

The IIO has province-wide jurisdiction. Its mandate applies to all municipal police services, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Metro Vancouver Transit Police (MVTP), and the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service. The IIO's mandate includes incidents involving both on-duty and off-duty police officers, as well as any individual who meets the definition of "officer" under the *Police Act*. This includes Special Provincial Constables (SPC), Special Municipal Constables (SMC) and enforcement officers among other designations. In September 2025, the IIO's mandate expanded to include all civilian detention guards working in police facilities in British Columbia.

The IIO was created in response to growing public concern regarding police accountability and calls for greater transparency in oversight. It was established following the findings of two significant public inquiries: the [Davies Commission](#), which examined the 1998 death of Frank Paul - an Indigenous man who died after being released from Vancouver Police Department custody and left in an alleyway - and the [Braidwood Commission](#), which reviewed police use of force in the death of Robert Dziekanski. Dziekanski, a Polish national, died at Vancouver International Airport following an interaction with police. Both inquiries identified gaps in existing oversight and

ultimately led to the creation of the IIO to enhance public confidence in police accountability across British Columbia.

Under the *Police Act*, agencies are required to notify the IIO when an incident involves a death or serious harm that may fall within the IIO's mandate. The *Police Act* defines serious harm as "an injury that could result in death, significant disfigurement, or substantial loss or impairment of mobility or function of the body or a limb or organ." The IIO conducts all investigations to a criminal standard and applies a two-part test to determine jurisdiction: first, there must be a death or serious harm; second, there must be a connection between the officer's or detention guard's actions, inaction, or decisions and the resulting outcome.

An allegation of wrongdoing is not required for the IIO to begin an investigation.

At the conclusion of an investigation, the investigative team submits all evidence and findings to the CCD for review. If the CCD determines there are reasonable grounds to believe an offence may have been committed by an officer or detention guard, the matter may be referred to the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) for consideration of charges. Where the CCD concludes that there are no reasonable grounds to believe an offence may have occurred, the file will, in most cases, be concluded by way of a public report or media release. In other instances, particularly where the matter is sensitive or a public statement would not serve the public interest, the file may be concluded without either.

More information regarding the IIO's public reporting practices and referrals to the BCPS can be found on pages 18 and 19 of this report.

THE IIO'S GUIDING VALUES

INTEGRITY: True public service cannot exist without an individual and shared commitment to integrity. In demonstrating the other values identified here, the IIO will do so always with integrity above all else. Through all our work, it means consistently acting in an honest, ethical, unbiased, and transparent manner. Integrity is always doing the right thing and standing up for what is right, even when it's difficult.

EXCELLENCE: The IIO is committed to excellence in all aspects of investigations and interactions with others. The IIO team is dedicated to applying best practices, and continuous improvement with a focus on excellence and consistency. The goal of the IIO is to serve the communities of BC in a manner that inspires confidence in the organization and police accountability.

TRANSPARENCY: The IIO stands on a strong foundation of encouraging open, honest, and respectful dialogue and operating with practical transparency and communication. Our goal is to be open and genuine in all interactions. This approach fosters trust, which is at the core of all relationships with affected persons, police, and all British Columbians. Inclusivity in information sharing and transparency go hand in hand, and we provide as much information as possible to all interest holders.

ACCOUNTABILITY: The IIO is accountable to the public, affected persons, and police, who should have complete confidence in the IIO's investigative and decision-making processes and results. As evidence-based professionals, the IIO team takes responsibility for the quality of their work and conducts investigations that the people of BC can trust.

PROFESSIONALISM: The IIO team demonstrates impartiality, integrity, and a high standard of skill and ability in delivering the organization's mandate. Everyone who works at the IIO approaches their role, responsibilities, and interactions in a respectful, thorough, and unbiased manner. Practice that is grounded in respect, care, and compassion for those we interact with is central to the IIO's values.



DEVELOPMENTS 2025-2026

INVESTIGATIONS

The IIO's mandate covers anyone designated as an officer under the *Police Act*. A further explanation of this definition can be found later in this report. All officers and detention guards are subject to an IIO investigation whether they were on- or off-duty when an incident involving serious harm or death occurred.

The goal of an IIO investigation is to collect evidence to enable the CCD to decide if there are reasonable grounds to believe that any officer or detention guard may have committed an offence. An investigation begins when the IIO is notified of an incident involving any officer or detention guard that has resulted in [serious harm](#) or death of a person and is connected to the action or inaction of an officer or detention guard.

Police services are required, by the *Police Act*, to notify the IIO of any incident which may be subject to our mandate. Notifications can also come from an affected person (AP) or their families, other oversight or government agencies, advocacy groups, and others. These notifications are assessed by an on-call team director who reviews the information and provides a recommendation to the Chief of Investigations and CCD whether further investigation is warranted. If it is, an IIO investigation begins.

IIO investigations are categorized as either jurisdictional or non-jurisdictional. A non-jurisdictional investigation is one where investigative work was started but was discontinued when the evidence showed that either the affected person did not sustain serious harm or there was no connection between the harm or death and the actions of any officer or detention guard. In both cases, the investigation is

concluded at this point by an addendum process which allows the CCD to evaluate the evidence collected and make a decision as to whether jurisdiction does or does not exist. Of the 298 notifications received by the IIO in fiscal year 2025-2026, 116 (39%) were concluded as non-jurisdictional files.

A jurisdictional file is one where both the required level of harm and connection to the action of an officer or detention guard exists. These investigations continue until all available evidence has been collected and analyzed. The investigation may include seeking opinions from experts, such as forensic or use of force reports, ballistics analysis, toxicology results, and autopsy findings. Once the investigation is complete, a file review is scheduled where the investigative team presents its findings to the CCD who, with the assistance of legal counsel, will determine whether there are reasonable grounds to believe an offence may have been committed.

If the CCD believes an offence may have been committed, they may refer the case to the BCPS for consideration of charges. However, if the CCD finds that there are no reasonable grounds to believe an offence may have been committed, the investigation will, in most cases, be concluded by reporting in a manner that best balances transparency and the public interest with the privacy rights of the individuals involved.

More information on the IIO's [public reporting](#) and [referrals](#) to the BCPS can be found in later parts of this report.

NON-REPORTABLE FILES

During the last five fiscal years, the IIO averaged 318 notifications per year. Upon notification, a team director assesses whether the complaint falls under the IIO's mandate, that is, they will determine if [serious harm](#), as defined by the *Police Act*, has occurred, and if there is a connection to the actions of any officer or detention guard. In cases where it is immediately apparent that there is neither serious harm nor connection, the file is classified as non-reportable.

Non-reportable files are assigned file numbers for administrative purposes and very little, if any, investigative work is needed to confirm that the incident does not meet the IIO's mandate. Notifications of these incidents can come from many different sources, including police services, affected persons or their families, advocacy groups, and more. Where appropriate, the person reporting may be directed to another oversight or investigative agency.

In fiscal year 2025-2026, 103 notifications were classified as non-reportable files. As non-reportable files do not meet the IIO's mandate, they are not included in statistics related to investigations.

ADVICE FILES

Prior to the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO classified some notifications as advice files. These files were incidents not under IIO jurisdiction, such as injuries not meeting the definition of serious harm or where the serious harm or death was not related to the action or inaction of any officer. In most cases, it was immediately apparent, at the time of notification, that this incident would not be subject to an IIO investigation. Very little, if any, investigative work was undertaken in these cases.

As the number of notifications categorized as advice files increased, a review revealed that some investigative work had already occurred before

these notifications were formally classified. Advice files, which are similar to non-reportable files, were assigned file numbers for tracking only and excluded from statistical analysis. Consequently, any time and effort spent investigating a notification before it was determined not to meet the investigation threshold was not captured, limiting accurate reporting of investigative work prior to jurisdictional decisions.

The IIO changed its reporting methodology as of April 1, 2025, with files now classified as either jurisdictional, non-jurisdictional or non-reportable.

FILE NUMBERS

In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO received 298 notifications of incidents that might be subject to an IIO investigation. Of those 298 notifications, 195 investigations were commenced. The remaining 103 notifications were classified as [non-reportable files](#).



OPEN INVESTIGATIONS

At the close of the 2025-2026 fiscal year (as of March 31, 2026), 69 investigation files were open. Of that number, 61 (88%) had been open for less than a year. Additionally, eight investigations (12%) from the 2024-2025 fiscal year were ongoing.

CONCLUDED INVESTIGATIONS

During fiscal year 2025-2026, the IIO concluded 171 investigations.² Basic information, such as the incident date, involved agency, location, serious harm or death classification, and status, are available on the [IIO website's cases page](#). The CCD has rendered a decision on all investigations commenced during the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years. Additional detailed information regarding investigations concluded in the 2025-2026 fiscal year was made public in many cases, including:

- Concluding media releases published: 34
- Public reports issued: 48
- Referrals to the BCPS: 7*

NOTIFICATION TIME

A police service or other agency employing officers is required under Section 38.09 of the *Police Act* to immediately notify the IIO if a person may have died or suffered serious harm as a result of the actions of an officer or detention guard, whether on- or off- duty.

Of the 195 investigations opened during the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO was notified within 24 hours of an incident occurring in 107 (55%) of cases.

Broken down further, notification was received by the IIO within one hour of an incident in 25 (12%) cases. Notification occurred in 35 (18%) cases between one and three hours following an incident, while 47 (24%) notifications were reported between three and 24 hours after they occurred. An additional seven incidents (4%) were reported to the IIO between 24 and 48 hours after they occurred and more than 48 hours following the incident in 81 cases (42%).

While the IIO received slightly more than two-thirds of notifications from police agencies, eports also

More information regarding the IIO's [public reporting](#) (including media releases and public reports), is available in the section below on public reporting. For more information regarding referrals to the BCPS, please see the section on [referrals](#) below.

*As of March 15, 2026, if the IIO refers a report to the BCPS for consideration of charges, the file will be considered as open and under investigation until the BCPS makes its charge assessment decision. The relevant case page on the IIO website will also continue to indicate the "Open – Investigation in Progress" status. Seven files were referred to the BCPS prior to this change in practice. A more detailed explanation can be found in the section on [referrals](#) below.

originate from several other sources. These include an affected person or their family, others in the community, the BC Coroners Service (BCCS)³, or another oversight agency such as the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) or the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (CRCC).

In cases where a police agency does not immediately report an incident to the IIO, there are generally reasonable explanations for this occurrence. An agency may not have been aware of a person's injuries or the extent of them at the time of an incident. In some cases, an agency may only become aware of the seriousness of a person's injuries during a follow-up after the initial incident, at which time the agency must report the incident to the IIO.

Additionally, police may not be aware that an affected person they had recent or previous contact with had died. In such cases, the BCCS may report the death to the IIO.

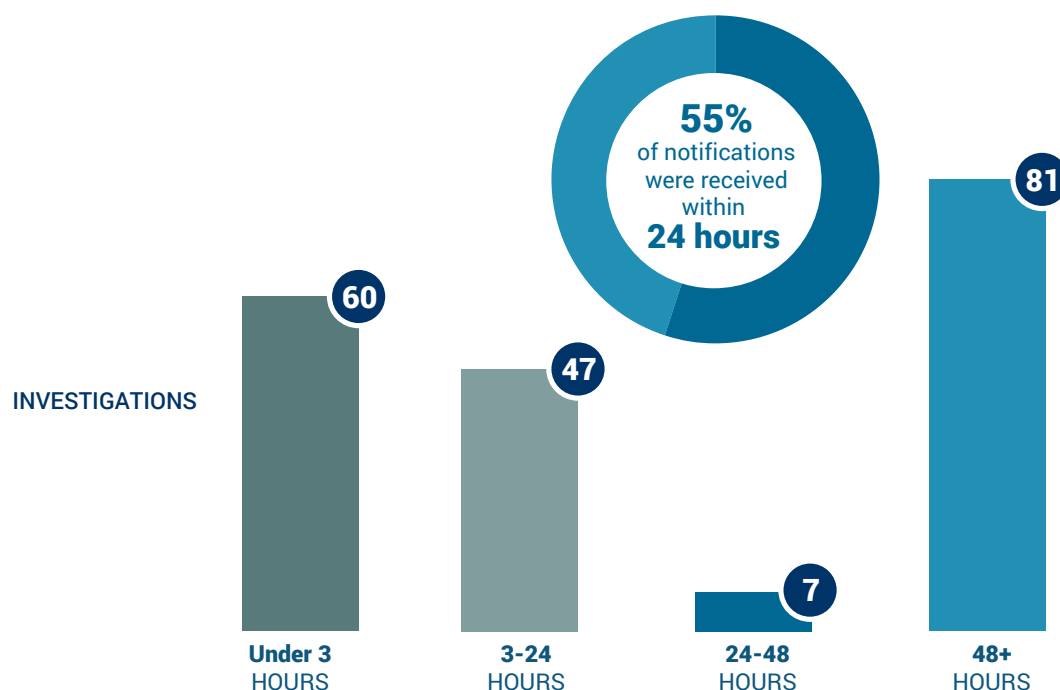
² The 171 concluded investigations may have been opened in fiscal year 2025-2026 or any year prior.

