

# Nova Scotia Policing Standards





# Nova Scotia Policing Standards

## Table of Contents

Preamble to the Nova Scotia Policing Standards .....	5
Citation .....	6
Definitions .....	6
Part 1 – Emergency Management .....	16
Alert Ready .....	16
Amber Alert Program .....	18
Critical Incident Response .....	21
Disaster and Emergency Response Coordination .....	26
Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) .....	29
School Safety Planning .....	30
Underwater Recovery Operations .....	32
Part 2 – Police Investigations .....	33
Confidential Sources, Informants, and Agents .....	33
Major Case Management .....	38
National Security and Counterterrorism .....	39
Organized Crime .....	42
Police Dog Services .....	44
Police Forensic Identification Services .....	46
Suspect Surveillance Services .....	48
Undercover Investigations .....	49
Violent Crime and Linkage Analysis (ViCLAS) .....	51
Part 3 – Police Service .....	52
Community Patrol and Service Response .....	52
Missing Persons Investigations .....	54
Parental and Non-parental Child Abduction .....	56
Response to Vulnerable Persons .....	58
Search and Seizure .....	59
Technological and Internet-Related Crime .....	62
Traffic Law Enforcement .....	63
Vehicle Pursuits .....	65
Part 4 – Records Management .....	67

Legal Advice.....	67
Police Interim Release.....	69
Police Investigation Records .....	71
Property Handling and Seized Property Management .....	72
Prosecution Files and Court Dockets .....	75
Public Policy Publication Standard .....	78
Warrants and Other Judicial Authorizations.....	79
Part 5 – Use of Force .....	81
Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW).....	81
Crisis Intervention & De-escalation.....	83
Firearms .....	84
Impact Weapons .....	86
Intermediate Weapons .....	88
Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force .....	90
Specialty Munitions.....	92
Vascular Neck Restraint .....	94

## Preamble to the Nova Scotia Policing Standards

In the pursuit of ensuring the community safety and well-being of all Nova Scotians, I have issued the following 39 policing standards as a ministerial directive to all police agencies across the province. This initiative underscores our unwavering commitment to fostering a just, equitable, and accountable policing system that meets the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

The introduction of these policing standards is a part of our ongoing work to respond to the recommendations of the Mass Casualty Commission, which highlighted the critical need for comprehensive and consistent policing practices. The tragic events that led to the establishment of the Commission have underscored the importance of robust oversight and the implementation of best practices to prevent such occurrences in the future. By aligning our policing standards with the Commission's findings, we aim to honor the memory of those affected and ensure that our policing services are resilient, responsive, and reflective of community needs.

Accountability is a cornerstone of effective policing. These standards are designed to hold police agencies and officers to account, ensuring that their actions are transparent, justifiable, and in the best interest of the public. By establishing clear guidelines and expectations, we aim to build and maintain public trust, which is essential for the legitimacy and effectiveness of our policing services.

Consistency in the quality of police services across Nova Scotia is paramount. Regardless of geographic location, every resident deserves the same high standard of policing. These standards will ensure that all police agencies operate under a unified framework, promoting uniformity in training, operations, and emergency response. This consistency will not only enhance the effectiveness of our police services but also ensure that all communities receive equitable and fair treatment.

As the Minister of Justice, I am issuing these initial 39 standards with the acknowledgement that they represent the beginning of a dynamic process. Additional standards will be introduced as dictated by evolving risks, emerging needs, and transformative changes within the policing environment. This approach ensures that our standards remain responsive, safeguarding the well-being of our communities and the integrity of policing practices. Through continued engagement, Nova Scotians will join in this ongoing evolution, contributing their perspectives and expertise, as the Department of Justice strives to achieve excellence in public service.

In conclusion, the issuance of these 39 policing standards marks a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to enhance public safety, uphold justice, and foster a policing culture that is accountable, consistent, and community-focused. We are committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of these standards and to continually improve the quality of policing services across Nova Scotia. Together, we can build a safer, more just, and more resilient province for all.

Barbara Adams, Minister of Justice and Attorney General



## Citation

These Policing Standards may be cited as the *Nova Scotia Policing Standards*.

## Definitions

In these Policing Standards, terms are defined as follows:

**Abduction:** an incident where a reasonable belief exists that a child under the age of 18 years or a vulnerable person with an established mental or physical disability is removed from their environment without permission of the legal guardian or representative.

**Accredited Police Training Institution:** an institution that has been established as providing advanced and specialized training to law enforcement and has been approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. For greater clarity, any institutions providing training to law enforcement in Nova Scotia pursuant to the standards laid out here must be approved by the Department of Justice to ensure compliance with established standards. Further, the Department of Justice will be responsible for the maintenance and dissemination of a list of all accredited police training institutions and/or courses.

**Active Threat:** one or more individuals who seek out an environment that offers multiple victims for the purpose of inflicting death. An active threat is real, present, credible, and has shown the determination to severely injure or cause death to those individuals.

**Agent:** a civilian undercover operator who has placement in proximity to high targets of an investigation and who works as a contractor for a law enforcement agency. An agent is tasked and directed by a cover person and may work with an undercover operator as identified in the Operational Plan. An agent is a compellable witness whose identity can be revealed in court proceedings.

**Alert Ready:** Canada's emergency alerting system, which uses television, radio, Long Term Evolution (LTE) and 5G connected, and compatible wireless devices to deliver critical life-saving alerts to the public. Alert Ready is accessible by Government Issuers and designed to provide information to geographic-specific areas based on the type of event. Eight (8) categories of alerts are covered under the Alert Ready system: tornados, civil emergencies, flooding, fire, hazardous substances, natural disasters, Amber alerts, and terrorist threats. In Nova Scotia, the Emergency Management Office administers the Alert Ready system and provides access and training to other agencies and municipal governments.

**Amber Alert Program:** a province-wide program that partners the law enforcement community, media broadcasting agencies, and the public in locating an abducted child, or an abducted person with a proven mental or physical disability, when it is believed that their life could be in imminent danger. The program disseminates a widespread emergency alert to solicit the public's assistance in the safe return of the child or individual.

**Ammunition:** has the meaning assigned under Part III of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46.

**Authorized User:** police service personnel authorized to activate a Critical Incident in the Alert Ready system.

**Bodily Harm:** has the meaning assigned in section 2 of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46.

**Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:** the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, often simply referred to as "the *Charter*." It is a bill of rights entrenched in the Constitution of Canada, forming the first part of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

**Canadian Extremist Traveller:** an individual with a Canadian nexus who has travelled abroad to participate in extremist activity. Extremist activity is defined as any activity undertaken on behalf of, or in support of, a terrorist entity. It can include, but is not limited to, participation in armed combat, financing, radicalizing, recruiting, media production, and other activity.

**Centralized Platform:** a database of site-specific information intended to help front line police officers respond to critical incidents on or near school property. The application contains information about school locations and contacts, floor and site plans and maps, points of interest (tactical options, staging areas, traffic information), and lockdown procedures. The centralized platform used must be approved by the Department of Justice.

**Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW):** a weapon designed to use a conducted electrical current in order to incapacitate a person or to generate compliance through pain.

**Confidential Informant:** a person who provides privileged information about a person or organization to a law enforcement agency on the express or implied guarantee of anonymity.

**Counterterrorism:** any efforts taken to counter domestic and international terrorism in order to protect Canada, Canadians, and Canadian interests.

**Cover Person:** a person who is an undercover operator's manager. To become a "cover," a police officer must successfully complete an Accredited Police Training Institution cover person training program. The primary function of the cover person is to ensure the safety of the undercover operator. The cover person directly supervises the operator and is also the liaison between the operator and investigators. They work in

consultation with the investigators to create undercover scenarios that are within the parameters of an approved undercover scenario.

**Criminal Code:** the Canadian Federal Statute that codifies most criminal offences and procedures in Canada.

**Criminal Organization:** has the meaning assigned under Part XIII of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46.

**Crisis Intervention and De-escalation Techniques:** physical actions and verbal and nonverbal communications that are designed to de-escalate crises.

**Crisis Response:** a local law enforcement/first responder activity that may include measures to prevent and/or resolve a threat or act of terrorism. In a terrorist incident, a crisis management response may include traditional law enforcement activities, such as intelligence, surveillance, tactical operations, negotiations, forensics, and investigations.

**Critical Financial or Personal Records:** documents, records, and statements that provide evidence of, or summarize, business transactions and personal information that are essential to an individual's financial and personal well-being.

**Critical Incident:** an event or series of events whose scope and nature require a specialized and coordinated tactical response.

**Critical Infrastructure:** the processes, systems, facilities, technologies, networks, assets, and services essential to the health, safety, security, or economic well-being of Canadians and the effective functioning of government. Critical Infrastructure can be stand-alone or interconnected and interdependent within and across provinces, territories, and national borders. Disruptions of Critical Infrastructure could result in catastrophic loss of life, adverse economic effects, and significant harm to public confidence.

**Cyber Attack:** the efforts to damage or disrupt a computer system or electronic communications network. Doing so may disrupt essential services and critical infrastructure.

**Cyber Exploitation:** obtaining information from a computer system or network that would otherwise be considered private or confidential.

**Cyber-Crime Group:** a group that engages in cyber attacks or cyber exploitations.

**De-confliction:** the process of determining when law enforcement personnel are conducting an event in close proximity to one another at the same time.

**Designated Offences:** solved and unsolved sexually motivated incidents, homicides, non-parental abductions, missing persons, found human remains where foul play is suspected, or any other behaviour and/or circumstances connected with or suggestive of violent or sexually motivated offences.



**Display:** the act of pointing, aiming, or showing an intermediate weapon or a firearm at or to a person without discharging or applying it, in an operational setting, for the purpose of generating compliance from that person.

**Dog Handler:** a police officer who is trained to handle police dogs.

**DOJ:** the Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

**Draw:** the act of un-holstering or removing an intermediate weapon or a firearm from its stowed position without discharging it, as a preparatory step to ensure that it is ready for use should it become necessary (i.e., not used to generate compliance).

