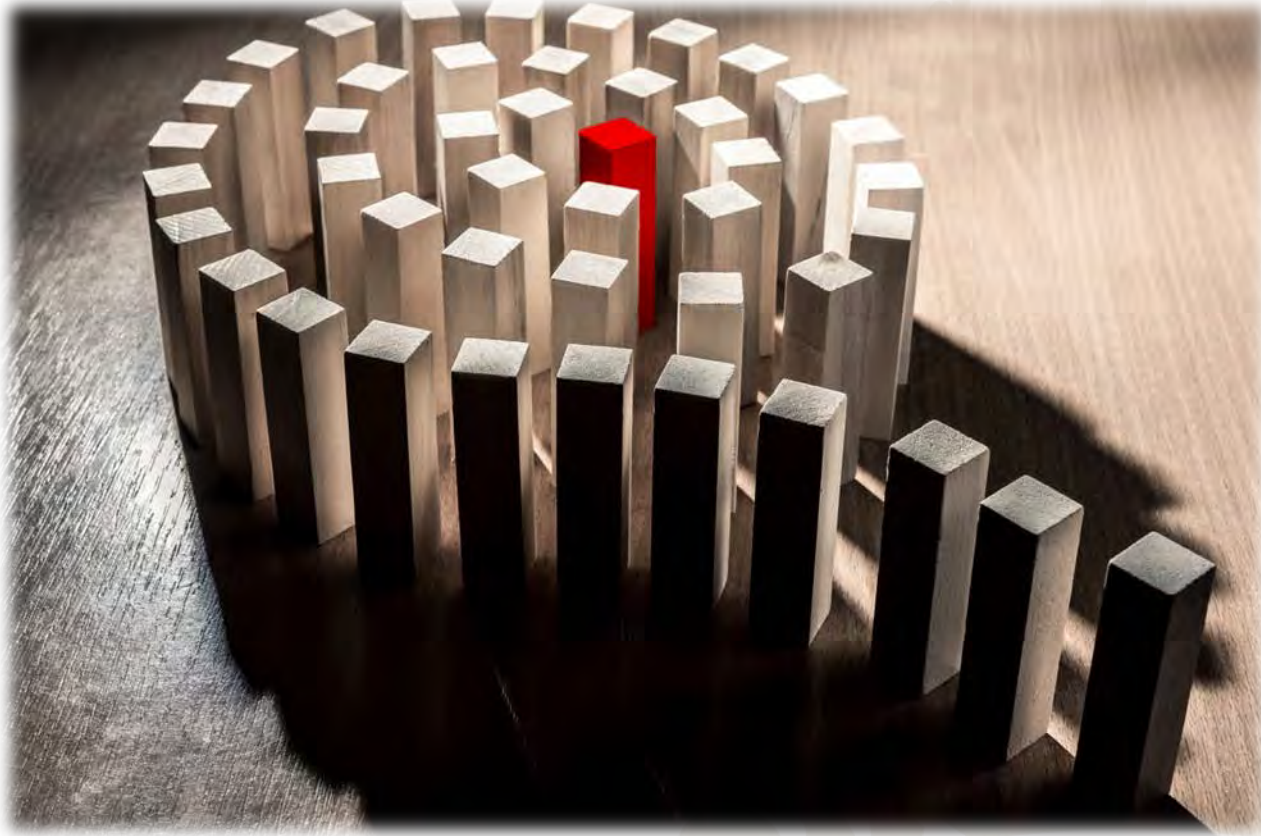# Missing Person Investigations

Presented to: The Police Services Board

Date: Feb 19, 2020

Agenda

- **Headlines**
- **Missing Person Statistics**
- **Outstanding Missing Persons Cases**
- **Missing Persons Categories**
- **Risk Factors**
- **Response**
- **Amber Alert**
- **Cost**
- **Roles and Responsibilities**
- **Proactive and Reactive Programs**
- **What Can You Do?**
- **Questions**

Headlines in Ontario

Woman charged with stealing infant in Sudbury denied bail

'It's never going to be over': Victims of Bruce McArthur hon...