³ Police in BC do not automatically attend every death and therefore may not be aware that someone they had contact with had died shortly after their attendance.

Of the 195 investigations commenced by the IIO during the fiscal year, 127 (65%) of the notifications came from a police agency, 39 (20%) from an affected person, 12 (6%) from an affected person's family, 12

(6%) from other groups (including other government agencies, members of the public, legal counsel and the media) and five (3%) were provided by the BCCS.

TIME BETWEEN WHEN AN INCIDENT OCCURRED AND IIO NOTIFICATION



FILES BY REGION

For the purposes of IIO reporting, BC is divided into four population-based regions: the Lower Mainland, the Island, the Southeast, and the North. Comparing investigations by region, rather than by total numbers alone, provides a more accurate picture of the IIO's work.

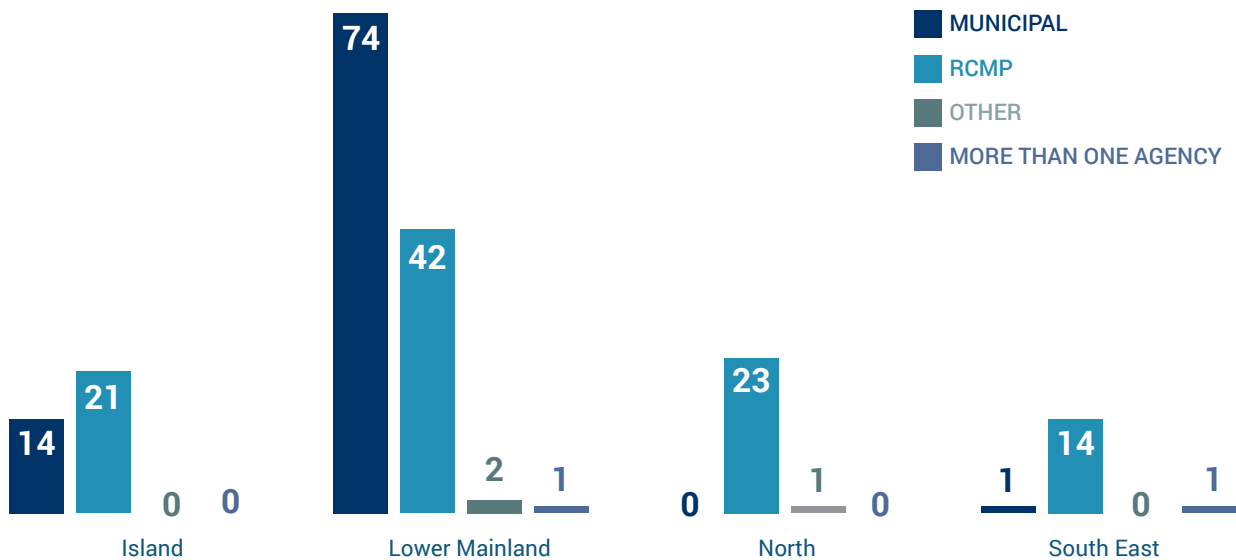
Each IIO investigation involves at least one agency—the home agency of the subject officer or detention guard. A subject officer is the officer whose actions or inaction are under investigation. Some files involve multiple subject officers from different agencies, so the number of involved agencies does not always equal the number of investigations.



BC has 135⁴ RCMP detachments and 12 municipal police services⁵. In fiscal year 2025–2026, of the 195 new investigations, 100 involved the RCMP, 89 involved municipal police, four involved agencies classified as “other/ out of province,” and two involved more than one agency. “Other” agencies include two Metro Vancouver Transit Police files and one BC Conservation Officer Service file.

The graph below shows investigations by region and agency type. As most of BC’s population lives in the lower mainland, that region also has the highest number of IIO investigations.

DISTRIBUTION BY REGION, BY AGENCY TYPE



4 The RCMP has additional satellite detachments not included in the above total.

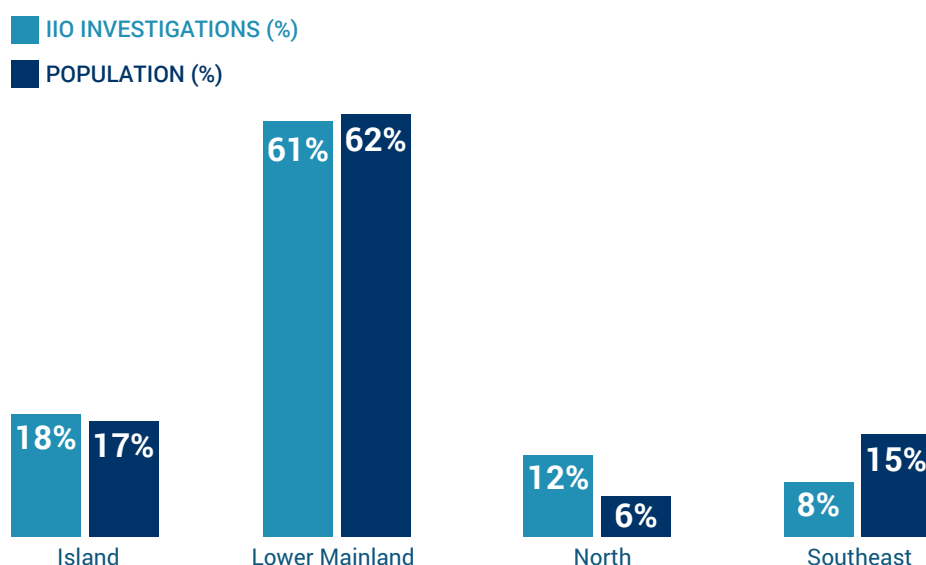
5 The 12 municipal police services in BC are: Abbotsford, Central Saanich, Delta, Nelson, New Westminister, Oak Bay, Port Moody, Saanich, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria, and West Vancouver.



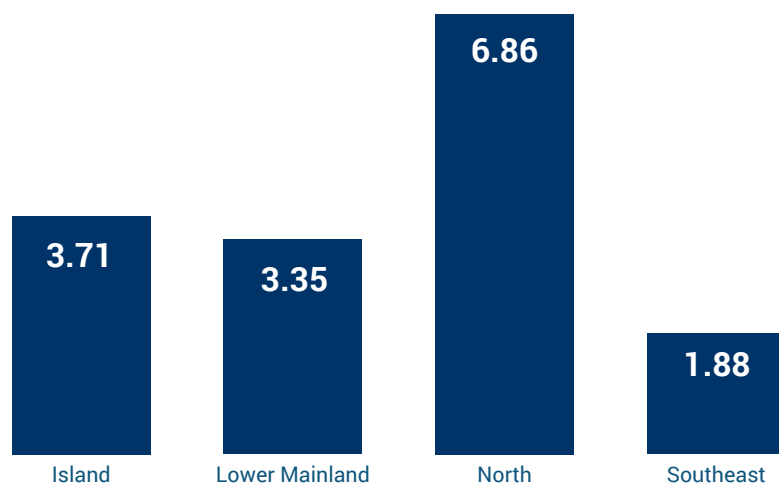
The charts below compare how often the IIO investigates incidents in each region relative to the population. The first chart shows the percentage of IIO investigations that occurred in each region and compares it to the percentage of BC's population that lives in that region. The second shows how many IIO investigations occurred per 100,000 people in a region. Together, they show that the southeast region has the lowest number of investigations relative to population, while the north region continues to have the highest.

This differs slightly from previous years, as the lower mainland has historically had the fewest IIO investigations relative to population. This shift is driven by a decrease in incidents under IIO investigation in the southeast region.

PERCENTAGE OF IIO INVESTIGATIONS COMPARED TO PERCENTAGE OF BC POPULATION, BY REGION⁶



NUMBER OF IIO INVESTIGATIONS PER 100,000 PEOPLE, BY REGION



⁶ One file is not included in this graph as it was reported by an affected person and related to an incident in another province. It was classified as Out of Province.

FILES BY CLASSIFICATION

Of the 195 investigations opened in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 144 (74%) were classified as serious harm and 51 (26%) were classified as death.

Based on the primary mechanism of injury or death, IIO investigations are grouped into eight classifications:

- Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW, or Taser)
- Firearm
- Medical
- Motor Vehicle Incident (MVI)
- Other
- Police Service Dog (PSD)
- Self-Inflicted
- Use of Force (not including firearms, police service dogs and CEWs)

While an incident may involve more than one of the classifications, the primary cause of a person's injury determines how a file is grouped. If, for example an affected person is involved in a motor vehicle incident, but officers also deploy a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) during the arrest, and the affected person's injuries result from the CEW, this is classified as a CEW file.

Firearm, Police Service Dog (PSD), and CEW incidents are recorded separately for clarity and are not counted within the general use of force category. As a result, any deaths involving firearms, a CEW, or a PSD are not included in the totals under the force categories.

In cases where the death of, or the injury to, the affected person does not fit into any other category or where the primary cause cannot be determined to fall into one category, the file is classified as other. In the example above, if investigators were unable to determine if the serious harm the affected person

sustained was due to the CEW or the collision, the file would be classified as other.

Incidents where the primary cause of the serious harm or death of an affected person is most appropriately attributable to the decisions made and/or actions made by the AP are classified as "self-inflicted" files.

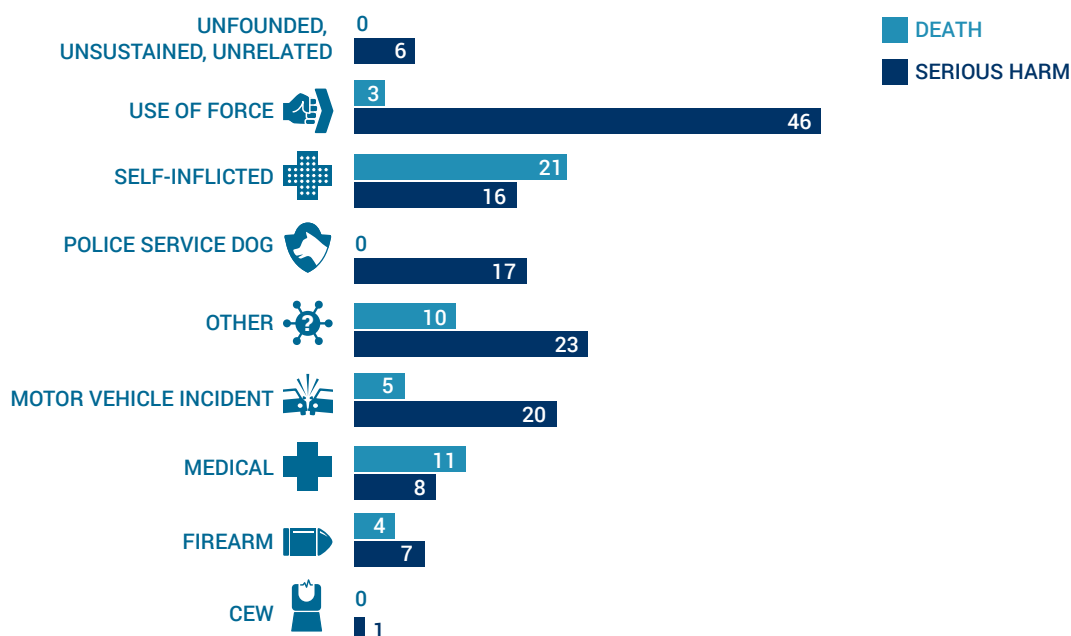
With the understanding that the use of force category does not reflect injuries or death caused by firearms, PSDs or CEWs, a total of 46 (24%) investigations were attributed to use of force, the largest overall number of files. All of these files involved serious harm. For context, of the 46 investigations involving use of force, 30 failed to meet the threshold of serious harm, one was found to have no connection with officer action, and six investigations were concluded at file review. Nine investigations remain under investigation.

The self-inflicted category was the second-most common, with 37 (19%) files. The category is divided between 16 (8%) serious harm files and 21 (11%) that resulted in the affected person's death.

The self-inflicted category was also the most common classification for death investigations (41%), and use of force was the most common classification for serious harm files (32%).

In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, six non-jurisdictional investigations were found to be either unfounded, unsubstantiated, or unrelated to police actions. In these cases, allegations were serious enough that a preliminary investigation was undertaken before the files were concluded. In one instance, a police agency forwarded a complaint it received from a member of the public. The remaining five were received directly from an affected person or their family member, alleging serious harm had occurred as a result of police action or inaction.

INVESTIGATIONS BY CLASSIFICATION



FIREARM FILES

The IIO conducted 10 investigations in the 2025-2026 fiscal year related to police-involved shootings, or firearm incidents. This marks a decrease of 17% from the previous fiscal year, when there were 12 firearm investigations.

Six of the incidents involving firearms were reported as serious harm, and four resulted in death.

As of March 31, 2026, five of the 10 firearm investigations opened this fiscal year remained under investigation.