**Emergency Response Team (ERT):** a police tactical unit that uses specialized weapons, equipment, and tactics to resolve extremely high-risk situations.

**Exigent Circumstances:** circumstances where a delay in action would result in danger to human life or safety, or where action is necessary to prevent the continuation of an offence that threatens human life or safety.

**Explosive Disposal Unit (EDU):** a team of officers, trained and specializing in the investigation and handling of explosives and improvised explosive devices.

**Firearm:** has the meaning assigned in section 2 of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46.

**Foreign Terrorist Fighter:** an individual, regardless of country of origin, who has travelled abroad to conflict zones, to directly engage in terrorist activities.

**Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR):** an association of volunteer teams within the province of Nova Scotia dedicated to responding to incidents of lost/missing persons, evidence searches, and as a Civilian Emergency Response for the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office and the various police agencies in Nova Scotia. Police agencies gain access to GSAR through the Emergency Management Office of Nova Scotia and provide specially trained police personnel to liaise with GSAR teams.

**Impact Weapon:** an authorized Intermediate Weapon, projectile, or object used to strike a subject to achieve pain compliance through blunt force, where bodily harm is not intended.

**Incident Management/Intervention Model (IMIM):** the RCMP's Police Intervention Model, which is aligned with the National Use of Force Framework, that incorporates a visual representation of the components that make up a member's continual risk assessment conducted during interactions with the public. It is a visual aid designed to assist in identifying appropriate intervention options based on the member's risk assessment that will assist with articulation following an intervention, and also assist judicial bodies to understand the member's decisions and actions. It is not, in itself, a policy nor is it a continuum or linear model.

**In-Custody Informant:** incarcerated or in-custody informers who approach police with incriminating information about an accused, usually an alleged confession, obtained when they were in custody together. Often, the informer has shared a cell or neighbouring cell with the accused. Could also include any person charged or convicted of a crime and who is subject to court-imposed conditions.

**Independent Agent Monitor:** an independent entity alongside the agent handlers within the Major Case Management Model. The focus of the Independent Agent Monitor is oversight of proper handling and management practices of the agent along with the well-being of both the agent and the handling team. The operational tasking of the agent remains the responsibility of the cover person. The Independent Agent Monitor will advise and liaise with the Team Commander.

**Intermediate Weapon:** a device intended or designed to be used as a weapon, but for which the normal use is not intended or likely to cause serious injury or death. Impact Weapons, Extended Range Impact Weapons, aerosols such as oleoresin capsicum spray, Conducted Energy Weapons, and police dogs fall within this category. Intermediate Weapons may also be referred to as less-lethal weapons.

**Intermediate Weapon Discharge/Application:** the act of firing or applying an intermediate weapon against a person in an operational setting. This includes situations where the discharge/application was intentional or not, and situations where the Intermediate Weapon is discharged/applied but malfunctions or is unsuccessful in reaching the intended person.

**Internationally Protected Person:** has the meaning assigned at section 2 of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46.

**Joint Rescue Coordination Centre:** a Rescue Coordination Centre operated by the Royal Canadian Air Force and Canadian Coast Guard. It is responsible for coordinating the Search and Rescue response to air and marine incidences within the Halifax Search and Rescue Region.

**Local Intelligence Officer (LIO):** an individual with designated authorization to act as the nexus for intelligence gathered and utilized locally during police investigations.

**Major Case:** crimes with subsequent investigations into homicide, attempted homicide, death where foul play has not been ruled out, aggravated assault, kidnapping, missing persons where foul play is suspected, and/or any other occurrence that requires extensive investigation and considerable resources. Specifically, Major Case Management automatically applies to the following offences: homicides; missing persons where foul play is suspected; found remains where homicide is suspected; sexual assaults under Part VIII of the *Criminal Code* (CC), and sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, and sexual exploitation under Part V of the CC, that are suspected to be serial or predatory in nature; workplace deaths or serious injury; mass casualties and injuries; and non-familial abductions and additional events or incidents that may be included due to seriousness and/or complexity. Major Case Management will also apply to Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) designated benchmark

offences including the following offences: ransom-based kidnapping and abductions/kidnaps for murder; suspicious sudden deaths, including sudden infant deaths; and fatal hit and run motor vehicle collisions.

**Major Case Management (MCM):** the approach to solving major case crimes and dealing with complex incidents. A Major Case is a real or suspected crime of such severity that it creates an intense public demand for identification, apprehension, and prosecution of the offender. Major cases also include those crimes that necessitate a substantial commitment of resources for a prolonged period, or that require the application of complex investigative techniques that are conducted in accordance with the principles of MCM.

**National Emergency:** has the meaning assigned at section 3 of the *Emergencies Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c.22.

**National Security Threats:** any activity that undermines the sovereignty, security, or territorial integrity of Canada, or the lives or the security of the people of Canada.

**National Use of Force Framework:** the graphical representation of the various elements involved in the process by which a police officer assesses a potential use-of-force situation and acts in a reasonable manner to ensure officer and public safety.

**Non-jeopardy Interview:** a risk-free interview where the potential agent relates any involvement in the crime to enable a cover person to assess the level of involvement risk or jeopardy in deciding to use the agent in that capacity.

**Occupational Diving Regulations:** the Regulations established in Nova Scotia pursuant to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, S.N.S. 1996, c.7.

**Officer:** a Peace Officer appointed under *the Nova Scotia Police Act*, 2004, c.31, for the execution of their duties as a sworn member of a police agency.

**Operational Plan:** the totality of the investigation to date and includes all relevant aspects of the requesting unit's investigation, including conventional policing techniques (statements, judicial authorizations, source information, surveillance, etc.), along with detailed financials forecasting the projected costs of the undercover investigation. The plan should include clear objectives and the reasoning why the deployment of an undercover technique should be used to achieve those objectives.

**Operational Setting:** police encounters with the public that are not part of training exercises.

**Physical Control:** physical techniques, including takedowns, used to control a person that do not involve the use of a weapon.

**Physical Control–hard:** physical techniques that are intended to impede a person's behaviour or to enable application of a control technique and have a higher probability of causing injury than physical control–soft techniques. They may include empty hand strikes such as punches and kicks.

**Physical Control–soft:** physical techniques that are control oriented and have a lower probability of causing injury. They may include restraining techniques, escort/come-along techniques, the use of pressure points, joint locks, and non-resistant handcuffing.

**Police Dog Bite:** a type of intermediate weapon application involving a police dog’s use of mouth and teeth to grab or hold a person’s body or clothes in an operational setting.

**Property Crime Examiner:** an officer capable of conducting basic property crime examination that include occurrences of residential or commercial break and enter, stolen vehicles, and mischief. A Property Crime Examiner cannot examine any occurrences involving a person crime.

**Pro-terrorism or Affiliated Groups/Entities:** either a person, group, trust, partnership, or fund or an unincorporated association or organization that has as one of its purposes or activities facilitating or carrying out any terrorist activity; an entity listed by the Governor in Council under Part II.1 of the *Criminal Code*; or a group known to associate with such entities.

**Provincial Amber Alert Coordinator:** a person who is recognized as responsible for the Amber Alert Program in Nova Scotia. This would normally be a Director from Public Safety and Security Division, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

**Provincial Police:** the Nova Scotia Provincial Police as defined in the *Nova Scotia Police Act*.

**Provincial ViCLAS Centre:** the Provincial ViCLAS Centre operated by RCMP “H” Division – Behavioral Sciences Group.

**Pursuit:** the driving of an emergency vehicle by a Peace Officer while exercising the privileges granted by the Provincial traffic safety legislation for the purpose of apprehending another person(s) who refuses to stop as directed by a Peace Officer and/or attempts to evade apprehension.

**Radicalization:** the process by which an individual or a group gradually adopts extreme positions or ideologies that are opposed to the status quo and challenge mainstream ideas.

**Rapid Deployment Capabilities:** the deployment of law enforcement resources to an ongoing, life-threatening situation where delayed deployment could otherwise result in grievous bodily harm and/or death to persons.

**Reasonable Grounds:** that the officer believes that the decision or action is necessary. The decision or action must be able to stand the test of whether an objective third person, who is acting reasonably and is informed of the officer’s training, experience, and the factual circumstances known at the time, would reach the same conclusion.

**Risk Analysis:** in the context of undercover operations, a management process for the investigation to determine whether the undercover investigation should be conducted and what benefits would be gained.

**Scene of Crime Officer:** an officer capable of conducting examinations of scenes inclusive of those examined by a Property Crime Examiner, including armed robberies; property crime involving castings of footprints, tool markers, or tire marks; physical assaults; and drug grows. If a crime is beyond those scopes, Police Forensic Identification services must be brought in.

**School Emergency Management Plan:** the preparedness component of a comprehensive school plan addressing student safety. These plans cover emergencies such as bomb threats, dangerous persons, fire/explosions, environmental threats, loss of heat or water, medical emergencies, sudden severe weather, or any type of violence at or near the school. The plans include mitigation and prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Two large components of the plan that affect the policing agency of jurisdiction are lockdown and hold-and-secure procedures.

**Seized Property:** any property seized under the authority of any Act of the Legislature or Parliament of Canada or pursuant to any warrant or any rule of law in connection with any designated offence. Seized property may include cash, equities, loans, bank accounts, lottery tickets, life insurance policies, mortgages, vehicles, motorcycles, boats, aircraft, houses, buildings, land, businesses, livestock, or personal property such as jewellery, furniture, or electronics.

**Serious Criminal Investigative Resources:** access to the necessary specialized units to conduct Major Case Management.

**Service Firearm:** any firearm issued to sworn personnel by a police agency.

**Specialty Munitions:** munitions requiring specialized training and certification by officers and may include extended range impact munitions, impact rounds containing chemical agents, breaching munitions, Noise Flash Diversionary Devices, and munitions designed specifically for crowd dispersal.