women still waiting

...dbury police sear...
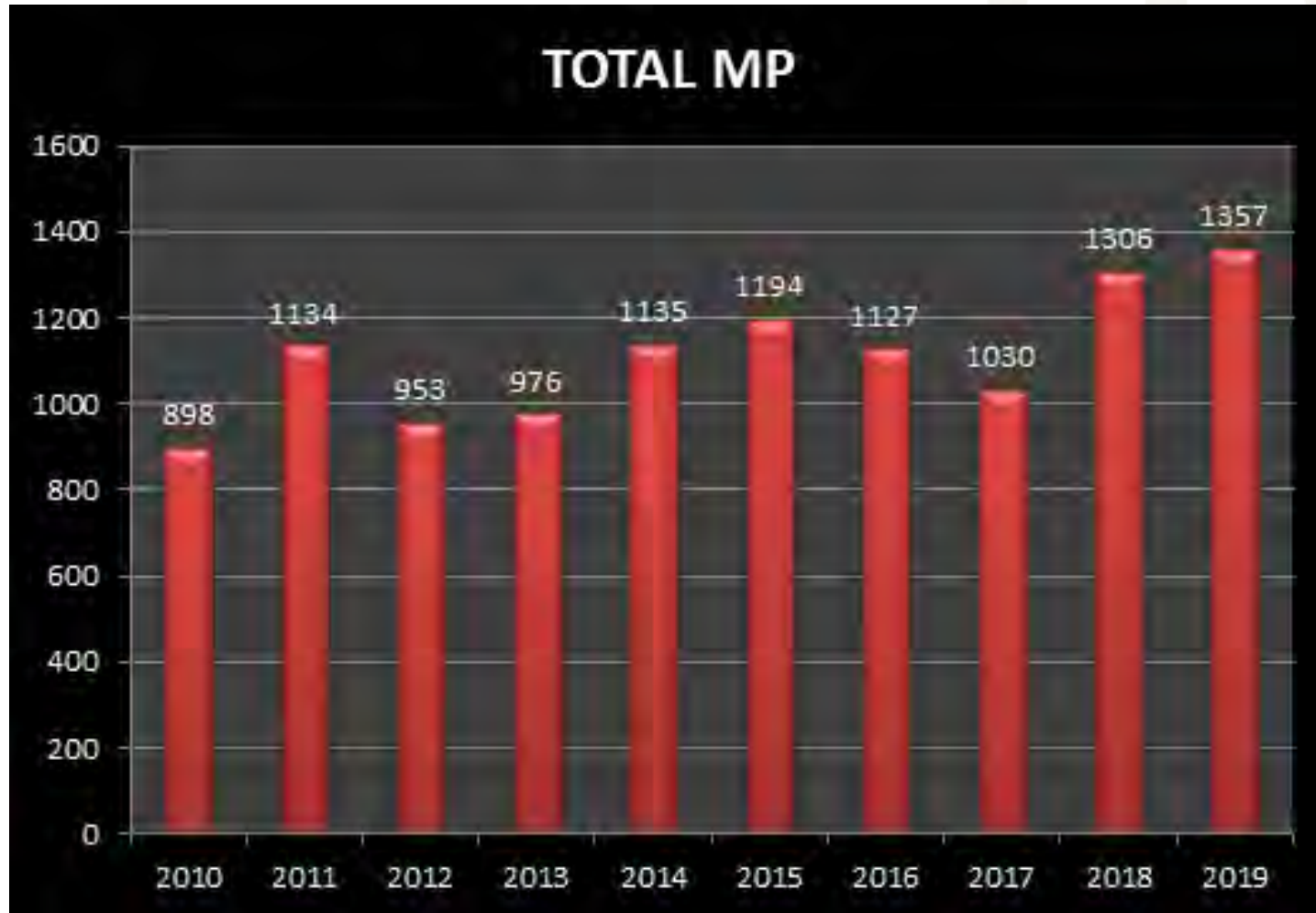
ar-old Enoch

MANDEL: After 35 years, family demands ... Who killed Christine Jessop?

Missing Person Statistics

Outstanding Missing Persons

- **Carey Cadeau (missing since Nov 12, 2013)**
- **Meagan Pilon (missing since Sept 12, 2013)**
- **Richard Munroe (missing since Oct 2, 2001)**
- **Roger-Paul Bertrand (missing since Nov 11, 1999)**
- **Blair Henry Yensen (missing since Jan 7, 1992)**
- **Pamela Harvey (missing since Dec 1, 1978)**
- **Gerry Gascon (missing since May 25 – Jun 2, 1978)**
- **Jane Smith (missing since Aug 9, 1975)**
- **Patrick Ratchford (missing since Oct 28, 1974)**

Missing Person Categories

- **Lost:** In an unknown location and unlikely to find way to safety

- **Missing Person:** Unknown location but not Lost

- **Foul Play:** a person is missing as a result of a suspected criminal act

- **Amber Alert:** Provincial Alert system that notifies the public of an abducted child in danger

Risk Factors

- Age (Child >12)
- Out of safety zone
- Special needs
- Medical/Mental health concerns
- Addictions
- Foul play (Human Trafficking, Exploitation)
- Lifestyle/Associations
- Out of routine patterns of behavior
- Terrain/Weather (Cliffs, Bodies of Water
- Delay in reporting