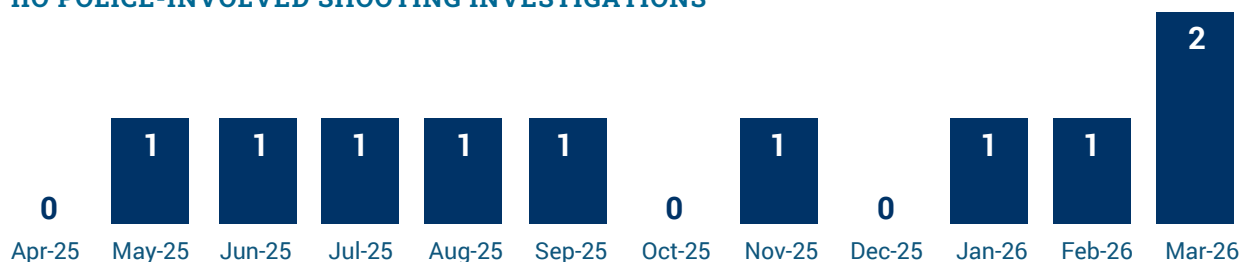
Five investigations have been concluded: two with public reports, and three with media releases. Two of the media releases advised that the file was not being

referred to the BCPS for consideration of charges and that a public report would not be issued until the conclusion of concurrent court proceedings. One file was concluded after it was determined that the affected person's injuries did not meet the threshold of serious harm.

Additionally, there was one incident (IIO [2025-105](#)) where police reported an officer discharged a firearm at a vehicle that was driving toward an officer. All attempts to locate and identify an affected person were unsuccessful. The file is classified as serious harm for administrative purposes.

For information regarding the ethnicity of affected persons, please see page 25. For more information on the files in the firearm classification, please refer to Appendix B of this report.

IIO POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING INVESTIGATIONS



LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

In 2025, legislative changes came into force that expanded the IIO's mandate to include oversight of on- and off-duty detention guards. Previously, civilian employees working as detention guards were not required to participate in an IIO investigation. As of September 1, 2025, the passage of [Bill 17](#) means anyone working as a detention guard in British Columbia, whether on- or off-duty, now has the same duty to cooperate with the IIO that police officers have had since 2012. The IIO also affirmed its mandate over off-duty incidents of death or serious harm

involving other officers that fall under the definition of “officer” within section 1 of the *Police Act*. This includes special provincial constables, designated constables, special municipal constables, auxiliary constables and enforcement officers.

This legislative change was based on a recommendation to improve and strengthen policing and civilian oversight of police in British Columbia put forth by the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act*.⁷

PUBLIC REPORTING

The IIO believes effective oversight requires transparency. It is essential that the IIO administers a strong public reporting process to maintain confidence in its decisions. The privacy rights of all involved parties are continually balanced with the public's right to know. The IIO strives to make as much information public as practicable while upholding the highest level of integrity in its investigations.

The IIO's website provides the public with information about public reports and media releases, both of which are searchable by several parameters. Other publications, such as this annual report and the joint police [oversight flow chart](#) are also available, to inform the public about the work of the IIO.

IIO investigations are also searchable on the website's [cases page](#) and can be sorted by file number, date, involved agency and location. Whether an investigation is related to serious harm or death and its current status can also be used as search criteria. In some instances, several media releases may be published for one investigation. These releases provide the initial circumstances surrounding an incident, while update releases add further information during an IIO investigation.



When the CCD determines, based on a review of the evidence, that reasonable grounds do not exist to believe an officer or detention guard may have committed an offence, the IIO may issue a concluding media release or public report. Public reports provide more detail than concluding media releases, often containing a level of description about the incident

⁷ https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/42nd-parliament/3rd-session/rpa/SC-RPA-Report_42-3_2022-04-28.pdf

and actions of involved parties. They also indicate what evidence was obtained by the IIO and considered in the decision-making process, as well as the legal rationale behind the CCD's decision.

When elevated privacy interests and/or a lower level of public interest exist, the CCD may deem it appropriate to issue a concluding media release. Concluding media releases indicate the IIO's decision but are shorter and less detailed than public reports. The IIO anonymizes the names of all involved parties in its public reports and media releases.

In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO published 48 public reports, and issued 34 concluding media releases.⁸ A concluding media release may sometimes be published to indicate the CCD has made the decision to issue a public report about a file, which will not be released until a concurrent investigation or court proceeding has concluded.

When circumstances dictate that privacy considerations outweigh the public interest entirely, the IIO will conclude an investigation without making any information public beyond what is available on the IIO's cases page. The case status will, in those instances, indicate a file is closed with no public report.

While files are concluded in different ways, and when an initial media release is published about an investigation, the IIO will typically inform the public of the case's ultimate outcome. This may occur either by issuing a public report, concluding media release or

adding a media release or clear statement published by the BCPS to the IIO's website.

The IIO will notify the involved parties in a file of a decision before publicizing the outcome. This includes the affected person(s) or their next of kin, the involved officer(s) and the involved officers' agency.⁹ If requested by the affected person or their family or next of kin, the IIO will meet with the affected person, their family, or community representatives prior to the public release of any decision.

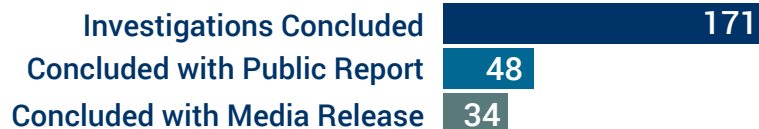
If the CCD believes there are reasonable grounds that an officer or detention guard may have committed an offence, the IIO may refer the file to the BCPS for consideration of charges.

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO referred seven files to the BCPS for consideration of charges.

Previously, the IIO typically issued a media release indicating when a file had been referred to the BCPS. This practice was changed on March 15, 2026. When there is a referral to the BCPS, the file will now be considered as open and under investigation until the BCPS decides whether to proceed with any charges. More on this change can be found in the following section.

All information the IIO has made public about any investigation can be found on the IIO website.¹⁰

For a year-over-year comparison of the IIO's public reporting, please see page 18.



⁸ Public reports and concluding media releases may be issued regarding files opened during fiscal year 2025-2026 or any year prior.

⁹ Unless they have requested not to be, or their contact information has changed and the IIO is unable to contact them.

¹⁰ <https://iiohc.ca/>

REFERRALS TO THE BC PROSECUTION SERVICE

Once an IIO investigation is complete, if the CCD determines, based on a review of the evidence, that reasonable grounds exist to believe an officer or detention guard may have committed an offence, the IIO may refer the file to the BCPS for consideration of charges.

The BCPS will review the investigative file, applying a two-part test to determine if charges will be approved. To approve charges, BCPS must be satisfied that:¹¹

- there is a substantial likelihood of conviction based on the evidence, and;
- a prosecution is required in the public interest.

If the BCPS approves charges in the matter, it may issue a media release. The IIO will upload the media release to the file's case page on the IIO's website, and the status will indicate that charges have been approved. The BCPS media release will usually provide a summary of the incident, including names of the officer and detail which charges are being brought against them. From there, the file makes its way through the appropriate court process.

In cases where the BCPS finds the two-part test is not met and does not approve charges, it will generally but not always publish a clear statement. Clear statements will also be uploaded to a file's case page on the IIO website and the status changed to indicate no charges were approved.

BCPS clear statements provide a detailed narrative of the incident, available evidence, and legal principles applied in arriving at its decision, and are similar to the IIO's public reports.

In circumstances where the BCPS does not provide a clear statement, the IIO may publish a media release to inform the public that no charges were approved in the matter.

In previous years, the IIO typically issued a media release when the CCD made the decision to refer a file to the BCPS for consideration of charges. Upon review of this practice in early 2026, the decision was made to amend the IIO's policy and, in most cases, the IIO will not issue a media release prior to the BCPS completing its charge assessment process.¹² This decision was made to be consistent with the practices of other BC

¹¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/cha-1-charge-assessment-guidelines.pdf>

¹² https://iiohc.ca/app/uploads/sites/472/2024/02/3030-External-Communications-About-IIO-Investigations_2026FEB03.pdf



investigative and enforcement agencies that refer files to the BCPS for charge assessment and to reflect the fact that referrals often require additional investigative work and may not be ready for charge assessment at the time they are initially referred to BCPS.

As of March 15, 2026, if the IIO refers a file to the BCPS for consideration of charges, the file will be considered as open and under investigation until the BCPS makes its charge assessment decision. The relevant case page on the IIO website will indicate the “Open – Investigation in Progress” status.

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO referred seven files to the BCPS for consideration of charges before the practice change. Of those seven, three files are awaiting charge assessments, three have concluded the court process, and one is currently proceeding through the courts.¹³

For information regarding the ethnicity of affected persons involved in investigations that were referred to the BCPS this fiscal year, please see page 25. For more information on the specific files that were referred, please refer to [Appendix B](#) of this report.

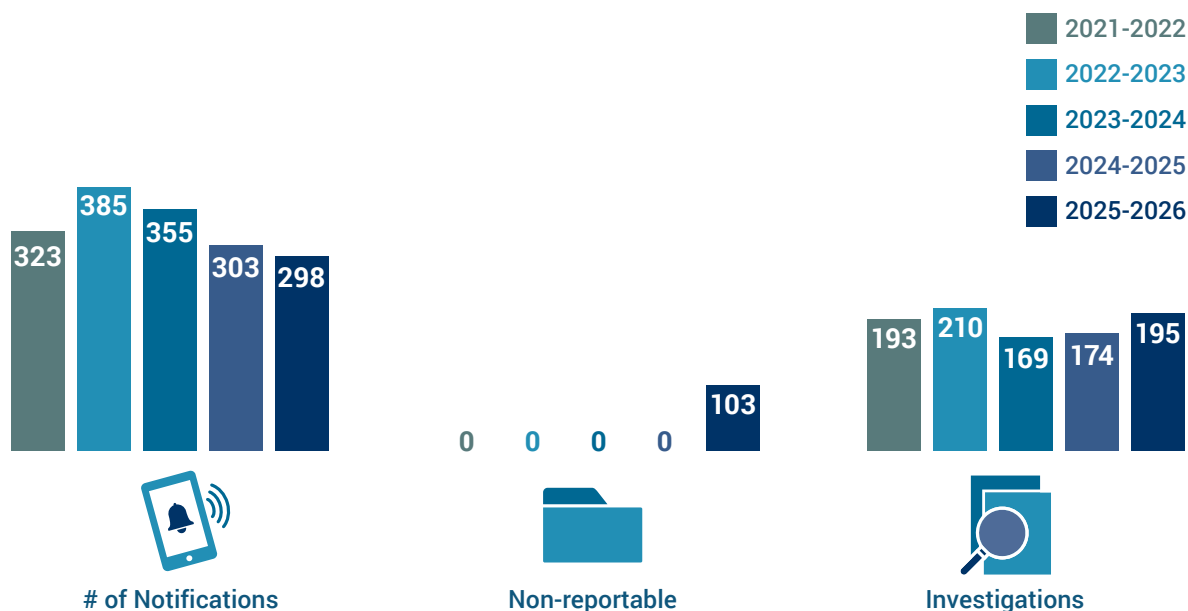
YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISONS

OVERALL IIO CASELOAD

The chart below shows the number of notifications, non-reportable files¹⁴, and investigations commenced over the last five fiscal years.

Compared to last fiscal year, the IIO received fewer notifications overall but opened more new investigations. The number of notifications only slightly decreased by 1.65%, while the number of new investigations increased by about 12%.

YEAR-OVER-YEAR CASELOAD COMPARISON



¹³ The investigations referred may have been opened during the 2025-2026 fiscal year, or any prior year.

¹⁴ Comparable data for non-reportable files is not available for earlier fiscal years because they were previously included under advice files.

PUBLIC REPORTING

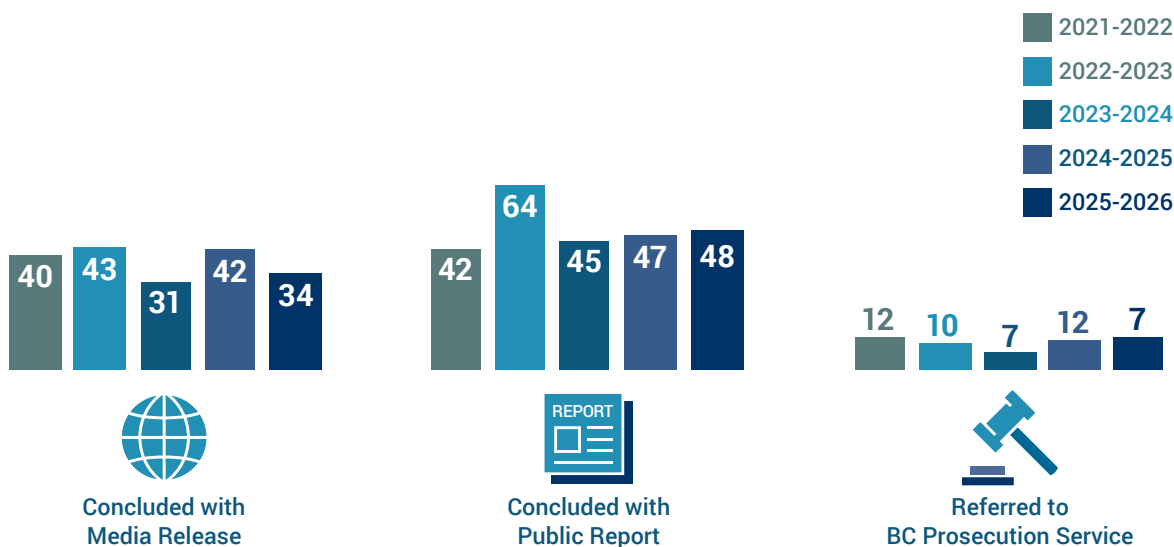
During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO closed 89 investigations with some form of public reporting, such as public reports, concluding media releases, and referrals to the BCPS¹⁵.