**Surveillance:** the act of observing individuals, groups, or areas in order to gather evidence and includes:

- a) Aerial: Use of an aircraft for surveillance;
- b) Controlled Delivery: Proving a person has knowledge;
- c) Crowd Infiltration: Protection of Canadian Delegates, International Protected Persons, and the public through crowd infiltration at public events;
- d) Electronic: Use of Location-based Services (LBS), tracker, covert video feeds that are recorded, and Thermal Imagers, with warrant;

- e) Intrusion Operations: Installation/removal of covert devices;
- f) Mobile: Surveillance on a subject either in a vehicle or on foot with a minimum of five vehicles; the unit commander or delegate may approve exceptions;
- g) Part VI (*Criminal Code*) Intercepts: Building grounds/exhausting investigative procedures;
- h) Rural Surveillance: Rural surveillance has a unique set of problems with setups and privacy. Consideration should be given to any surveillance operation in rural settings; and
- i) Static: Surveillance conducted on a location.

**Tactical Response/Public Safety Unit (TR/PSU):** a specially trained and equipped unit within the police agency that is mobilized to provide a tactical and coordinated response intended to maintain order and peace within crowds, gatherings, or demonstrations, planned or unplanned.

**Terrorist Activity:** has the meaning assigned at section 2 of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46.

**Terrorist Financing:** the collection and provision of funds from legitimate or illegitimate sources to support, directly or indirectly, terrorist activity. It supports and sustains the activities of domestic and international terrorists that can result in terrorist attacks in Canada or abroad, causing loss of life and destruction.

**Terrorist Group:** has the meaning assigned at section 2 of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46.

**Threat Assessment:** an assessment done by the cover person in consultation with investigators to determine the various risks or safety concerns that may be encountered during the undercover investigation and to determine what steps can be taken in order to mitigate them.

**Traffic Management:** the deployment of police resources to respond to road safety events in Nova Scotia. These events include, but are not limited to, emergency scenes, disaster response, environmental incidents, or instances of public order events that affect the safe flow of traffic.

**Undercover Operator:** a police officer who has successfully completed an Accredited Police Training Institution undercover training program. An undercover operator under the direction of the assigned cover will use an assumed identity for the purpose of gaining trust of targeted individuals in order to gain information or evidence.

**Use of Force:** when a force option is discharged at or applied on a person, or a weapon is displayed to a person, in an operational setting.



**Use-of-Force Report:** Subject Behaviour/Officer Response reports, written in a format approved by the Department of Justice.

**Vascular Neck Restraint:** a physical control technique that applies compression of the vascular tissue along the lateral aspects of the neck, resulting in temporary decreased cerebral blood flow, and may result in temporary loss of consciousness.

**Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS):** a computer-assisted linkage system operated by the RCMP that is designed to assist all Canadian police agencies in tracking, coordinating, and linking designated violent crimes.

**Violent Extremism:** the beliefs and actions of people who support or use violence to achieve extreme ideological, religious, or political goals.

**Vulnerable Person:** a person or group who is susceptible to abuse or mistreatment by those who may potentially hold power over them. This includes, but is not limited to, someone who has experienced chronic intimate partner violence or a serious crime against persons, an emotionally disturbed person in contact with police under the *Nova Scotia Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act* (IPTA), or a missing person.

**Warrant:** a document issued by a legal or government official authorizing the police or other official to make an arrest, search premises, or carry out actions relating to the administration of justice.

**Weapons of Opportunity:** an object that in its regular use is not intended as a weapon, but in a specific encounter is at hand for improvised use as a weapon (e.g., flashlight).

## Part 1 – Emergency Management

### Alert Ready

#### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure a threshold is clearly defined within their organization and includes policies, procedures, and protocols that detail the circumstances that permit the use of the Alert Ready system, including:
  - a) An active threat;
  - b) A Critical Incident that is believed to cause the public to be in danger of serious harm or death;
  - c) Any other Broadcast intrusive alert type issues for the purpose of preserving public safety (e.g. weather events and wildfires) as agreed upon between the police agency and respective municipality of jurisdiction through a formalized Agreement; and
  - d) Appropriate and descriptive detail of a Critical Incident or incident pursuant to section 2(c) of this Standard, and the belief that the dissemination of information in a reasonable time frame would aid public awareness and reduce risks to public safety.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the Alert Ready system shall recognize that the primary focus is always the safety and security of the public and police personnel. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, and protocols, or the formalization of agreements with the Emergency Management Office or an Authorized User, to access the Alert Ready system.
  - a) An alert can be activated only by an Authorized User; and
  - b) An alert can be cancelled only by an Authorized User when the Incident is determined to be contained or completed.
4. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure strategic communications policies, procedures, and protocols are developed regarding Alert Ready use, and that the police agency has the capability to monitor and respond to information received through the Alert Ready system.
  - a) If a municipal police agency requests activation of the “Critical Incident” Alert Ready from an Authorized User, the municipal police agency shall appoint a Media Relations Officer to:



- i. Monitor and respond to information received because of the alert, and assume the role of media spokesperson;
  - ii. Liaise with the investigative team to determine the need for updates or cancellations to the Critical Incident alert; and
  - iii. Inform relevant 911 call centre(s) of the pending alert.
5. After the use of the Alert Ready system, police agencies shall follow the reporting framework as specified by the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office.

## Amber Alert Program

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall appoint an Amber Alert Coordinator and ensure the establishment of policies, procedures, and protocols for the police agency regarding Amber Alert, to:
  - a) Prepare and update policies and procedures to govern the use of the Provincial Amber Alert Program, including the establishment of the Activation Criteria;
  - b) Ensure that all police agencies have a written copy of the policy outlining the Amber Alert activation process and requirements;
  - c) Provide training for new Authorized Users and update training as required;
  - d) Attend as appropriate the Provincial Amber Alert Review Committee;
  - e) Co-ordinate annual testing of the Amber Alert process and maintain up-to-date contact lists, and continue to evaluate the process on an ongoing basis;
  - f) Liaise with all parties to ensure seamless communication between municipal agencies and Provincial Police; and
  - g) Ensure that in the event of an Amber Alert activation in the province, regardless of location, all police agencies shall monitor their respective social media accounts and tip lines, including non-emergency telephone lines and email addresses where the public can report tips and forward any tips or information to the designated lead agency.
3. The following criteria must be met before an Amber Alert can be activated:
  - a) There are reasonable grounds to believe that an Abduction has occurred;
  - b) There is reasonable belief that the child or person with an established mental or physical disability is in danger of serious harm or injury; and
  - c) There is enough descriptive information on one or more of the following factors to believe that an Amber Alert will assist with the safe return of the child or person with an established mental or physical disability:
    - i. The child or person with an established mental or physical disability;
    - ii. Abductor;
    - iii. Vehicle; and/or

- iv. That the Amber Alert can be issued within a timeline that would provide reasonable expectation that the child or person with an established mental or physical disability could be returned.
4. The police agency that initiates the Amber Alert must:
  - a) Have direct access to, or a formalized agreement with, an agency that has direct access to the Amber Alert system for the purposes of issuing an alert;
  - b) Provide a non-emergency telephone number for the public to use when calling in tips;
  - c) Request assistance from another police agency within Nova Scotia if the police agency that initiates the Amber Alert determines they do not have the resources available to effectively manage an Amber Alert investigation or communications plan; and
  - d) Have their Chief of Police, the RCMP Commanding Officer, the Officer of the Military Police, or their designate provide authority to activate an Amber Alert.
5. The police agency that initiates the Amber Alert must assign a primary investigator to the file and be responsible for:
  - a) Ensuring the activation criteria have been met and the Amber Alert can be issued in a time frame that would provide reasonable expectation that the child or person with an established mental or physical disabilities could be returned;
  - b) Obtaining approval from the agency's Chief of Police, or designate, to request an Amber Alert activation and informing their designated Communications Officer;
  - c) Informing the Province's 911 call centre(s) of the pending alert;
  - d) Ensuring that the Amber Alert broadcast form is forwarded, without delay, to the relevant agency's Operational Communications Centre for dissemination; and
  - e) Ensuring the Amber Alert is entered onto Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC).
6. The Amber Alert Activation Request Form shall be completed in its entirety. Information for the Activation Request Form should include:
  - a) Name, age, and physical description (height, weight, hair colour and style, eye colour, clothing, scars, or marks);
  - b) Recent photograph of the abducted person;
  - c) Date, time, and location where the abducted person was last seen;
  - d) Description of any weapon used during the Abduction;
  - e) Description of any vehicle involved in the Abduction;

- f) Name(s), if known, and/or detailed description of the suspect;
  - g) Last known direction of travel and possible destination;
  - h) Telephone number for receiving tips, and name and telephone number of the Communications Officer supporting the investigation;
  - i) Verification of accuracy of information to be released;
  - j) Consideration to including a caution that the public must not attempt to apprehend the individual but to immediately call 911;
  - k) Immediately forwarding of all the required information to the Provincial Amber Alert Coordinator in the most efficient manner; and
  - l) When information is received regarding an Amber Alert generated by another police agency, recording of the information and immediately passing it on to the original police agency that issued the Amber Alert.
7. The Communications Officer assigned by the police agency that initiates the Amber Alert, when notified that an Amber Alert is imminent, must create and adhere to a comprehensive communications strategy that:
- a) Ensures availability of sufficient resources to handle a high volume of inquiries;
  - b) Ensures the role of media spokesperson is filled;
  - c) Completes follow-up press release(s) when necessary; and
  - d) Evaluates communications strategy and make modifications following an Amber Alert.

## Critical Incident Response

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or the formalization of agreements with an accredited and approved law enforcement service in Nova Scotia, to effectively respond to Critical Incidents.
  - a) Deployment and management of specific resource teams required to respond to serious incidents on an emergency or tactical basis include, but are not limited to, all the following:
    - i. Containment Capabilities;
    - ii. Emergency Response Team;
    - iii. Tactical Response/Public Safety Unit;
    - iv. Explosive Disposal Unit; and
    - v. Critical Incident Commander.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding emergency response and tactical operations must recognize that the primary focus is always the safety and security of the public and police personnel.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Containment Capabilities must include:
  - a) Clarification that the initial response will provide a supportive role while awaiting the deployment of an Emergency Response Team (ERT), Tactical Response/Public Safety Unit, or Explosive Disposal Unit.
  - b) Clarification that the initial response will primarily focus on:
    - i. Prevention of violence or threats of violence;
    - ii. Providing security for the deployment or staging of Emergency Medical Services;
    - iii. Establishing containment perimeters of the scene;
    - iv. Assessing and evaluating the scene to identify resource requirements; and
    - v. Identifying and securing an appropriate location to establish a command post for expected resources.