Response

Response

- Circumstances dictate level of response

- Information gathered by Communications

- Missing Children considered at high risk until proven otherwise

- Amber Alert

- Patrol Officers

- Supervisors and or additional officers

Response

- Evaluation Form / Wandering Person Questionnaire
- High Risk search immediate location
- Check potential locations
- Schools, hospitals
- Zone Alert
- Other organizations
- Canvass area
- Public Appeal

Response

- Ground Search Urgency Form
- Evaluation Form/Lost or Wandering Person Questionnaire
- Search Manager
- QV7 Operator
- Search and Rescue Officers
- North Shore Search and Rescue
- O.P.P. Helicopter

Amber Alert

Ontario Provincial Police issue an Amber Alert based on specific criteria

- Issued province-wide
- Criteria for initiating an Amber Alert may include:
  - The child is under 18 years old
  - There is a belief that the child has been abducted
  - There is information available that may help locate the child and/or abductor (description of the child, suspect, or vehicle driven by the abductor)
  - That the alert be issued within a reasonable amount of time from the moment of the abduction

Prolonged Missing Persons Investigations Are Costly

- Search and Rescue Team
  - Search Managers
  - Search Officers
- Canine and Tactical Officers
- Detectives
- Mobile Command Unit (staffed 24/7)
- Marine / ATVs / Snow machines
- Fire Services and Paramedic Services
- North Shore Search and Rescue
- O.P.P. Helicopter/U.A.V.

Roles and Responsibilities

Missing Person Investigator

- **Dedicated Criminal Investigator (Sworn)**
- **Reviews all missing person investigations**
- **Conducts follow-ups on outstanding, higher risk cases**

Missing/Vulnerable Persons Coordinator

- **Community Safety Personnel (CSP)**

- **Provides support to Investigator and frontline officers**

- **Provides support to victims and families**

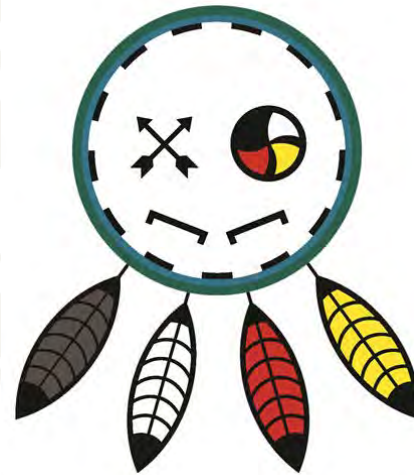- **Coordinates Project Lifesaver**

Proactive and Reactive Programs

'Looking Ahead to Build the Spirit of Our Women: Learning To Live Free From Violence'

- **Multi-year joint strategy between N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre and GSPS**

- **Community based project to address and raise awareness of *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)***

- **Funding proposal through the Department of Justice Canada - awarded for five years**

'Looking Ahead to Build the Spirit of Our Women: Learning To Live Free From Violence'

- **Aboriginal Women Violence Prevention Coordinator Proactive prevention approach**

- **Improve Police response**

- **Raise awareness of the issue**

'Looking Ahead to Build the Spirit of Our Women: Learning To Live Free From Violence'

- **GSPS Indigenous Women and Girls Missing Persons Toolkit and Resource Guide**

- **Provide families with culturally appropriate information and resources**

- **Assist Police Investigators**

Vulnerable Persons Registry

- **Optional database for individuals with physical, cognitive, mental health, or medical conditions**

- **Vulnerable Persons, caregiver, family**

- **Provides first responders with information during an emergency**

Project Lifesaver

- **Project Lifesaver International**

- **Wearable technology that can be tracked via transmitters**

- **Reduces rescue times**

- **Allows for more efficient deployment of Search and Rescue resources**

- **Assists individuals suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia**

Project Lifesaver

- **Entered into Vulnerable Person Registry**

- **North Shore Search and Rescue, Alzheimer's Society of Sudbury, Autism Ontario Sudbury/Northeast, and Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury**

- **Initial funding in 2017 POC Grant**

- **20 Individuals registered**

Project Homestead: Overview

- **Improve outcomes for youth in group homes**

- **Risk focused**

- **Reduce frequency of running away**

- **Reduce risk of being victimized, dangerous activities, criminal behavior**

- **Build relationships, increase connectedness to the home**

Project Homestead: Highlights

- **Protocol signed, delivered resiliency and VTRA training**

- **Baseline data from participation surveys**

- **Conducted drop-ins at group homes, purchased recreational equipment**

What Can You Do?

- Have up-to-date photos available
- Complete VPR if applicable
- MMIWG Missing Persons Toolkit
- Share information on social media
- Call Crime Stoppers with tips or GSPS non-emergency number with information
- Check personal properties (outbuildings)
- Be kind on social media
  - The individual/family members/friends see these comments

Conclusion

Questions