Fewer concluding media releases and more public reports were issued during this fiscal year compared to last year.

The graph below shows a year-over-year comparison of each category.¹⁶



YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISON OF PUBLIC REPORTING



REFERRALS TO THE BC PROSECUTION SERVICE

In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO referred seven investigations to the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) for consideration of charges prior to an IIO change in practice on March 15, 2026.¹⁷ The chart below shows the number of referrals the IIO has submitted over the last five fiscal years.¹⁸

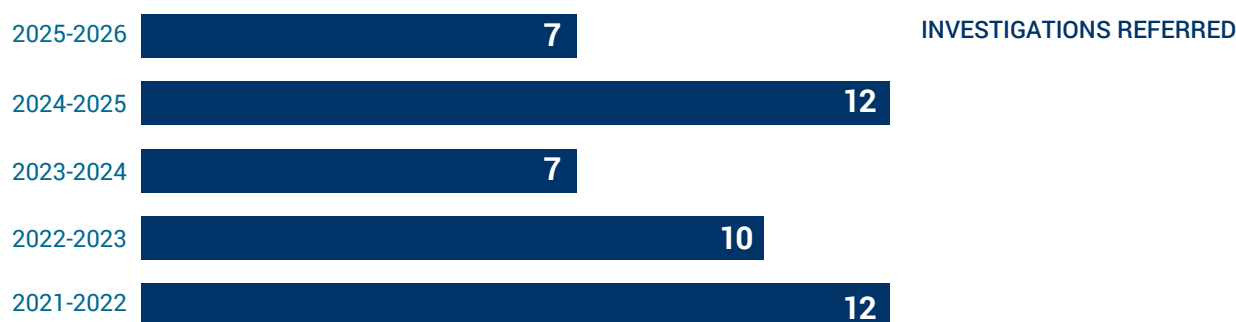
¹⁵ Seven reports were forwarded to the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of charges prior to a change in practice.

¹⁶ Seven media releases were made about referrals to the BC Prosecution Service prior to a change in IIO practice.

¹⁷ The seven that were referred may have been opened in fiscal year 2025-2026 or any prior year.

¹⁸ Twelve investigations were referred to the BC Prosecution Service in fiscal year 2024-2025. The IIO published related media releases in 11 of those cases.

IIO REFERRALS TO CROWN COUNSEL

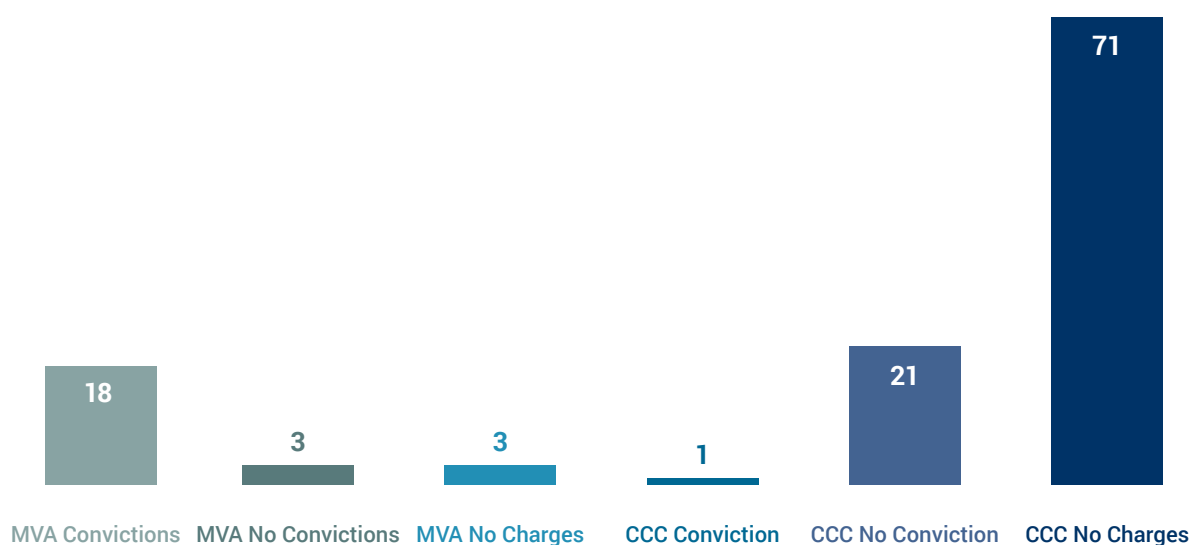


Public interest surrounding the number of eventual convictions resulting from IIO investigations has always been significant and the IIO endeavours to be as transparent as practicable in these matters.

The number of convictions for *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA) offences and Criminal Code of Canada (CCC) convictions over the previous 10 fiscal years can be found in the table below, as well as the number of acquittals or stays of proceedings. It is important to remember that as a civilian oversight agency, the number of files referred to the BCPS for consideration of charges and the number of cases in which charges are approved are not measures of the IIO's success. Using these as measures of the IIO's performance assumes that most officer or detention guard actions or inactions are unlawful, which is not the case.¹⁹

More detailed information regarding IIO investigations that were referred to the BCPS can be found in [Appendix B](#) of this report.

NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLE ACT AND CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA CONVICTIONS, NO CONVICTION, AND NO CHARGE DECISIONS, BY OFFICER



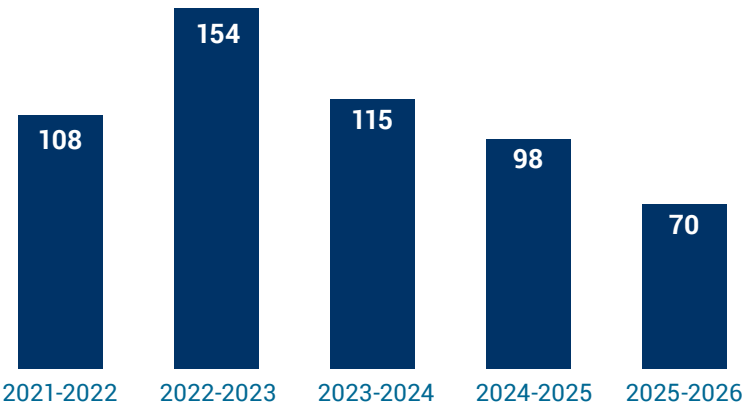
¹⁹ This graph reflects the number of officers charged related to an IIO referral, rather than the number of IIO files referred for consideration for charges. Therefore, the number of charges does not equal the number of investigations referred each year. Convictions include guilty findings by the courts, guilty pleas, and guilty pleas to lesser charges. This graph does not include cases that are still pending charge assessment or that are still before the courts.

TIMELINESS

Timeliness is as critical a component for civilian oversight of law enforcement as it is in the broader justice sector. Everyone impacted by an incident under IIO investigation, including affected persons and families, community groups, police services and officers, detention guards, and the broader public, are best served by thorough and timely oversight investigations.

The IIO measures timeliness as the average number of days to conclude an investigation. The chart below reflects this average and includes only data on investigations that were closed on or before March 31, 2026. Therefore, as open files continue to close, the average number of days will increase until all files from a given year have concluded.²⁰

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS TO CONCLUDE AN IIO INVESTIGATION

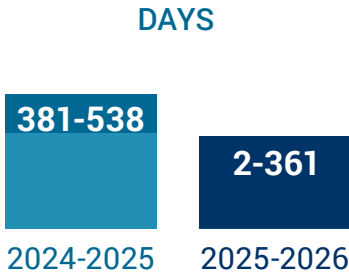


As noted in the open files section of this report, there were 69 investigations still in progress at the end of this fiscal year – eight from 2024-2025 and 61 from 2025-2026. As of March 31, 2026, the range of the number of days these files have been open are shown in the graph below.

20 This graph includes the average days to conclude investigations that were concluded on or before March 31, 2025. Open investigations are not included.



DATE RANGES FILES HAVE BEEN OPEN BY FISCAL YEAR

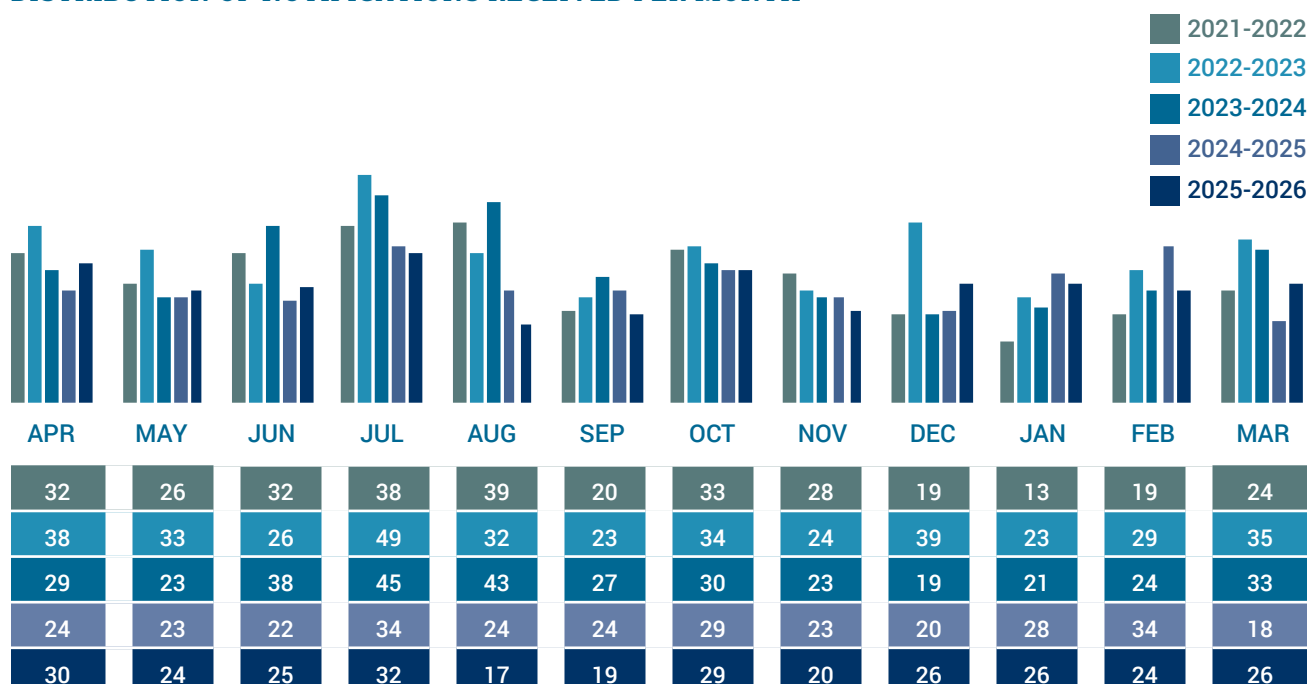


NOTIFICATIONS

The IIO received 298 notifications in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, a decrease of 2% compared to the previous fiscal year. Of that total, 103 were categorized as non-reportable.

In previous years, the IIO has received the most notifications in July and August, but this year, April and July were the two months with the highest number of new notifications.

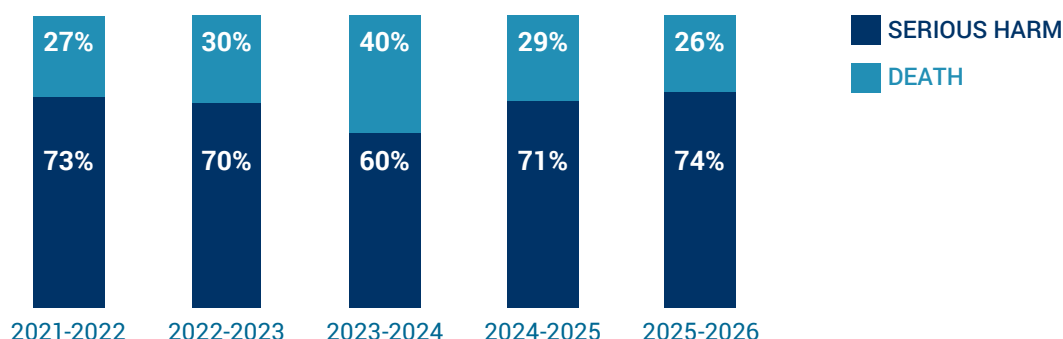
DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED PER MONTH



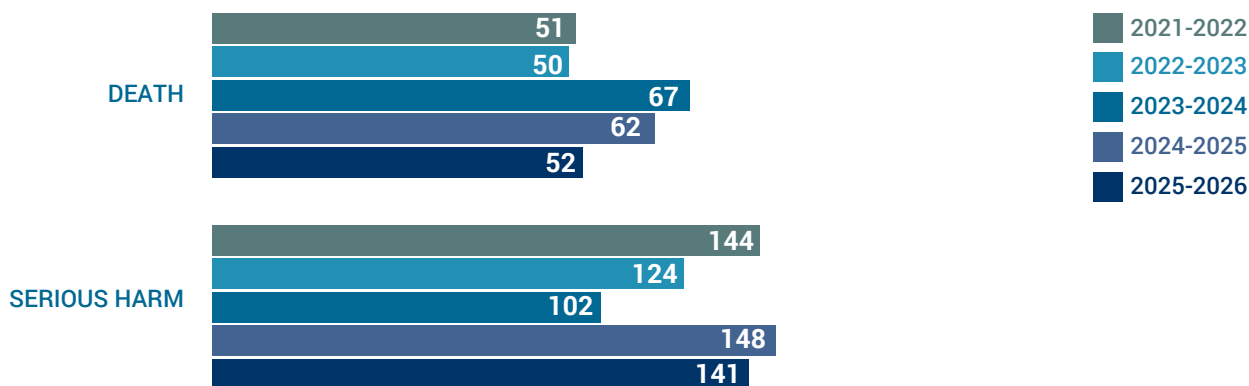
SERIOUS HARM & DEATH INVESTIGATIONS COMPARISON

After an unusually high percentage of death investigations compared to serious harm in fiscal year 2023-2024, the chart below shows that, in 2024-2025 and this fiscal year, the ratio has returned closer to 30% death/70% serious harm investigations. This is more closely aligned with prior years.