- c) Methods of response for the containment resources include one or more of the following:
    - i. Containment resources that comprise adequately trained and equipped police personnel from the police agency;
    - ii. Policing resources from another police agency where the deployment of such resources is assured through a written agreement or memorandum of understanding between the police agencies involved; and/or
    - iii. The capability of providing containment until such time as an ERT, Tactical Response/Public Safety Unit, Explosives Disposal Unit, or other appropriate specialized service can assume direct control over the event.
  - d) Clarification regarding command or supervision of containment resources by a senior police officer of the jurisdictional police agency and pursuant to any written agreements of service between police agencies.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding an ERT functional requirements must address, but is not limited to, ensuring the team meets and maintains all the following requirements:
- a) Minimum training and operational physical fitness standards;
  - b) Periodic training, qualification, and recertification in the use of approved weapons, tactical response, and emergency operational support;
  - c) Use of approved weapons and tactical equipment; and
  - d) Composition, selection, succession, and recruitment criteria.
6. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding an ERT must include, but is not limited to:
- a) Deployment in response to serious incidents threatening public safety, including:
    - i. Uncontained or mobile threat to public safety;
    - ii. Barricaded suspects;
    - iii. Hostage situations/forceable or unlawful confinement;
    - iv. Presence or the potential presence of a significant armed, explosive, or incendiary threat to safety of the public or police;
    - v. The provision of heightened security to a public official, an Internationally Protected Person, or a visiting public person subject to an increased threat; and/or

- vi. A situation that requires the deployment of police personnel to address a significant threat to safety of the public or police.
- b) Methods of response for the ERT, including:
- i. An ERT comprising police personnel from the police agency of jurisdiction; and/or
  - ii. An ERT from another police agency where the deployment of such ERT is established pursuant to a written agreement between the police agencies involved.
- c) Command, control, and assistance during a response to an incident, including:
- i. The requirement for one or more Critical Incident Commanders to be present, when appropriate, with the deployed ERT to provide incident command; and
  - ii. The requirement for one or more senior police supervisors to provide assistance to the designated Critical Incident Commander of the responding ERT and pursuant to any written agreements of service between the respective police agencies.
- d) Crisis negotiation requirements or assistance, including:
- i. Police personnel who have received training in crisis negotiation from an Accredited Police Training Institution and who have trained sufficiently with the deployed ERT, and whose certifications have been maintained in order to provide such services; and/or
  - ii. Police personnel who have received training in crisis negotiation from an Accredited Police Training Institution, and whose certifications have been maintained, are to aid the designated Incident Commander of the deployed ERT.
7. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding an Explosive Disposal Unit (EDU) must address, but is not limited to, ensuring the team meets and maintains all the following requirements:
- a) Minimum training standards;
  - b) Periodic training, qualification, and certification in the use of approved specialized tactics and equipment; and
  - c) Establishment of a method for requesting deployment.
8. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the EDU must include, but is not limited to:
- a) Deployment to respond to serious incidents threatening public safety, including:

- i. The presence of suspected or potentially explosive, incendiary, chemical, biological, radioactive, or nuclear devices or incidents;
    - ii. Abandoned or found ordnance or ammunition;
    - iii. The presence or potential presence of a significant armed or explosive threat to safety of the public and/or police, dependent on risk assessment of available information;
    - iv. The provision of heightened security to a public official, an Internationally Protected Person, or a visiting public person subject to an increased threat assessment;
    - v. The activation of an EDU to address a significant threat to safety of the public or police; and
    - vi. The requirement for one or more Critical Incident Commanders to be present, when appropriate, with the deployed EDU to provide incident command.
  - b) Methods of response for the EDU, including:
    - i. An EDU comprising police personnel from the police agency who have received specialized training from an Accredited Police Training Institution related to the duties of an EDU; and/or
    - ii. An EDU from another police agency, having received specialized training from an Accredited Police Training Institution related to the duties of an EDU, where the deployment of such EDU is assured pursuant to a written agreement between the police agencies involved.
  - c) Command of the EDU provided by a senior police officer of the police agency of jurisdiction and pursuant to agreements of service between the respective police agencies.
- 9.** Any policy, procedure, or protocol respecting the Tactical Response or Public Safety Unit (TR/PSU) must address, but is not limited to, ensuring the team meets and maintains all the following requirements:
- a) Minimum training and operational physical fitness standards;
  - b) Periodic training, qualification, and certification in the use of approved weapons, tactical response, and emergency operational support;
  - c) Use of approved defensive weapons and tactical equipment; and
  - d) Composition, selection, succession, and recruitment criteria.
- 10.** Any policy, procedure, or protocol respecting the TR/PSU must address, but is not limited to:



- a) Deployment to respond to serious incidents threatening public safety, including all the following:
  - i. Civil, group, or public disorder where significant violence to the public or police is active, threatened, or anticipated;
  - ii. The provision of heightened security to a public official, an Internationally Protected Person, or a visiting public person subject to an increased threat assessment; and
  - iii. A situation that requires the deployment of police personnel to address a significant threat to safety of the public or police.
- b) Methods of response for the TR/PSU, including:
  - i. A TR/PSU comprising police personnel from that police agency who have been trained in this function by an Accredited Police Training Institution; and
  - ii. A TR/PSU from a municipal police agency or the Provincial Police that have training in this function from an Accredited Police Training Institution where the deployment of such TR/PSU is assured pursuant to a written agreement between the police agencies involved.
- c) Command of the TR/PSU should originate with the agency that provides the TR/PSU unless a senior police officer of the police agency of jurisdiction is permitted to command pursuant to agreements of service between the respective police agencies; and
- d) Crisis negotiation requirements or assistance, including criteria for personnel:
  - i. Those who have received training in crisis negotiation from an Accredited Police Training Institution, and whose certifications have been maintained, are to provide such services; and/or
  - ii. Those who have received training in crisis negotiation from an Accredited Police Training Institution, and whose certifications have been maintained, are to aid the designated Incident Commander of the on-scene TR/PSU.

## Disaster and Emergency Response Coordination

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, and protocols, or the formalization of agreements with the Emergency Management Office or an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the Preparation, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery phases of Emergency Management regarding disaster and emergency response coordination, for all the following:
  - a) Training;
  - b) Pre-Incident Planning;
  - c) Communications strategy;
  - d) Identification of lead agency responsible during the emergency and identifying the appropriate police response and investigation of disasters and public emergencies, if necessary; and
  - e) Supervision and management of police responses, and After Action Reviews related to disasters and public emergencies.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding disasters and public emergencies shall recognize that the primary focus is the safety and security of the public and police personnel at all times.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Pre-Incident Planning as established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Education and training regarding Emergency Management Preparedness Programming that supports a police agency's Disaster and Response Coordination Capabilities; and
  - b) Interoperability supports and joint communications with local, regional, and provincial support service resources to address a public emergency.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Pre-Incident Planning established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Identification of significant hazard areas within the jurisdiction of the police and establishing appropriate Emergency Response Plan(s) regarding these hazard areas;
  - b) Identification of local, regional, and provincial support agencies, groups, and police units that would be reasonably expected to be required to assist with a disaster

and emergency response (i.e., identifying lead agencies vs. support agencies); and

- c) Annual review of police response plans to ensure currency.
6. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding appropriate police response and investigation of disasters and public emergencies established under subsection 2(d) of this standard shall include:
- a) An initial Public Emergency Response, including:
    - i. Criteria to determine whether the initial response requires police action related to criminal activity. A criminal incident would result in the police agency of jurisdiction taking the lead role in the response;
    - ii. Criteria to assess the complaint information to determine the urgency of the police action required;
    - iii. Criteria to provide a reasonably-based deployment of resources to address the initial public emergency;
    - iv. Criteria to provide a reasonable determination of support services required at the outset and in the immediate future during the initial stages of the police response; and
    - v. Criminal evidentiary requirements until such time as criminal activity can be eliminated, and further police response is strictly limited to aiding the public.
  - b) The deployment of police resources, or the formalization of agreements with an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency to appropriately address the hazards presented by the public emergency, including available police personnel from other police agencies; and
  - c) The deployment of other resources, or the formalization of agreements with an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency to provide sufficient support service resources and joint communications to address a public emergency where necessary, including:
    - i. Coordination with Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office;
    - ii. Coordination with the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program;
    - iii. Coordination with the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre;
    - iv. Coordination with municipal emergency management; and/or
    - v. Coordination with any other government agency mandated to provide specific resources or expertise to assist with the public emergency.

7. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding supervision and management of police response to disasters and public emergencies established under subsection 2(e) of this standard must include information briefing materials to be forwarded to the Minister of Justice.

## Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR)

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, and protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) operations for lost or missing persons, for all the following:
  - a) Training of Incident Commanders through an Accredited Police Training Institution that meets the criteria set out by the Emergency Management Office of Nova Scotia;
  - b) Establishment of agreements with GSAR in their policing jurisdictions through a written agreement;
  - c) Deployment and management of a trained Incident Commander to respond to an emergency crisis, search and rescue operations, and evidence recovery operations; and
  - d) Reporting requirements for GSAR activation and use.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding GSAR shall recognize that the primary focus is always the safety and security of the public and police personnel.