PERCENTAGE OF IIO INVESTIGATIONS CLASSIFIED BY SERIOUS HARM OR DEATH, BY FISCAL YEAR



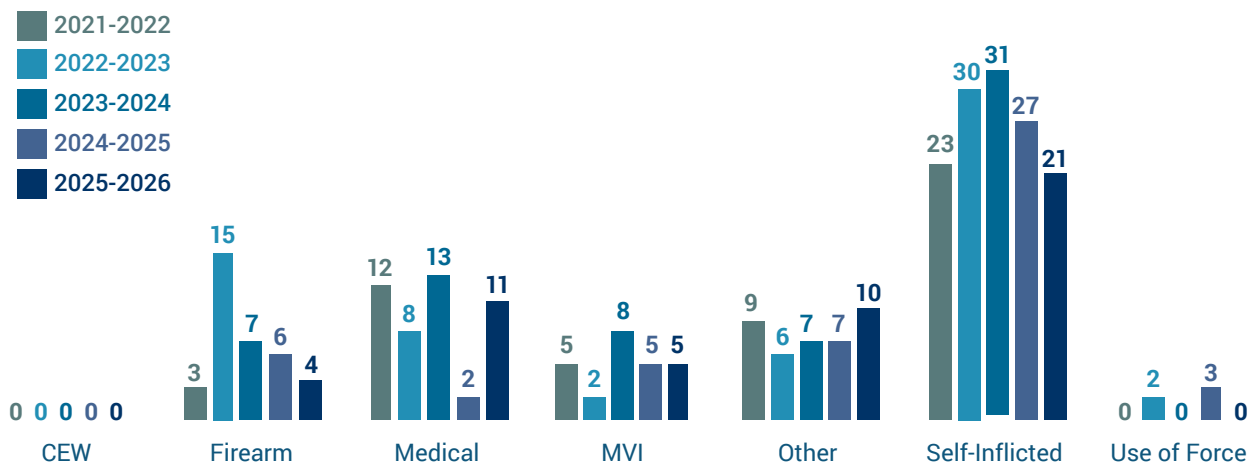
NUMBER OF IIO INVESTIGATIONS CLASSIFIED AS SERIOUS HARM OR DEATH, BY FISCAL YEAR



The self-inflicted classification continues to make up the largest number of death investigations, and this is aligned with prior years. For statistical purposes, the IIO defines self-inflicted deaths as those related to the actions or decisions of the affected person and includes deaths such as suicides. The second-largest category this year was medical, followed by other.

For more information on firearm files, please refer to the [firearm section](#).

DEATH FILE CLASSIFICATIONS, YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISON



AFFECTED PERSONS

An affected person is someone who may have suffered serious harm or died in an incident involving an officer or detention guard in British Columbia.

Out of the 195 investigations the IIO undertook this year, there were 205 affected persons.

The IIO's full-time affected persons liaisons (APL) remain the primary contact points for affected persons and their families. Their responsibilities include providing investigation updates, answering questions, and identifying appropriate referrals to services such as counselling.

AGE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

The IIO collects gender data voluntarily from affected persons or from available records.

The table below depicts the age and gender of the 205 affected persons (AP) in this fiscal year. In summary, of the 205 affected persons in IIO investigations this year, 150 identified as men, 46 as women and two as gender diverse. Additionally, the gender of seven APs was unknown.

Affected persons this year were: 73% men, 23% women, 1% gender diverse and 3% unknown.

Age	Woman	Man	Gender Diverse	Gender Unknown	Total
5-9	0	0	0	1	1
10-14	1	0	0	0	1
15-19	4	5	1	0	10
20-24	3	4	0	0	7
25-29	2	14	0	0	16
30-34	7	21	0	0	28
35-39	6	27	0	0	33
40-44	4	25	0	0	29
45-49	5	15	0	1	21
50-54	4	11	0	0	15
55-59	2	9	1	0	12
60-64	2	7	0	0	9
65-69	2	4	0	0	6
70-74	2	4	0	0	6
75-79	0	1	0	0	1
80-84	0	1	0	0	1
85-89	1	0	0	0	1
90-94	0	0	0	0	0
95-96	1	0	0	0	1
Unknown age	0	2	0	5	7
TOTAL	46	150	2	7	205



PERSONS IN CRISIS

In fiscal year 2025–2026, 29 of 205 affected persons (14%) were identified as being persons in crisis at the time of the incident. Of the remaining 176 individuals, 48 were determined not to be persons in crisis. The status of the remaining 128 cases could not be determined because some of the files are still open or lack sufficient information for the CCD to make a determination.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci, in his 2014 review, “Police Encounters with People in Crisis,” provided the following guidelines to determine if a person is in crisis.

If the person was in crisis immediately prior to or during the interaction with police, one or more of the following must be observed:

- Their behaviour brought them into contact with police because of a need for urgent care within the mental health system;
- Police were contacted to protect the affected person or those around them because the affected person was in a mental or emotional crisis;
- They displayed erratic, threatening, or dangerous behaviour;
- They were, or appeared to be, mentally ill; or
- The affected person was described as emotionally disturbed by police and/or other witnesses.²¹

Recent revisions to the way the IIO collect the person in crisis data in 2025–2026 limits the validity of comparisons with prior years.

ETHNICITY

In fiscal year 2025–2026, ethnicity data is available for 198 individuals as shown in the tables below.²² The three largest ethnic groups were white (46%),

Indigenous (16%), and south Asian (11%). The same three groups also represented the most common ethnicities last fiscal year.

Ethnicity - Men	
Asia	2
Black	2
East Africa	1
East Asia	2
Indigenous	18
Latin - Central & South America	2
Middle East	4
South Asia	17
Southeast Asia	4
Southern Europe	1
White	74
Unknown	23
Total	150

Ethnicity - Women	
Asia	1
Black	1
East Asia	1
Indigenous	13
Latin - Central & South America	2
Middle East	1
Oceania	1
South Asia	4
Southeast Asia	1
White	17
Unknown	6
Total	48

²¹ Police Encounters with People in Crisis

²² Data is self-reported or from other sources such as medical records.

Indigenous Peoples represent just under 6% of BC's population, yet account for 16% of individuals involved in IIO investigations, indicating continued overrepresentation.²³

Ethnicity of Affected Persons in Firearm Files

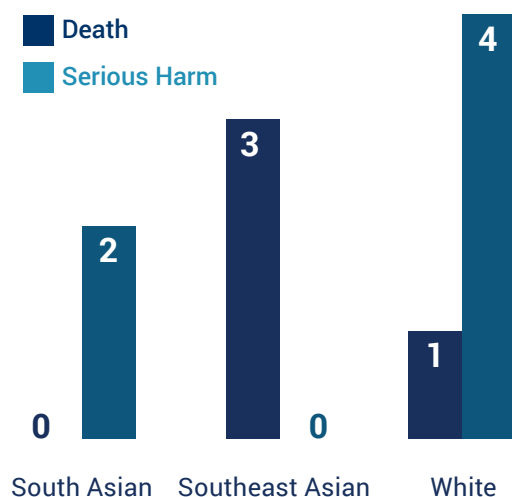
The IIO conducted investigations into 10 firearm incidents in fiscal year 2025-2026 which involved 10 affected persons.²⁴ Five were White, three were Southeast Asian, and two were South Asian. Two were women, and the rest were men.

The graph below shows how many affected persons of each ethnicity were seriously harmed or died in a firearm incident.

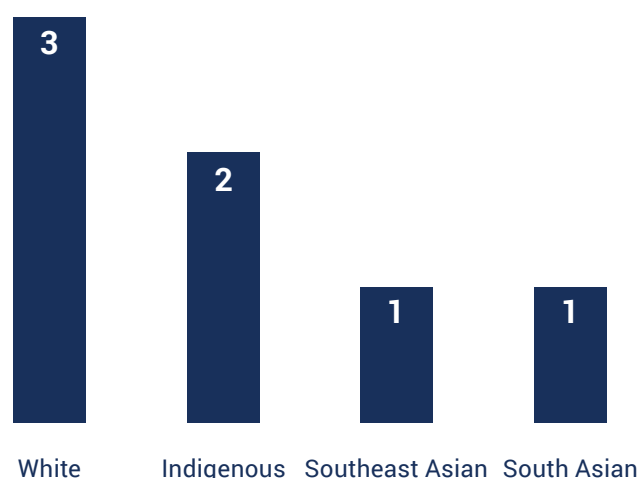
Ethnicity of Affected Persons in IIO Investigations Referred to BC Prosecution Service

On seven occasions during the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO referred a file to the BCPS for consideration of charges after the CCD determined there may be reasonable grounds to believe an officer may have committed an offence. These incidents involved seven affected persons – three were White, two were Indigenous, one was South Asian and one was Southeast Asian.

ETHNICITY OF AFFECTED PERSONS IN IIO FIREARM INVESTIGATIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026



ETHNICITY OF AFFECTED PERSONS IN FILES REFERRED TO BC PROSECUTION SERVICE IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026



²³ Profile table: British Columbia [Province], Indigenous Population Profile, 2021 Census of Population

²⁴ There was one incident (IIO 2025-105) where police reported an officer discharged a firearm at a vehicle that was driving toward an officer. All attempts to locate and identify an affected person were unsuccessful. The file is classified as serious harm for administrative purposes.

SUBJECT OFFICERS

Subject officers or detention guards are any officer or detention guard whose actions or inaction the IIO is investigating to determine if there may be reasonable grounds to believe an offence has been committed. IIO investigations may have more than one designated subject officer or detention guard if, for example, multiple officers or detention guards used force that could have caused the injury or death of an affected person. In other files, the IIO does not designate any subject officers or detention guards if there is an insufficient connection between any actions or inaction and the serious harm or death of the affected person(s).

Similar to all Canadian citizens, officers and detention guards are protected under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (Charter) from being forced to make statements that may be self-incriminating, and the IIO does not compel subject officers or detention guards to provide a statement to IIO investigators.

The IIO designated 51 subject officers across 40 investigations in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

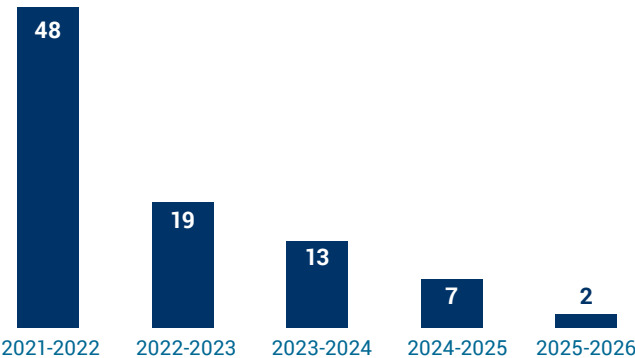
Of the 51 designated subject officers, 35 were members of the RCMP, 15 were employed by municipal police services and one was a member of the Metro Vancouver Transit Police.

This year, only one subject officer voluntarily provided access to their written notes during an IIO investigation. This is a reduction from the 2024-2025 fiscal year when five subject officers either voluntarily provided a verbal interview or granted access to their notes or other evidence.

Of the designated subject officers this year, 46 were men and five were women. One RCMP officer was off duty at the time of the incident.

The chart below shows the percentage of designated subject officers who voluntarily provided information to an IIO investigation over the last five fiscal years.

PERCENTAGE OF SUBJECT OFFICERS WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION TO IIO INVESTIGATIONS



OPERATING BUDGET

The IIO's budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 was \$12.6 million, and actual expenditures totalled just over \$14.1 million. A summary of the budget and actuals is provided below, and a brief explanation of any variance greater than 10% is noted.

Expenditure Type	2024-2025		2025-2026	
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Actuals
Salary and Benefits	9,995,000	11,140,760	10,219,000	11,476,999 ²⁵
Travel Expenses	154,000	291,669	154,000	179,334 ²⁶
Contracts	284,000	198,855	284,000	158,350 ²⁷
Information Technology	915,000	1,186,631	915,000	1,180,863 ²⁸
Office/Business Expenses	317,000	252,484	317,000	216,507 ²⁹
Operating Expenses	96,000	132,880	96,000	137,132 ³⁰
Amortization	459,000	78,655	459,000	116,644 ³¹
Building Occupancy Charges	123,000	530,039	123,000	635,785 ³²
Other	88,000	78,872	88,000	88,766
Recoveries	(3,000)	0	(3,000)	(29,879) ³³
Total	12,428,000	13,890,846	12,652,000	14,160,501

25 Variance due to increased staffing, and BC Government Employees' Union salary and benefit increases.

26 Variance reflects the investigation-related travel throughout the province, as well as mandatory in-person investigations training.

27 Variance due to reduction in contracted forensic analysis and use of civilian monitors.

28 Variance due mainly to technology related costs for hardware and software; a reduction in data back up frequency and storage costs but an increase in software and hardware for in-house forensic analysis.

29 Variance due to overall reduction in office and business-related expenses.

30 Variance due to repairs/maintenance of aging vehicles.

31 Variance due to vehicle purchases to replace aging vehicles and therefore an increase in amortization.

32 Variance due to building occupancy charges for new regional office in Nanaimo and Kelowna.

33 Variance due to the recovery of hours worked on files referred to the IIO under section 44 of the *Police Act*.

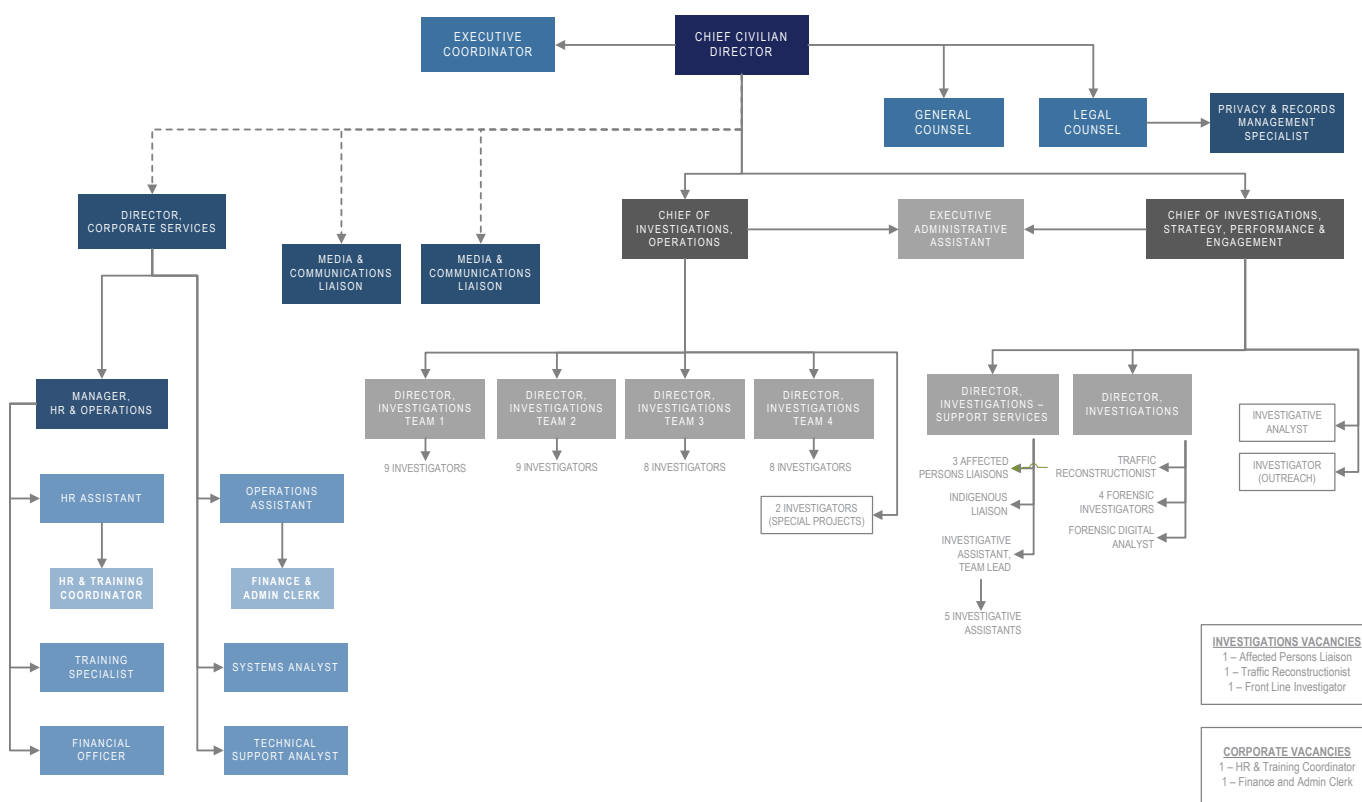
PROGRAM AREAS

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The IIO is structured around two program areas: investigations and operations.

The organizational chart below shows the positions currently funded at the IIO. At the close of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO had 77 employees: 50 investigative positions and 27 staff in operations. Four positions fall outside of these program areas: the CCD, general counsel, legal counsel, and executive coordinator.

The executive leadership team consists of the CCD, chief operating officer(COO)³⁴, chief of investigations (COI) – operations, and chief of investigations (COI) – strategy, performance and engagement.



³⁴ This position was retired as of December 31, 2025, and not reflected in the organizational chart above.

INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The investigations unit operates under the direction of two chiefs of investigations (COI) and includes the following roles:

- One executive administrative assistant
- Six team directors:
 - Four oversee each of the four frontline investigative teams;
 - One manages the investigations support team, including the affected persons liaisons and investigative assistants, and conducts file audits;
 - One supports the forensic investigations team and oversees investigator training.
- Four frontline investigative teams comprised of 34 investigators in total;
- One forensic team comprised of four forensic investigators;
- One forensic digital analyst;
- One outreach investigator;
- Two part-time investigators dedicated to special projects and audits;
- One investigative analyst; and
- One investigative assistant team lead and five investigative assistants.

As of the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the investigations unit has vacancies in the positions of investigator, affected persons liaison and traffic reconstructionist.

The CCD, chiefs of investigations, team directors, investigators, forensic digital analyst, and affected persons liaisons are all appointed as peace officers.

Investigators at the IIO have experience in a broad cross-section of professional fields, including fraud

investigation, intelligence services, the BC Coroners Service, law and law enforcement. Among the IIO's 34 full-time frontline investigators, 53% have experience working in civilian investigative roles, while 47% have previous law enforcement experience.

Highlights for the investigations unit this fiscal year include:

- Police body-worn camera programs continued to expand across BC, including the Vancouver Police Department and RCMP. The CCD maintained an IIO directive requiring agencies to provide body-worn camera footage during investigations. The increased availability of body-worn camera footage has helped to improve investigative timeliness and evidentiary transparency. The IIO also bolstered its ability to process and analyze digital evidence, further supporting efficient and thorough investigations.
- The IIO's Crown Referral Review Team (CRRT) continued to review all investigations referred to the BCPS, strengthening the quality and completeness of disclosure packages, and supporting more timely decisions. These efforts contributed to ongoing improvements in process efficiency, file management, and overall investigative excellence.
- The IIO made significant progress in concluding historical investigative files. Almost all files older than 2023-2024 have now been completed, significantly reducing the backlog. This achievement represents an important step towards strengthening overall investigative timeliness and ensuring that affected persons, police, and communities receive timely outcomes.

The IIO's mandate expanded this fiscal year to include incidents involving civilian detention guards, both on- and off-duty. This includes Special Municipal Constables (SMC) and anyone working in any capacity as a detention guard in a police facility in BC. This change reflects the evolving landscape of oversight and ensures the IIO can conduct a thorough investigation in incidents that occur while a person is in custody.

OPERATIONS

At the end of 2025, the IIO marked the retirement of its chief operating officer (COO), and the position will not be replaced. The IIO extends its sincere appreciation to the former COO for her leadership and dedicated service in supporting the agency's operational development.

Legislative changes introduced through Bill 10 provide for the appointment of a deputy chief civilian director (CCD), with recruitment for this position taking place during the 2026–2027 fiscal year. These developments will be reflected in the organization's leadership structure and captured in future reports.

The operations unit is responsible for all non-investigative functions that support the work of the IIO. These include:

- Corporate services (finance, IT, human resources, facilities, training, and administration);
- Media and communications;
- Policy; and
- Privacy and records management.

Highlights in the operations unit for the 2025-2026 fiscal year include:

- The IIO now has fully operational regional offices in Nanaimo and Kelowna. The Kelowna office officially opened in the 2025-2026 fiscal year with the

Nanaimo office opening the year prior. These offices support the IIO's mandate by enhancing operational readiness, positioning staff closer to communities outside the lower mainland, reducing response times, and supporting timely deployments to incidents across BC, contributing to more efficient and effective investigations.

- The IIO finalized its [2025-2028 Strategic Plan](#) and began internal work to identify key activities and performance metrics to support its implantation. This work helps guide organizational priorities, track progress, and ensure alignment between operational initiatives and the IIO's long-term strategic goals.
- The IIO recruited two positions this fiscal year, increasing organizational capacity to support its mandate. New hires included a director of corporate services and a forensic digital analyst.
- Four investigators achieved the designation of certified oversight investigator this fiscal year, increasing the IIO's investigative capacity and supporting operational readiness. Certification ensures investigators maintain the knowledge, training, and professional standards required to conduct thorough and independent investigations.
- The IIO successfully implemented the Critical Incidents Operational Records Classification System. This update to the IIO's records management system ensures records are staying organized, secure, efficient and compliant with the *Information Management Act*.





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the IIO continued to strengthen its outreach program through a more direct and community-centred approach to engagement across BC. The IIO's outreach team participated in 86 outreach events this fiscal year. These efforts reflect the evolving nature of police oversight and the continued public interest in transparency, accountability, and thoughtful dialogue surrounding the role of independent oversight in policing. Through increased engagement with rightsholders, communities and stakeholders, the outreach team focused on building relationships, increasing awareness of the IIO's mandate, and fostering trust with individuals, communities, organizations, and police agencies across the province.

Expanding on previous outreach efforts, the IIO broadened its reach beyond urban centres, placing greater priority on connecting with rural and remote communities throughout BC. The outreach team, alongside executive staff, travelled to various communities and police detachments, including Indigenous communities, to provide an overview of the IIO's role in civilian oversight and its investigative mandate to those who may have had limited prior interaction with the IIO.

In response to the expanded mandate to include detention guards, the outreach team updated its presentations and materials to reflect this change and assist in familiarizing audiences with the legislative update. This included explaining the IIO's investigative process to civilian detention guards, while helping reduce uncertainty surrounding the expanded scope of the IIO's work. The IIO also provided updated information to other officers under the IIO's mandate,

such as special provincial constables, who are employed by a number of non-police agencies across BC.

To further support the public's understanding of BC's police oversight system, the IIO published a public-facing police oversight flowchart, developed in collaboration with the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (CRCC) and BC's Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC). This resource helps the public and community organizations to determine which oversight body is responsible for reviewing incidents or complaints involving police, while outlining the distinct role each agency plays in promoting public confidence and strengthening police accountability.

To ensure information about the IIO remains accessible to communities across the province, the outreach team developed and distributed informational posters through a broad mailing initiative. The goal of this effort was to reach communities that may face geographic or capacity barriers to engagement, including smaller and more remote communities, and to provide accessible information about how to contact the IIO and what to expect during an investigation.

Academic outreach also remained an important component of the IIO's engagement efforts. Presentations were delivered to post-secondary institutions to increase awareness of civilian police oversight, promote understanding of the IIO's mandate, and encourage interest in oversight-related careers within the justice sector.

APPENDIX A: TERMINOLOGY

AFFECTED PERSON

An affected person (AP) in an IIO investigation refers to the individual who may have suffered serious harm or died in an incident involving any officer or detention guard. If an AP dies, the families are also considered APs. The IIO uses the term “affected person” instead of labels such as “victim” or “suspect” to maintain neutrality that is appropriate and consistent with the IIO mandate to conduct fair and impartial investigations.

AFFECTED PERSONS LIAISON

The IIO has two full-time affected persons liaisons (APL) to ensure frequent and ongoing contact between investigators and affected persons or their family if the affected person is deceased.

The APLs work one-on-one with affected persons and/or their family to ensure they receive regular and accurate information and are updated on the progress of the investigation. Additionally, the APLs can refer affected persons and/or their family to resources in their community, based on individual needs.

BC PROSECUTION SERVICE (BCPS)

The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) employs Crown Counsel (prosecutors) within the Ministry of the Attorney General. The BCPS operates within the BC justice system. It also operates independently of the IIO.

CHIEF CIVILIAN DIRECTOR (CCD)

The IIO is led by a chief civilian director (CCD) who must never have served as a police officer. The CCD’s responsibility is to provide oversight of each investigation and make the final decision on the conclusion of the file with consideration of the evidence presented. The CCD is appointed by Order in Council and is eligible to serve a maximum of two five-year terms.