## School Safety Planning

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, and protocols, or the formalization of agreements with an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding School Safety Planning, and must include:
  - a) Training;
  - b) Pre-Incident Planning;
  - c) Appropriate police response to a threat of safety at schools;
  - d) Supervision and management of police response to a violent school incident;
  - e) Strategies for internal and external communications; and
  - f) Recovery, post-incident.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding school safety shall recognize that the primary focus is always the safety and security of the public and police personnel.
4. Any policy procedure or protocol regarding school safety planning shall include:
  - a) The creation, use, and distribution of School Emergency Management Plans, and these Plans to be made accessible to all employees of the police agency of jurisdiction:
    - i. School Emergency Management Plans should be shared with neighbouring police agencies of jurisdictions in the event that assistance is sought from them during an emergency; and
    - ii. Police agencies should consider the use of a centralized platform, as approved by the Department of Justice, to electronically store and access School Emergency Management Plans.
  - b) The identification of local, regional, and provincial support agencies and police units that would be reasonably expected to be required to assist with a school safety emergency.
  - c) School familiarity exercises designed to ensure police personnel are familiar with school layouts and environments:
    - i. School familiarity exercises should be conducted annually; and
    - ii. School familiarity should be included in new officer orientations.

- d) Mandatory Active Shooter training for police must be provided and reviewed on a regular basis with a consideration to responses in school environments; and
  - e) Annual review of police response plans to ensure currency.
5. The police agency of jurisdiction shall have a policy, procedure, and protocol for the purpose of requesting the assistance of another police agency during an emergency event, including:
- a) Agreements with policing partners to provide policing services in the event of a reduced ability of the police of jurisdiction to respond to calls for service during an event; and
  - b) Deployment of other resources, or the formalization of agreements with an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency to provide sufficient support service resources and joint communications to address a school violence incident.
6. The police agency of jurisdiction shall support school administrators in ensuring the safety of school staff and students including:
- a) Participation in lockdown and hold-and-secure drills when invited, and in alignment with Department of Education and Early Childhood Development directives;
  - b) Participation in drill and event debriefs with school staff;
  - c) Providing education and training to students and staff when invited by school administrators; and
  - d) The development of a comprehensive communications strategy in collaboration with school administrators related to lockdown and hold-and-secure events.

## Underwater Recovery Operations

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service regarding Underwater Recovery Operations, for all the following:
  - a) Deployment and management of specific resource teams required to respond to emergencies, search and rescue operations, and evidence recovery operations;
  - b) Police supervision of the deployment and management of Underwater Recovery Teams required to respond to incidents; and
  - c) Compliance with the *Occupational Diving Regulations* made under section 82 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* S.N.S. 1996, c.7.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Underwater Recovery Operations shall recognize the primary focus is always the safety and security of the public and police personnel.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Underwater Recovery Teams shall include:
  - a) Training requirements, based on industry standards and provided by an Accredited Police Training Institution:
    - i. Composition, selection, succession, and recruitment criteria;
    - ii. Minimum training and operational physical fitness standards; and
    - iii. Periodic training, qualification, and certification in the use of equipment and diving standards.
  - b) Compliance with the *Occupational Diving Regulations* made under section 82 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* S.N.S. 1996, c.7.
5. Methods of response for the Underwater Recovery Team shall include at least one of the following:
  - a) An Underwater Recovery Team comprising trained police personnel from the police agency; and/or
  - b) An Underwater Recovery Team from another police agency where the deployment of such a team is assured through a written agreement between the police agencies involved.



## Part 2 – Police Investigations

### Confidential Sources, Informants, and Agents

#### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, as applicable, for the police agency regarding confidential sources and informants, or have formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service, for:
  - a) Interaction with, use of, and management of all confidential sources, informants, and agents, as permitted under this standard;  
  
NOTE: This may include any person under the age of eighteen (18) in exigent circumstances, and with the approval of the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer or their designate.
  - b) In-custody informants;
  - c) Consultation with the Public Prosecution Service regarding a confidential source, informant, or agent;
  - d) Maintenance and security of information obtained from informants and/or agents; and
  - e) Supervision of all interactions with confidential sources, informants, and agents, management of records of interactions, and consultation with the Public Prosecution Service.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for confidential sources, informants, and agents established under section 2 of this standard shall include:
  - a) Establishing and maintaining strict security and the necessity of confidentiality; and
  - b) The requirement that only adults be actively recruited and used as a confidential source, informant, or agent unless exigent circumstances exist.
4. A policy, procedure, or protocol shall be established requiring consultation with the Public Prosecution Service for the following circumstances:
  - a) When an informant or agent is charged, except when the circumstances of the offence charged are unrelated to the informant's or agent's status;

- b) Where an informant or agent is the victim and/or witness in the criminal proceeding, except when the circumstances of the offence are unrelated to the informant's or agent's status;
  - c) Where the use of information provided by an in-custody informant is contemplated; and
  - d) When an informant or agent who is the subject of a criminal charge may be subject to favourable consideration (i.e., an informant or agent award) before proceeding with the prosecution.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the use of any person under the age of eighteen (18) as a confidential source, informant, or agent, under exigent circumstances established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall include:
- a) Obtaining and maintaining fully informed consent from the person under the age of eighteen (18) ("minor") and their parent/guardian;
  - b) That risks to the minor are shared with them and their parent/guardian;
  - c) Security safeguards for the minor and their family;
  - d) Seriousness of the criminal offence under investigation;
  - e) Investigative necessity for involvement of the minor;
  - f) Urgency of the investigation;
  - g) Any other factors that may detrimentally affect the health or safety of the minor; and
  - h) Operational safeguards, including:
    - i. Continual oversight and monitoring of the involvement of the minor;
    - ii. Investigational limits on the scope and length of time of participation in the capacity from the minor; and
    - iii. Any other operational or investigational safeguards to preserve the safety and security of the minor.
6. Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the management of confidential sources, informants, and agents, established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall include:
- a) Delegating a police officer within the police agency for overall management of the program, with this officer receiving appropriate training by an Accredited Police Training Institution, or by an accredited instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as approved by the Department of Justice;

- b) The responsibilities of the delegated police officer regarding information provided by confidential sources, informants, and agents to any member of the police agency; and
  - c) Any limits on information provided by confidential sources, informants, and agents for the sole benefit of law enforcement.
7. Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for interaction with confidential sources, informants, and agents established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address:
- a) When interacting with Confidential Informants:
    - i. Having two (2) police officers assigned as handlers, subject to the discretion of the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer; and
    - ii. Documentation and maintenance of all direct and indirect interactions by the assigned police officers and the confidential source, and debriefing reports maintained by the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer.
  - b) When interacting with Agents:
    - i. Having at least two (2) police officers assigned as handlers and having both officers present to witness award(s) provided to the agent. Where possible, consideration shall be given to having appropriately gendered handlers; and
    - ii. Documentation and maintenance of all direct or indirect interactions with agents, and debriefing reports maintained by the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer.
8. Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the maintenance and security of information received from informants and agents established under subsection 2(d) of this standard shall include:
- a) Identity and biographical information;
  - b) Criminal history and associates;
  - c) Record of criminal convictions;
  - d) Current judicial interim release, probation, or parole conditions;
  - e) Motivation to cooperate with the police;
  - f) Reliability and corroboration of past information;
  - g) Risk assessment regarding police involvement;

- h) Threat assessment against the informant or agent;
  - i) All payments, accompanied by receipts, awards, and/or considerations pertaining to the informant or agent;
  - j) Codification of records for each informant and agent; and
  - k) Periodic review of records, including:
    - i. Annual interview of confidential source, informant, or agent interview conducted by the police supervisor;
    - ii. Audit regarding compliance with procedures and protocols established pursuant to this standard;
    - iii. Requirements directing the retention of the records, both in duration and location; and
    - iv. Physical and electronic storage safeguards to ensure the confidentiality of the information.
- 9.** Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for in-custody informants established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall include:
- a) The use of in-custody informants subject to procedures consistent with Major Case Management; and
  - b) The necessity of advice from the appropriate Prosecution Service prior to the use of and reliance on information provided by an in-custody informant if criminal prosecution is anticipated involving the in-custody informant information.
- 10.** Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the use of agents established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall include:
- a) Obtaining prior approval from a police supervisor with the appropriate authority;
  - b) Agreement by the agent to comply with any valid subpoenas regarding criminal prosecutions resulting from the agent's involvement in the investigation;
  - c) Critical evaluation of the agent's reliability and credibility, including:
    - i. Background assessment by a police officer involved in the administration of the Witness Protection Program or an equivalent program;
    - ii. Criminal history, associates, and a non-jeopardy interview of the agent, if applicable; and
    - iii. Past reliability and credibility as an agent, if applicable.

- d) Recording of all conditions regarding the use of an agent in a written agreement;
- e) Advising the agent to seek independent legal advice and recording of such advice;
- f) Appropriate security measures in the operational plan that pertain to the agent's involvement;
- g) Appropriate security contingencies in the operational plan in the event of inadvertent disclosure of the agent's identity; and
- h) Training in the management of police officers by an Accredited Police Training Institution, or by an accredited instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as approved by the Department of Justice.

## Major Case Management

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service, regarding Major Case Management (MCM), including:
  - a) Training and supervision of investigative personnel that meets MCM principles;
  - b) MCM investigative techniques;
  - c) Deployment of, or formalization of access to, serious criminal investigative resources in an appropriate manner; and
  - d) Assistance and supervision with training delivered by an Accredited Police Training Institution, or by an accredited instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as approved by the Department of Justice, on the deployment of serious criminal investigative resources, or formalized access to these resources.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding MCM and investigative techniques shall include:
  - a) Training from an Accredited Police Training Institution, or by an accredited instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as approved by the Department of Justice, of major crime investigators required to provide skills necessary to successfully evaluate, assess, and plan a serious criminal investigation;
  - b) The requirement for the investigational processes to adhere to MCM principles and the effective utilization of investigative techniques;
  - c) The requirement for all Serious Criminal Offence primary investigators to have successfully completed MCM training from an Accredited Police Training Institution, or by an accredited instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as approved by the Department of Justice; and
  - d) The requirement of all Serious Criminal Offence Investigators to have successfully completed introductory MCM training from an Accredited Police Training Institution, or by an accredited instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as approved by the Department of Justice, or to have relevant experience through case work with their agency.