CONCLUDING AN INVESTIGATION

Upon conclusion of an investigation, the CCD considers, based on the facts, if an officer or detention guard’s actions or inactions are lawful or if there are reasonable grounds to believe that any officer or detention guard may have committed an offence. If reasonable grounds exist, the CCD may refer the matter to the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) for consideration of charges. The BCPS is responsible for [deciding if any charges](#) will be approved.

If the CCD determines the facts do not support a referral to the BCPS, a public report may be issued which presents the chronology of the events, evidence and the rationale for the decision. In some circumstances, when it may not be in the public interest to issue a public report, the IIO will close a file with a brief concluding media release, or without making additional information public.

CONCURRENT INVESTIGATIONS

IIO investigations are often conducted concurrently with other agencies’ investigations including the BC Coroners Service in the case of a fatality, or a police agency when the affected person is facing criminal charges related to the same incident.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE (IIO)

The Independent Investigations Office (IIO) of British Columbia is a civilian-led police oversight agency responsible for conducting investigations into incidents of death or serious harm that may have been the result of an officer or detention guard actions or inactions, whether on-or-off duty. The IIO’s jurisdiction extends to all police services in British Columbia, other officers as designated in the *Police Act*, and anyone serving as a civilian detention guard.

INVESTIGATIVE STEPS

The IIO's investigative steps include, as required: ensuring a scene is secured, preserving and obtaining evidence, identifying affected persons, locating witnesses, conducting interviews, confirming the nature of the involvement of an officer(s) or detention guard, designating subject and witness officers, conducting neighbourhood canvasses, analyzing evidence and seeking forensic assistance.

INVESTIGATORS

IIO investigators come from both policing and non-policing backgrounds.

At the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, approximately 53% of IIO investigators came from a civilian background while 47% had policing work experience. Investigators without policing backgrounds hold significant experience with a range of investigative, legal, regulatory, and enforcement agencies. The IIO also has a specialized forensics team that performs scene examinations and monitors and reviews the work of police forensic personnel to ensure that scene processing and evidence collection is conducted to best practices.

MANDATE

The IIO is mandated to conduct investigations into incidents of death or serious harm involving any officer or detention guard whether on- or off-duty. The IIO's jurisdiction extends to all police services throughout the province. Police services are required under the *Police Act* to notify the IIO of an incident that may fall within its jurisdiction.

NON-REPORTABLE FILES

Non-reportable files are assigned file numbers for administrative purposes and very little, if any, investigative work is needed to confirm that the incident does not meet the IIO's mandate. The file is concluded immediately and is assigned a file number without further investigation.

NOTIFICATION & INITIAL INVESTIGATION

When there is an incident involving any officer or detention guard in BC, the agency is required to notify the IIO.

Upon notification of an incident, the IIO immediately has jurisdiction. The primary focus of all IIO investigations is to establish if the incident falls within the IIO's mandate. It must meet a two-part test:

- 1) Is there death or serious harm as defined by the *Police Act*?
- 2) Is there a connection between the death or serious harm and any actions or inactions of an officer(s) or detention guard(s)?

If an initial investigation determines that the incident does not meet the IIO's mandate, the IIO will usually conclude the file. When the IIO continues an investigation, the investigation will seek to determine whether the officer's or detention guard's action was lawful or if there are reasonable grounds to believe an offence was committed.

OFFICERS

In addition to any police officer or detention guard, the IIO's jurisdiction extends to anyone appointed as an [officer under the *Police Act*](#), such as a provincial constable, special provincial constable (SPC), designated constable, municipal constable, special municipal constable (SMC), auxiliary constable or enforcement officer.

SPCs can include officers from outside of British Columbia who are in the province conducting investigations and officers within various branches of the BC government, such as the Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch or BC Conservation Officer Services.

POLICE SERVICE

A police service is an organization consisting of law enforcement officers. In addition to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), in British Columbia, there are 12 municipal police services as well as the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police and Metro Vancouver Transit Police. The 12 municipal services are the Abbotsford Police Department, Central Saanich Police Service, Delta Police Department, Nelson Police Department, New Westminster Police Department, Oak Bay Police Department, Port Moody Police Department, Saanich Police Department, Surrey Police Service, Vancouver Police Department, Victoria Police Department and West Vancouver Police Department.

SERIOUS HARM

Serious harm is defined in the *Police Act* as an injury that may result in death, may cause serious disfigurement, or may cause substantial loss or impairment of mobility of the body as a whole or of the function of a limb or organ.

SUBJECT DETENTION GUARDS

Subject detention guards are designated by the IIO if their presence, action, or decision is reasonably believed to have been a contributing factor in the death or serious harm of any person.

SUBJECT OFFICERS

Subject officers are defined in a memorandum of understanding between police agencies and the IIO as officers whose presence, action, or decision is reasonably believed to have been a contributing factor in the death or serious harm of any person and have been designated as a subject officer by IIO investigators. Subject officers have the same rights as any other individual who may have committed an offence, including the right to silence.

WITNESS OFFICERS

Witness officers refer to officers or detention guards who were involved or present during the incident but are not believed to have caused the serious harm or death. Witness officers are compelled to cooperate in an IIO investigation, which may include being interviewed and/or submitting notes and documents.

APPENDIX B: STATISTICAL DATA

IIO INVESTIGATIONS - FIREARM CLASSIFICATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Agency	Status ³⁵
2025-130	May 27, 2025	Serious harm	Prince George RCMP detachment	Closed without public report
2025-152	June 19, 2025	Serious harm	Agassiz RCMP detachment	Closed without public report (a public report will be published after the conclusion of a concurrent court process)
2025-167	July 7, 2025	Death	RCMP Surrey Provincial Operational Support Unit	Closed with public report
2025-201	August 19, 2025	Death	Vancouver Police Department	Closed with public report
2025-210	September 1, 2025	Serious harm	Burnaby RCMP detachment	Closed without public report (a public report will be published after the conclusion of a concurrent court process)
2025-257	November 1, 2025	Death	Sunshine Coast RCMP detachment	Open – investigation in progress
2026-012	January 13, 2026	Death	Burnaby RCMP detachment	Open – investigation in progress
2026-050	February 26, 2026	Serious harm	Kelowna RCMP detachment	Open – investigation in progress
2026-075	March 29, 2026	Serious harm	Fort St. John RCMP detachment	Open – investigation in progress
2026-076	March 29, 2026	Serious harm	Surrey Police Service	Open – investigation in progress

** IIO file [2025-105](#) involved police reporting an officer discharged a firearm at a vehicle. All attempts to locate and identify an affected person were unsuccessful. The file is classified as serious harm for administrative purposes and was closed.

³⁵ Status as of May 2, 2026. For the most recent status, please refer to the IIO's [cases page](#), or click the link provided for each file.

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO THE BC PROSECUTION SERVICE FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES BY FISCAL YEAR

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO THE BC PROSECUTION SERVICE FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES IN FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to Crown Counsel	Date of Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2019-201	October 28, 2019	Death	RCMP – Salmon Arm & Sicamous	December 10, 2021	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2020-042	February 26, 2020	Serious Harm	Municipal – Abbotsford Police Department	April 15, 2021	June 23, 2022	CCC 267(a) Assault with a weapon CCC 267(b) Assault causing bodily harm	Acquittal
2020-045	March 2, 2020	Serious Harm	Municipal – Abbotsford Police Department	April 22, 2021	January 5, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-046	March 3, 2020	Serious Harm	Municipal – Vancouver Police Department	June 15, 2021	March 1, 2024	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-067	April 12, 2020	Death	RCMP – Prince George	March 28, 2022	October 12, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-068	April 14, 2020	Serious Harm	RCMP – Sicamous	October 22, 2021	September 29, 2022	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-110	May 31, 2020	Serious Harm	RCMP – Williams Lake	April 8, 2021	July 27, 2023	CCC 267(a) Assault with a weapon CCC 267(b) Assault causing bodily harm CCC 221 Criminal negligence causing bodily harm CCC 320.13(2) Dangerous driving causing bodily harm	Not guilty

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to Crown Counsel	Date of Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2020-138	June 23, 2020	Serious Harm	RCMP – Kamloops	October 13, 2021	June 28, 2024	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-183	July 30, 2020	Serious Harm	RCMP – Prince George	February 23, 2021	October 27, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-285	October 25, 2020	Serious Harm	RCMP – Williams Lake	October 14, 2021	July 11, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-302	November 4, 2020	Serious Harm	Other – Metro Vancouver Transit Police	September 28, 2021	May 18, 2022	CCC 320.13(2) Dangerous driving causing bodily harm	Guilty plea to MVA 144(1) (c) Excessive speeding relative to conditions
2021-157	June 19, 2021	Serious Harm	RCMP – Langley	December 6, 2021	June 7, 2022	MVA 144(1)(a) Driving without due care and attention MVA 181(a) Failure to use due care to avoid a pedestrian	Guilty plea to MVA 181(a) Failure to use due care to avoid a pedestrian

CCC – Canadian Criminal Code

MVA – *Motor Vehicle Act*

Unless otherwise noted, one officer was charged in cases where charges were approved.

The status of investigations referred to the BC Prosecution Service as of March 15, 2026.

For files where a charge assessment decision is pending or a court process in progress, click the provided link to access the IIO website cases page to see if an update is available.

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO CROWN COUNSEL FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES IN FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to Crown Counsel	Date of Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2020-232	September 20, 2020	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	June 24, 2022	February 10, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-012	January 12, 2021	Serious Harm	Chilliwack RCMP	June 9, 2022	November 3, 2022	CCC 244(1) Discharging a firearm with intent to wound/disfigure CCC 268(1) Aggravated assault CCC 86(1) Careless use or storage of a firearm	Stay of proceedings
2021-089	March 6, 2021	Serious Harm	Abbotsford Police Department	April 13, 2022	July 31, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-097	April 17, 2021	Serious Harm	Nanaimo RCMP	August 3, 2022	Referral withdrawn by IIO	Not applicable	IIO public report issued
2021-179	July 8, 2021	Death	Campbell River RCMP	October 27, 2023	April 23, 2024	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-198	July 22, 2021	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	January 25, 2023	September 12, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-258	September 15, 2021	Serious Harm	Port Moody Police Department	April 7, 2022	August 22, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-295	October 27, 2021	Serious Harm	BC Highway Patrol	June 15, 2022	October 11, 2022	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-332	December 3, 2021	Serious Harm	Kamloops RCMP	January 16, 2023	January 23, 2025	No charges approved	Not applicable
2022-093	April 29, 2022	Serious Harm	Prince George RCMP	July 7, 2022	August 11, 2022	MVA 144(1)(a) Driving without due care and attention	Guilty plea to MVA 144(1) (c) Excessive speed relative to conditions

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO CROWN COUNSEL FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES IN FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to Crown Counsel	Date of Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2021-100	April 19, 2021	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	March 7, 2024	July 18, 2025	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-169	May 29, 2021	Serious Harm	Delta Police Department	July 4, 2023	November 22, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-256	September 12, 2021	Death	Victoria Police Department	November 30, 2023	January 28, 2026	No charges approved	Not applicable
2022-129	May 31, 2022	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	November 14, 2023	March 21, 2024	No charges approved	Not applicable
2022-168	July 10, 2022	Serious Harm	BC Highway Patrol	April 18, 2023	June 22, 2023	MVA 186 Failing to stop at a stop sign MVA 144(1)(a) Driving without due care and attention	Guilty plea to MVA 186 Failing to stop at a stop sign
2022-251	September 20, 2022	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	July 24, 2023	September 8, 2023	MVA 144(1)(a) Driving without due care and attention MVA 181(a) Failing to exercise due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian MVA 146(3) Speeding	Guilty plea to MVA 144(1)(c) Excessive speeding relative to conditions
2022-266	October 8, 2022	Serious Harm	Ridge Meadows RCMP	October 5, 2023	October 6, 2023	MVA 144(1)(a) Driving without due care and attention	Guilty plea to MVA 151(a) Making an unsafe lane change

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO CROWN COUNSEL FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES IN FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to Crown Counsel	Date of Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2021-171	June 30, 2021	Serious Harm	Vernon RCMP	April 10, 2024	December 19, 2024	No charges approved	Not applicable
2022-100	May 5, 2022	Death	Vancouver Police Department	September 10, 2024	March 18, 2025	No charges approved	Not applicable
2022-214	August 7, 2022	Death	Abbotsford Police Department	April 16, 2024	Referral withdrawn by IIO	Not applicable	IIO public report issued
2022-313	November 28, 2022	Serious Harm	Metro Vancouver Transit Police	August 14, 2024	June 5, 2025	No charges approved	Not applicable
2023-158	June 18, 2023	Serious Harm	Surrey RCMP & Surrey Police Service	May 16, 2024	June 20, 2024	MVA 148(1) Excessive speeding <i>(against one officer with SPS; no charges were approved against the Surrey RCMP officer)</i>	Court process in progress
2023-214	July 25, 2023	Serious Harm	Port Moody Police Department	June 10, 2024	July 23, 2024	MVA 144(1)(b) Driving without reasonable consideration for other persons using the highway	Court process in progress
2023-223	July 31, 2023	Serious Harm	Abbotsford Police Department	October 17, 2024	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2023-317	September 29, 2023	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	August 22, 2024	September 27, 2024	MVA 144(1)(b) Driving without reasonable consideration for other persons using the highway	Guilty plea to MVA 181(1) Failure to use due care to avoid a pedestrian
2023-328	November 5, 2023	Serious Harm	Revelstoke RCMP	September 25, 2024	October 31, 2024	MVA 144(1)(a) Driving without due care and attention	Guilty plea to MVA 144(1)(a) Driving without due care and attention

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to Crown Counsel	Date of Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2024-116	May 21, 2024	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	March 31, 2025	May 16, 2025	MVA 144(1)(b) Driving without reasonable consideration for other persons using the highway	Guilty plea to MVA 144(1)(c) Excessive speeding relative to conditions
2024-117	May 21, 2024	Serious Harm	Central Saanich Police Department	March 14, 2025	May 15, 2025	MVA 144 (1)(a) Driving without due care and attention	Court process in progress
2024-152	July 1, 2024	Serious Harm	CFSEU	January 8, 2025	February 13, 2025	MVA 144(1)(a) Driving without due care and attention MVA(1)(a)(ii) Failure to yield to a pedestrian	Guilty plea to MVA 144(1)(a)

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO THE BC PROSECUTION SERVICE FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to Crown Counsel	Date of Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2025-057	February 20, 2025	Serious Harm	Abbotsford Police Department	January 9, 2026	February 17, 2026	MVA 144(1)(b) Driving without reasonable consideration	Court process in progress
2021-137	May 31, 2021	Serious Harm	Prince George RCMP	July 30, 2025	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2023-262	August 27, 2023	Death	Revelstoke RCMP	June 10, 2025	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2023-087	March 28, 2023	Serious Harm	North Cowichan/ Duncan RCMP	May 21, 2025	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2024-147	July 1, 2024	Serious Harm	Midway RCMP	April 15, 2025	June 10, 2025	MVA 144(1)(a) Driving without due care and attention MVA 168(a) Failure to safely execute a reverse turn	Guilty plea to MVA 168(a) Failure to safely execute a reverse turn
2024-274	November 25, 2024	Death	Nakusp RCMP	August 29, 2025	December 12, 2025	No charges approved	Not applicable
2022-344	December 24, 2022	Serious Harm	Sidney North Saanich RCMP	July 22, 2025	September 18, 2025	No charges approved	Not applicable

DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTIGATIONS BY AGENCY (EXCLUDING NON-REPORTABLE FILES)

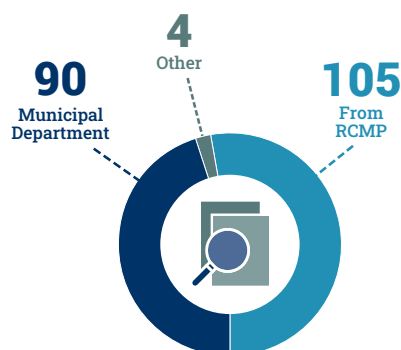
Note: As officers from more than one agency may be involved in an incident subject to IIO investigation, the number of agencies does not necessarily add up to the number of IIO investigations.

RCMP	Region	Freq
100 Mile House	North	1
Agassiz Detachment	Lower Mainland	1
Alexis Creek Detachment	North	1
BC Highway Patrol	Southeast	1
Burnaby Detachment	Lower Mainland	6
Burns Lake Detachment	North	1
Campbell River Detachment	Island	1
Castlegar Detachment	Southeast	1
Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit	Lower Mainland	2
Chilliwack Detachment	Lower Mainland	6
Coquitlam Detachment	Lower Mainland	4
Comox Valley Detachment	Island	1
Courtenay Detachment	Island	1
Cranbrook Detachment	Southeast	1
Fort St John Detachment	North	2
Kamloops Detachment	Southeast	1
Kelowna Detachment	Southeast	4
Langley Detachment	Lower Mainland	4
Merritt Detachment	Southeast	1
Mission Detachment	Lower Mainland	2
Nanaimo Provincial	Island	9
Nelson Detachment	Southeast	1
New Hazelton Detachment	North	1
North Cowichan/Duncan Detachment	Island	1
Oceanside Detachment	Island	2
Penticton Detachment	Southeast	3
Port Alberni Detachment	Island	2
Port Hardy Detachment	Island	1
Port McNeil Detachment	Island	1
Powell River Detachment	Island	2
Prince George Detachment	North	9
Prince Rupert Detachment	North	2
Quesnel Detachment	North	1
Richmond Detachment	Lower Mainland	3
Ridge Meadows Detachment	Lower Mainland	4
Sechelt Detachment	Lower Mainland	2
Shawnigan Lake Detachment	Island	1
Sicamous Detachment	Southeast	1
Smithers Detachment	North	1
Sooke Detachment	Island	2

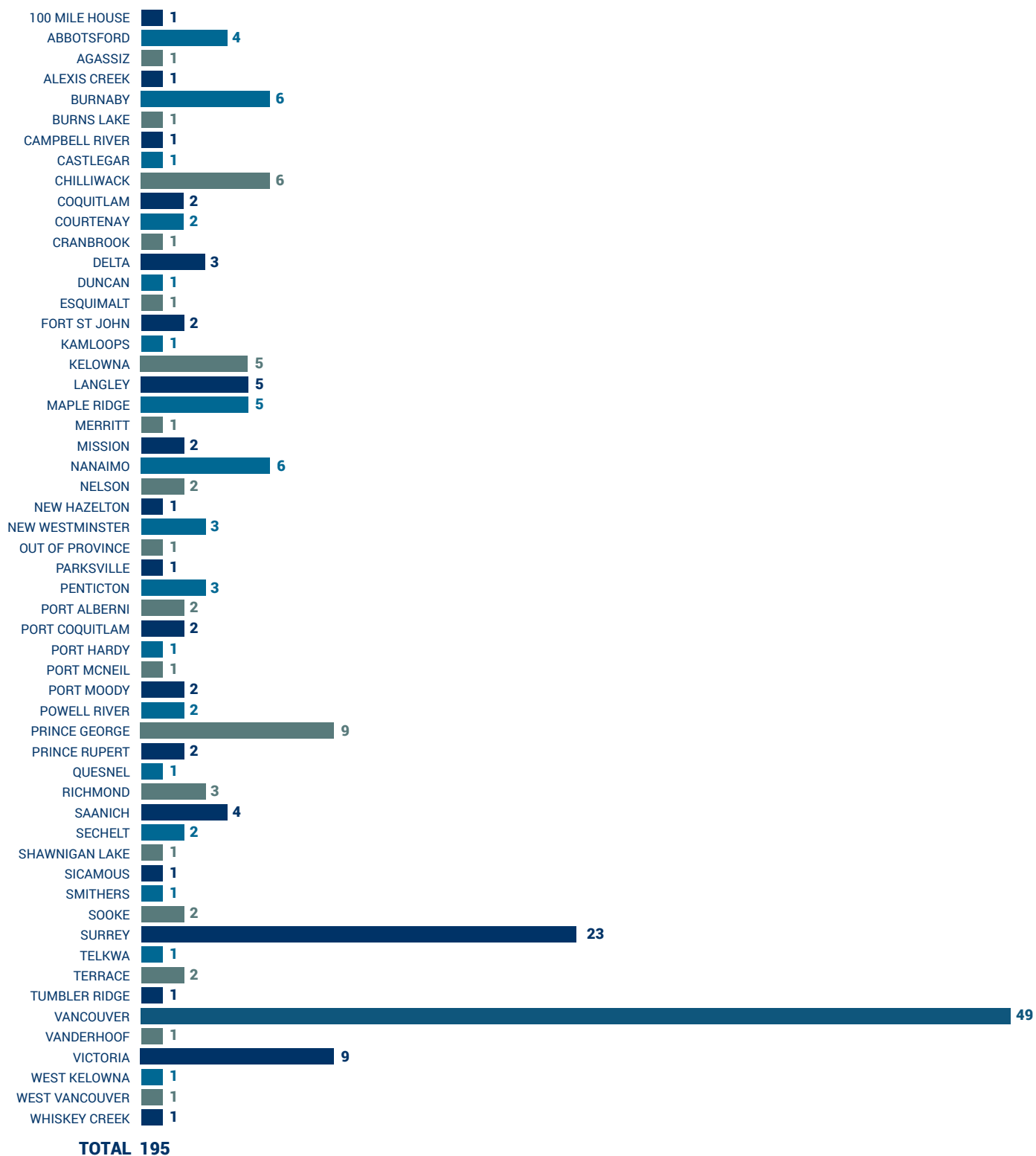
RCMP	Region	Freq
Surrey Detachment/ Surrey Provincial Operations Support Unit	Lower Mainland	8
Terrace Detachment	North	2
Tumbler Ridge Detachment	North	1
University Detachment	Lower Mainland	1
Vanderhoof Detachment	North	1
West Kelowna Detachment	Southeast	1
TOTAL		105

Municipal	District	Freq
Abbotsford Police Department	Lower Mainland	5
Delta Police Department	Lower Mainland	3
Nelson Police Department	Southeast	1
New Westminster Police Department	Lower Mainland	3
Port Moody Police Department	Lower Mainland	1
Saanich Police Department	Island	3
Surrey Police Service	Lower Mainland	13
Vancouver Police Department	Lower Mainland	48
Victoria Police Department	Island	11
West Vancouver Police Department	Lower Mainland	2
TOTAL		90

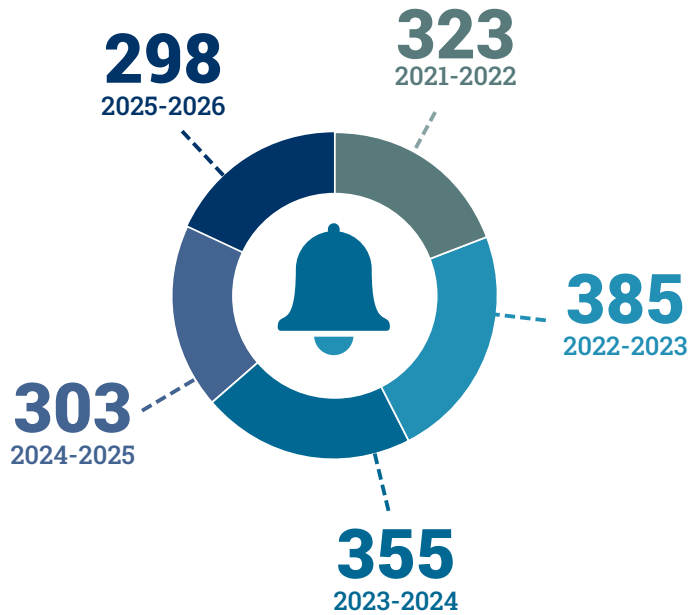
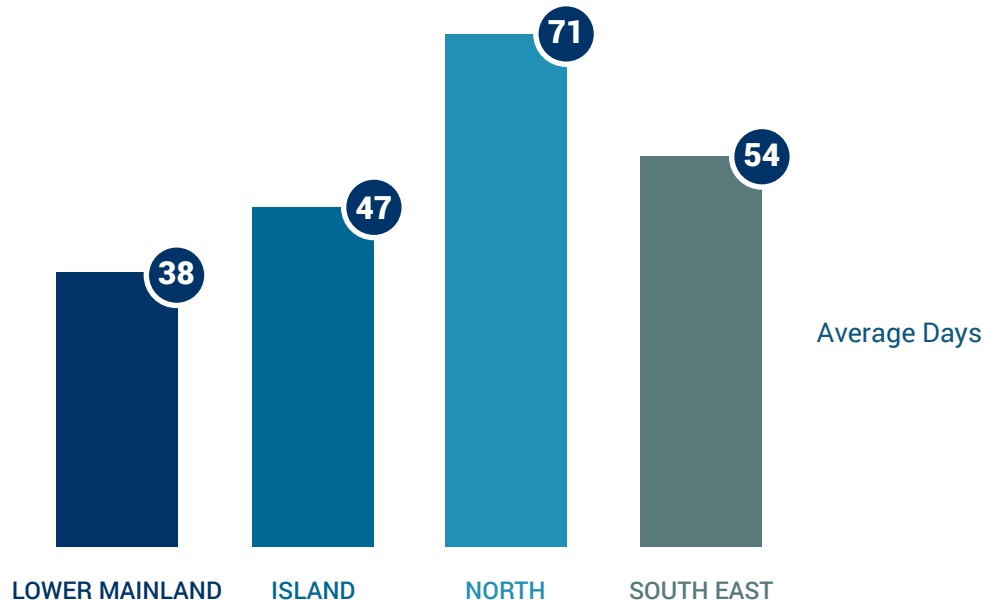
Other	District	Freq
Metro Vancouver Transit Police	Lower Mainland	2
BC Conservation Officer Service	Southeast	1
Out of Province		1
TOTAL		4



DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTIGATIONS BY LOCATION



TOTAL NOTIFICATIONS BY YEAR

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS TO CONCLUDE AN INVESTIGATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, BY REGION³⁶

³⁶ This graph only includes data from concluded investigation. As other investigations that were opened during the fiscal year close, this number will increase.



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