## National Security and Counterterrorism

### Legislation and Ministerial Directives

1. The RCMP has primary responsibility under sec. 6(1) of the *Security Offences Act* for investigating “threats to the security of Canada” as defined in section 2 of the *Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act*, or threats or criminal acts against an Internationally Protected Person contrary to section 424 of the *Criminal Code*.
2. It is the responsibility of the RCMP Commissioner to ensure that operational policies are in place to guide members. It is also the responsibility of the Commissioner to ensure that all investigations with respect to matters that fall under section 6(1) of the *Security Offences Act*, and investigations related to a terrorist offence or Terrorist Activity, as defined in section 2 of the *Criminal Code*, be centrally coordinated at RCMP National Headquarters. Central coordination will enhance the Commissioner’s operational accountability and, in turn, will enhance ministerial accountability by facilitating the Commissioner’s reporting to the Minister.

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or have formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service, as applicable, for the police agency regarding national security and terrorism-related crime, including:
  - a) Training for police officers delivered by an Accredited Police Training Institution, or by an accredited instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as prescribed by the Government of Canada;
  - b) National security and counterterrorism preparedness;
  - c) Initial police response and investigation into any criminal event within their police jurisdiction;
  - d) Police supervision and management of police response and investigation;
  - e) Liaising with the RCMP when a criminal investigation or event is perceived to be of a national security or terrorism-related nature, and the continuation of the investigation until a determination to transition the investigation to the RCMP is agreed upon; and
  - f) Continued cooperation of the investigation, to the extent it is possible, to support the RCMP-led investigation upon transition.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding national security and terrorist-related crime established under section 2 of this standard shall recognize that the primary

focus is to gather, utilize, and properly share criminal intelligence through appropriate networks internationally, nationally, provincially, and locally, with a goal of identifying, preventing, and effectively combating any threat to national security in coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding national security established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall address all the following:
  - a) Counterterrorism:
    - i. Identification of listed terrorists or groups engaged in Terrorist Activity;
    - ii. Identification of agencies suspected of funding listed entities or Terrorist Activities within the jurisdiction of the police agency;
    - iii. Identification of persons or groups promoting Violent Extremism; and/or
    - iv. Identification of organized criminals with affiliations to Terrorist Groups.
  - b) Critical Infrastructure, including coordination and response planning to security issues of public utilities and facilities;
  - c) Cyber-security, including coordination and response planning to security issues of internet systems, including:
    - i. Identification of cyber-crime groups or persons located within the jurisdiction of the police agency;
    - ii. Digital infrastructure involving financial institutions;
    - iii. Coordination with law enforcement or other agencies involved with the investigation of cyber-crime; and/or
    - iv. Coordination with Public Safety Canada through the Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre, as appropriate.
  - d) Transportation systems, including coordination and response planning to security issues of transportation systems, including:
    - i. Railways;
    - ii. Ports and marine vessel transport;
    - iii. Aircraft terminals, runways, and maintenance facilities; and/or
    - iv. Highway infrastructure.
  - e) Constitutional and common law protections.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding appropriate police response and investigation of national security and terrorism-related crime established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall include:



- a) Formalizing regular contact with RCMP National Security Unit in conjunction with provincial and/or national agencies, as required.

## Organized Crime

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service related to organized crime, including:
  - a) Training by an Accredited Police Training Institution, or by an accredited instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as approved by the Department of Justice;
  - b) Risks associated with infiltration of organized crime, including vulnerable and marginal members of society, justice system participants, and the financial community;
  - c) Appropriate police response and investigation of organized crime;
  - d) Maintenance of secure records; and
  - e) Supervision and management of police response and investigation of organized crime.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service related to organized crime established under section 2 of this standard shall do all the following:
  - a) Recognize that the primary focus is to gather, utilize and properly share criminal intelligence through appropriate networks nationally, provincially, and locally to identify and effectively combat organized crime groups in coordination with other law enforcement agencies; and
  - b) Ensure compliance with legal requirements.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service related to risks associated with infiltration to organized crime established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall address all the following:
  - a) Regarding respectful investigations involving individuals who have been:
    - i. Involved in sex work or human smuggling and trafficking;
    - ii. Involved in drug-trafficking or tobacco smuggling;
    - iii. Victims of drug abuse or addiction; and

- iv. Victims of criminal extortion or illegal money-lending practices.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service related to appropriate police response and investigation of organized crime established under subsection 2(c) of this standard shall include:
- a) Formalizing contact with Local Intelligence Officers (LIOs) in conjunction with provincial or national agencies, as required;
  - b) Maintaining the Provincially approved information management system pertaining to intelligence regarding organized crime within the police agency and providing a system of appropriate analysis of the criminal intelligence; and
  - c) Delegating a supervisor to regularly monitor the results of the ongoing analysis of criminal intelligence for identification of appropriate police investigation and action.
6. Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service related to the maintenance of secure records pertaining to criminal intelligence established under subsection 2(d) of this standard shall include:
- a) Source(s) of criminal intelligence;
  - b) Corroborative information pertaining to criminal intelligence;
  - c) Categorization of criminal intelligence;
  - d) A dissemination process for specific criminal intelligence, including a record of requests and provision of intelligence;
  - e) Relevance of criminal intelligence and effective processes of updating, where necessary;
  - f) The necessity of maintaining confidentiality; and
  - g) An internal audit process to ensure compliance with this standard.

## Police Dog Services

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Police Dog Services, including:
  - a) Training delivered by an Accredited Police Training Institution or by an accredited instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as approved by the Department of Justice;
  - b) Appropriate use, based on accreditations, for deployment of police dogs, including:
    - i. Tracking or searching for persons who may have committed, or may be about to commit, an offence;
    - ii. Apprehending persons by police dog bite or display;
    - iii. Tracking or searching for missing or lost persons;
    - iv. Searching for drugs;
    - v. Searching for explosives or firearms;
    - vi. Searching for evidence; and
    - vii. Community relations and other demonstration events.
  - c) Supervision of the use and deployment of Police Dog Services.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Police Dog Services established under this standard shall ensure the use and deployment of Police Dog Services is compliant with the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and criminal law.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding training of Police Dog Services established under section 2(a) shall include:
  - a) Providing regular, specific training and mentorship:
    - i. Ensure that every Dog Handler and their assigned dog successfully complete a training course for police dog work either with an Accredited Police Training Institution, or an accredited instructor within another police agency, or another organization as approved by the Department of Justice, and are qualified to perform the operational functions specifically authorized; and

- ii. Require that Dog Handlers take steps to ensure that police dog bites must be minimized as much as reasonably possible and must be proportional to the risk posed to the Dog Handler and to others.
  - b) Maintaining records of training.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding supervision of the use and deployment of Police Dog Services established under this standard shall include:
- a) Supervision of Police Dog Services at all deployments;
  - b) The maintenance and review of full documentation for each Police Dog Services deployment; and
  - c) Reporting obligations, in accordance with Nova Scotia Provincial Policing Standards regarding Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force.

## Police Forensic Identification Services

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, as applicable, for the police agency regarding police forensic identification services, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service, for:
  - a) The establishment of, or formalization of access to, a police forensic identification service.
  - b) Ensuring the police forensic identification services are composed of forensic identification specialists, holding a position within the police forensic identification service;
  - c) Ensuring forensic identification specialists receive training while employed in providing forensic identification services by an Accredited Police Training Institution and are properly qualified and certified;
  - d) Appropriate use and deployment of, or formalization of access to, police forensic identification services and equipment; and
  - e) Supervision of all aspects of the use and deployment of police forensic identification services.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding police forensic identification services must comply with the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and accepted criminal law practices.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the training, qualification, and certification of police personnel, including Scene of Crime Officers and Property Crime Examiners, employed to provide police forensic identification services shall include:
  - a) Providing regular mentorship and specific training by an Accredited Police Training Institution;
  - b) Maintaining appropriate records of training; and
  - c) Training from police forensic identification specialists with standardized proficiency testing for the training from a third-party Accredited Police Training Institution.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the supervision of the use and deployment of police forensic identification services established under this standard shall include:
  - a) Appropriate supervision of all the following:

- i. Services provided;
  - ii. Policies, procedures, or protocols while deployed; and
  - iii. Case and file management adherence.
- b) Regular maintenance and review of necessary full documentation for an After Action Report, produced following every police forensic identification service deployment.

## Suspect Surveillance Services

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Suspect Surveillance Services, for all the following:
  - a) Training by an Accredited Police Training Institution, or by a recognized instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as approved by the Department of Justice, to ensure appropriate training for all surveillance operators;
  - b) The establishment of Suspect Surveillance Services, or the formal request for access to such services using appropriate internal forms;
  - c) Ensuring all forms of Suspect Surveillance are authorized and lawfully undertaken;
  - d) Appropriate criteria in deciding upon the scope of Suspect Surveillance, including priority level;
  - e) Appropriateness of partial surveillance; and
  - f) Supervision of all aspects of the use and deployment of Suspect Surveillance Services.



## Undercover Investigations

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, as applicable, for the police agency, or have formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for Undercover Investigations, for all the following:
  - a) Training of undercover operators and cover person of an undercover team by an Accredited Police Training Institution, or by an accredited instructor within another police agency, or by another organization as approved by the Department of Justice;
  - b) Deployment of Undercover Investigation resources, which are conducted in a safe and appropriate manner;
  - c) Management, supervision, and review of police Undercover Investigations; and
  - d) Necessary support staff as appropriate for an Undercover Investigation.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for Undercover Investigations shall include:
  - a) An operations plan with requirements for an Undercover Investigation, including:
    - i. Overall objectives of the Undercover Investigation;
    - ii. Seriousness of the offence(s);
    - iii. Impact of an Undercover Investigation to the overall investigation;
    - iv. Whether other investigative techniques are required prior to the deployment of undercover operators;
    - v. Whether other investigative techniques could sufficiently address investigational goals;
    - vi. Risk analysis and threat assessment to the deployment of the undercover operators, cover team, and agent(s), as applicable;
    - vii. Risk analysis and threat assessment associated with infiltration of an undercover operator;
    - viii. Resource requirements;
    - ix. Availability of qualified undercover operators, cover officers, cover team, and undercover coordinator; and

- x. Any other factors that may raise issues of concern specific to the investigation under consideration.
- b) Prior planning of Undercover Investigations, including:
- i. The scope of the investigation regarding specific, related, and collateral targets, and/or offences;
  - ii. Expected duration;
  - iii. Required resources;
  - iv. Threat and risk assessments;
  - v. Security measures to ensure strict confidentiality, including the protection of undercover operators' identities in disclosure and covert proceedings, to ensure officer safety and to protect ongoing and/or future investigations from being compromised;
  - vi. Undercover protection plans;
  - vii. Takedown plans; and
  - viii. Any other pertinent operational plans that may be specific to the investigation, including de-confliction if appropriate.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol shall require Undercover Investigations to be compliant with criminal law and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

## Violent Crime and Linkage Analysis (ViCLAS)

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols regarding Violent Crime and Linkage Analysis, including:
  - a) Directing in what instances use of ViCLAS is appropriate;
  - b) Establishing access to ViCLAS under a formalized agreement provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice;
  - c) Recognizing that the primary focus will be to fully participate in the police use of ViCLAS through appropriate reporting of details of certain crimes and to use the system's analysis to aid with the investigation;
  - d) Ensuring proper reporting of specific offence details according to the most up-to-date guidelines of ViCLAS policies;
  - e) Ensuring proper use and consideration of the ViCLAS Crime Analysis Report;
  - f) Addressing the necessity of maintaining confidentiality of all aspects of information pertaining to ViCLAS Crime Analysis Reports;
  - g) Ensuring appropriate review and supervision of all incidents that meet the current guidelines of ViCLAS reporting policies; and
  - h) Ensuring police supervision and management of use of ViCLAS.

## Part 3 – Police Service

### Community Patrol and Service Response

#### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Community Patrol and Service Response, including:
  - a) Proactive Community Patrol;
  - b) The prioritization of calls for service response (24/7) that includes the identification of routine, urgent, and emergency calls;
  - c) The supervision and management of Community Patrols; and
  - d) When practical, notifying complainant of outcome of police action.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Community Patrols established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Crime prevention and reduction of public safety vulnerability;
  - b) Promotion and maintenance of public safety;
  - c) Opportunity for reporting of crime;
  - d) Sharing of information on criminal activity to other policing agencies;
  - e) Enhanced cultural proficiency relative to community needs; and
  - f) Any other subjects the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer considers necessary.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding service response established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Coordination and scheduling of personnel and resources to meet demands, per the agency's collective agreement;
  - b) Supervision of police response activities, including ongoing and post-response;
  - c) Maintenance of proper communication with complainants or victims of crime and the public, when necessary;
  - d) Follow-up investigation, when required;

- e) Notification to, involvement of, and coordination with other agencies, when appropriate; and
- f) Any other subjects the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer considers necessary.

## Missing Persons Investigations

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding lost or missing persons, for all the following:
  - a) Pre-incident Planning;
  - b) Appropriate response and investigation of incidents of lost or missing persons; and
  - c) Police supervision and management of police response to incidents of lost or missing persons.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding lost and/or missing persons shall recognize the primary focus is the safety and security of the public and police personnel at all times when providing timely response to incidents of lost or missing persons;
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding police response and investigation of lost or missing persons established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall include:
  - a) Lost or missing person complaint, including establishing criteria:
    - i. For determining whether the initial complaint requires police action;
    - ii. For a reasonable assessment of the immediacy of required police action;
    - iii. To utilize lawful, appropriate investigational police techniques to search for the missing person and to obtain information to further the investigation, including record-access orders and search orders;
    - iv. For a reasonably based deployment of resources to address the complaint; and
    - v. For a reasonable determination of support services required at the outset and during the immediate future of the investigation.
  - b) Criminal evidentiary requirements until police can rule out criminal activity and any further police response is strictly limited to aiding the public;
  - c) Deployment of police resources, according to established criteria, to provide a sufficient response to the complaint, including:
    - i. Major case or serious crime investigative resources; and/or

- ii. Specific, dedicated police support resources, including internal or external canine services, underwater search and recovery teams, air services, and additional personnel from other police agencies.
  - d) Deployment of other resources, according to an assessment of risk and capacity, to provide a sufficient response to the complaint, including assistance from one or more of the following:
    - i. Ground Search and Rescue teams;
    - ii. The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables;
    - iii. Fire services;
    - iv. Federal, provincial, or municipal park staff;
    - v. The Joint Rescue Coordination Centre;
    - vi. The Department of National Defence;
    - vii. Community volunteer agencies; and/or
    - viii. Any other government or non-governmental agency as necessary depending upon the circumstances of the investigation or assistance being provided.
- 5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding police supervision and management of police response to incidents of lost or missing persons established under subsection 2(c) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Internal and external communications, including:
    - i. The victim's family, relative, or care giver;
    - ii. A media liaison;
    - iii. Other police or enforcement agencies; and
    - iv. Other support agencies if appropriate.
  - b) Establishing criteria to provide for current information briefings to be forwarded to the Minister where circumstances warrant governmental notification.

## Parental and Non-parental Child Abduction

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service, for the police agency regarding Child Abductions, for all the following:
  - a) Abduction where parents, family members, or foster parents appear to be involved;
  - b) Abduction where parents, family members, or family members do not appear to be involved; and
  - c) Police supervision and management of police response.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Child Abductions established under section 2 of this standard shall address:
  - a) Timely community notification of programs such as the Amber Alert Program;
  - b) Area-specific alerts;
  - c) Provincial and national border crossings;
  - d) Liaising with local, regional, and national agencies involving transportation centres; and
  - e) Coordination with criminal intelligence resources, such as ViCLAS.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Child Abductions established under subsection 2(a) of this standard, and in which it appears the parents, family members, or foster parents may be involved, shall address:
  - a) Custody and access orders;
  - b) Determination of the extent of jurisdiction of an access, custody, or apprehension order;
  - c) Involvement of social services; and
  - d) Any statutory or regulatory reporting requirements.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Child Abductions established under subsection 2(b) of this standard, and where it appears that the parents, family members, or foster parents are not involved, shall address:
  - a) The factors identified in section 4 of this standard;



- b) The geographical analysis of known offenders, with attention to child sexual offenders and child predators; and
  - c) Coordination of information with agencies involved in registration of child abuse matters, and other Child Protection Agencies.
6. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding police supervision and management of police response established under subsection 2(c) of this standard shall address:
- a) Statutory or regulatory reporting requirements;
  - b) A requirement for incident referral to the appropriate social service agency; and
  - c) A requirement for community notification to be made and updated in a timely fashion.

## Response to Vulnerable Persons

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Vulnerable Persons, for all the following:
  - a) Coordination, assistance, and involvement of social services agencies to assist in interaction with Vulnerable Persons, when required;
  - b) Appropriate reporting of incidents involving Vulnerable Persons, where required by law;
  - c) Police supervision and management of incidents involving Vulnerable Persons; and
  - d) Management of public communications related to Vulnerable Persons.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Vulnerable Persons established under section 2(b) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Appropriate responses to incidents requiring police intervention, including:
    - i. Training for police officers of vulnerability factors;
    - ii. Information regarding social service agencies that may assist; and
    - iii. Information and training in reporting of incidents involving Vulnerable Persons, as required by statutes and regulations.
  - b) Minimizing, as much as possible, the exacerbation of a person's vulnerability through necessary contact, intervention by police, and public communication.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding supervision and management of incidents established under subsection 2(c) of this standard shall address all the following:
  - a) Statutory or regulatory reporting of the incident involving the Vulnerable Person;
  - b) Statutory or regulatory referrals to an appropriate social services agency; and
  - c) Whether the vulnerabilities of the person should be and have been fully disclosed in incidents leading to prosecution.

## Search and Seizure

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding search and seizure, for all the following:
  - a) The relevant law on search and seizure;
  - b) The investigation process for various types of police searches and subsequent seizure of evidence; and
  - c) Police supervision and management.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol relating to search and seizure established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address the following:
  - a) Section 8 of the *Canadian Charter Rights and Freedoms* of all persons against unreasonable search and seizure, including a person's expectation of privacy in circumstances established by the common law;
  - b) Responsibility of the police to apply for judicial authority prior to conducting any search and seizure action that may contravene a person's privacy rights unless exigent circumstances exist;
  - c) Evidence seized by police and possession of exhibits for a specific lawful purpose, for a specified period of time; and
  - d) Compliance with current Canadian law.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding investigations established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall address all the following:
  - a) Searches without a search warrant;
  - b) Consent searches;
  - c) Search incident to arrest;
  - d) Protective searches pursuant to investigative detention;
  - e) Search in exigent circumstances; and
  - f) Production orders.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the search of a person shall address:

- a) Searches incident to arrest;
  - b) Field searches for police officer safety;
  - c) Searches involving intrusion on bodily integrity, including strip searches, body cavity searches, and searches to obtain bodily samples and/or impressions;
  - d) The need for a qualified medical practitioner;
  - e) Gender identification;
  - f) Persons with disabilities;
  - g) Young persons; and
  - h) Recognition of specific cultural and/or religious requirements.
6. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the search of a place shall address the following:
- a) Multiple-unit residences;
  - b) Corroboration of civic addresses;
  - c) Areas not commonly recognized as living quarters;
  - d) Areas of property bordering dwelling; and
  - e) Outbuilding and appurtenances.
7. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the search of a mode of transportation shall address all the following:
- a) The specific nature of different types of modes of transportation and how each may be used during a search;
  - b) Whether prior judicial authorization is required;
  - c) Whether any specific logistical equipment and/or personnel are required to safely and successfully search a mode of transport; and
  - d) The potential for loss or destruction of evidence due to the transient nature of the transportation.
8. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the execution of a search warrant shall address:
- a) The safety and security of all persons possibly involved in the search;
  - b) Confirmation, by all police personnel involved in the search, of their personal knowledge regarding the search warrant, including:
    - i. Issuing authority of the warrant;

- ii. Scope of the warrant;
  - iii. Authorized time period for the search;
  - iv. Item(s), information, or data sought pursuant to the warrant; and
  - v. Any legal parameters regarding seizure of evidence outside the scope of the warrant.
- c) Availability of appropriate personnel and equipment;
  - d) Compliance with occupational health and safety practices;
  - e) Compliance with safe and secure practices for seizing evidence to ensure proper recording, handling, and maintenance of such evidence; and
  - f) Reporting to the issuing authority of any exhibits seized and held for the court, and, if necessary, application to the judicial authority to maintain control of the seized exhibits subject to conditions that the judicial authority thinks appropriate.
- 9.** Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the supervision of a search warrant shall address all the following:
- a) Review, scrutiny, and approval by a police supervisor prior to the application for a search warrant, or as soon as practicable thereafter;
  - b) Preparation of complete and accurate search warrant applications; and
  - c) Any security requirements during the application process, in accordance with common law and statutory requirements.

## Technological and Internet-Related Crime

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding technological and internet-related crime, for:
  - a) Training of internet-related criminal investigation personnel including utilization of advanced technological skills and knowledge;
  - b) Deployment of internet-related criminal investigation resources; and
  - c) The establishment of a full-time internet-related criminal investigative unit or formalized access to a specialized internet-related criminal investigative unit.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding internet-related criminal investigations established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address all the following:
  - a) Compliance with criminal law; and
  - b) Current state of available technology.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding an internet-related criminal investigative unit shall address:
  - a) The unit's ability to provide investigative support to other police units, including technical assistance for evidence search and seizure requirements;
  - b) The unit's ability to provide basic investigative training on internet-related crime to frontline officers; and
  - c) The conducting of proactive and reactive investigations in accordance with the established mandate of the internet-related criminal investigative unit.
5. A policy, procedure, or protocol established pursuant to sections 2, 3, and 4 above shall adhere to current technologically advanced methods to ensure evidentiary standards of admissibility at a criminal trial.

## Traffic Law Enforcement

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding traffic law enforcement, for:
  - a) Enforcement of traffic laws;
  - b) Promotion of vehicle and pedestrian safety; and
  - c) Supervision and management of traffic.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding traffic laws established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address all the following police responsibilities:
  - a) Traffic management;
  - b) Response to, and investigation of, motor vehicle collisions;
  - c) Enforcement of traffic laws (both criminal and regulatory);
  - d) Promotion of traffic safety, including:
    - i. Impaired driving;
    - ii. Occupant restraints; and
    - iii. Distracted driving.
  - e) Review and supervision of all duties related to the oversight of traffic laws.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding traffic management established under subsection 3(a) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Weather-related traffic issues; and
  - b) Public events on highways where public safety is, or is likely to be, at risk.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding response to, and investigation of, motor vehicle collisions established under subsection 3(b) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Provincial reporting requirements of motor vehicle and off-highway vehicle collisions;
  - b) Operator impairment;
  - c) Failing to remain at the scene of a motor vehicle collision; and

- d) Motor vehicle collision investigation, including:
  - i. Having members, or having formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service with members, trained and accredited to conduct collision analysis including possession the skills and equipment necessary to conduct;
  - ii. Advanced Collision Analysis;
  - iii. Traffic Accident Reconstruction and Crash Data Retrieval;
  - iv. Operator breath and bodily fluid analysis and Operator impairment investigation.
- e) Motor vehicle mechanical safety, including:
  - i. Examination of a vehicle by a qualified motor vehicle inspector to determine the operational state of the motor vehicle; and
- f) Control, recording, and disposition of seized or impounded motor vehicles.



## Vehicle Pursuits

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, as applicable, for the police agency regarding vehicle pursuits, for all the following:
  - a) The pursuit of persons in vehicles suspected of criminal offences; and
  - b) Supervision and review of the police response to the vehicle pursuit.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding police response to vehicle pursuits established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address:
  - a) The police duty to apprehend criminal suspects expediently and with due diligence regarding public safety;
  - b) Alternative methods to terminate a pursuit;
  - c) Lawful grounds to apprehend a suspect pursuant to common law and the *Criminal Code*;
  - d) The principle of public safety being of paramount importance during any apprehension of a suspect;
  - e) Requirements for continued assessment of inherent risks in vehicle pursuits;
  - f) Requirements and concerns regarding cross-jurisdictional pursuits;
  - g) Immediate reporting to police supervisors, including:
    - i. Evaluation and reporting of situational risk factors;
    - ii. Brief and concise overview of reasons for attempted apprehension; and
    - iii. Known identification information.
  - h) Continuous updating of information depending on contextual factors such as the nature, length, duration, and location of a vehicle pursuit.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding supervision and review of vehicle pursuits established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Evaluation of the vehicle pursuit situation, including:
    - i. Risk assessment of situational factors, such as the nature of the pursuit, the location of the pursuit, reasons for initiating vehicle pursuit, and any

- potential threats to public safety of continuing or abandoning the pursuit;  
and
  - ii. Continuous risk assessment of information provided through various sources, such as pursuing police officers, information relating to the ongoing incident from other enforcement agencies, and specific public reporting of information relating to the ongoing incident.
- b) Police supervision providing clear and immediate direction to pursuing police officers, including whether to:
- i. Abandon or continue the pursuit;
  - ii. Deploy additional resources to continue pursuit;
  - iii. Provide an alternate apprehension plan if abandonment is required;
  - iv. Consider other available options related to apprehension; and
  - v. Commence communications with other police services.
- c) The requirement for police supervisors to examine the outcome on the conclusion of the incident, and conditions under which a situational review of the incident may be held with involved employees to share the conclusions of the examination.

## Part 4 – Records Management

### Legal Advice

#### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding legal advice, for:
  - a) The request for, provision of, and consideration of legal advice by the police; and
  - b) Supervision of the request for, provision, of and consideration of legal advice.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding legal advice established under section 2 of this standard shall address:
  - a) Police discretion to decide whether to proceed by way of a charge and the nature of a charge;
  - b) Police duty to consider advice when provided from appropriate resources relating to investigatory or operational procedures;
  - c) The role and responsibility of the Public Prosecution Service for a matter once the police have decided to proceed with a charge;
  - d) The necessary cooperation between police and the Public Prosecution Service in assembling sufficient evidence to achieve a prosecution in the best interests of justice and/or the public;
  - e) Principles regarding privileged communications pursuant to common law and statutory requirements; and
  - f) Arrangements for the proper provision of legal advice through independent legal counsel, in-house legal counsel, a Public Prosecution Service(s), and/or a combination of such legal counsel services.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the request for, provision of and consideration of legal advice established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address all the following:
  - a) Which agency or agencies have agreed to provide legal advice;
  - b) The appropriate manner and form of a request for legal advice, in consideration of the sufficiency of information, urgency, and timeliness of the request and expected response;

- c) Disclosure to subsequent legal counsel of any previous legal advice on the particular issue;
  - d) Appropriate recording of the legal advice to address privilege issues; and
  - e) Appropriate recording of consideration of the legal advice.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the supervision of the request for, provision of, and consideration of legal advice established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall address:
- a) The basis for a request;
  - b) Timeliness of a request and the response; and
  - c) Proper consideration of legal advice provided.

## Police Interim Release

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding the release of a person charged with an offence, for:
  - a) Police interim release;
  - b) Judicial interim release; and
  - c) Supervision of the release of persons in custody for pending appearances before a Justice.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the release of a person charged with an offence shall ensure:
  - a) Compliance with fundamental rights and principles of common law and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; and
  - b) Production of all necessary information to the Public Prosecution Service, pertaining to issues of public safety and crime prevention that may affect the interim release of a person in custody.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding interim release established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address all the following:
  - a) Requirements of Part XVI of the *Criminal Code*; and
  - b) Preparation of a prosecution file, pursuant to this standard.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding preparing the prosecution file for judicial interim release established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall address all the following:
  - a) Witness, victim, and/or complainant security issues;
  - b) Co-accused security issues;
  - c) Information indicating a potential for the accused to breach certain release conditions;
  - d) Information regarding the accused person's previous history of compliance with previous release conditions;

- e) Substance abuse and/or addiction information that may impact the accused person's potential ability to comply with certain release conditions;
  - f) Criminal affiliations of the accused person that may impact the accused person's likelihood of compliance with certain release conditions; and
  - g) Information from other jurisdictions that may impact the accused person's likelihood of compliance with certain release conditions.
- 6.** Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding supervision of the release of persons in custody for pending appearances before a Justice established under subsection 2(c) of this standard shall address:
- a) Ongoing review to ensure compliance with police protocols and policies;
  - b) Appropriateness and consistency of decisions;
  - c) Preparation of prosecution files in a timely and complete manner; and
  - d) Appropriate disclosure of the prosecution file.

## Police Investigation Records

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Police Investigation Records, for:
  - a) Appropriate recording of the results of all police investigations; and
  - b) Supervision and management of recording of the results of all police investigations.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Police Investigation Records shall be established within the following parameters:
  - a) The primary focus is to provide a framework to ensure that all aspects of police investigation are recorded and stored for ready access and referral; and
  - b) Proper recording of investigational activities is a crucial aspect of ensuring police accountability and service delivery.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding appropriate recording of the results of all police investigations established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Incident reporting, including appropriate recording of all pertinent police service requests, and specifying information to identify all critical aspects known at the time of the request;
  - b) Investigation reporting, including appropriate recording of all police activity conducted regarding the initial call for service until such time as the investigation file has concluded;
  - c) Police officers' notes, including appropriate self-recording of all individual police officers' activities conducted while on duty regarding information that may assist the police officer in memory recollection; and
  - d) Archiving of police reports pursuant to agency retention policy.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding police supervision and management of recording of the results of all police investigations established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Appropriate supervision to ensure proper compliance; and
  - b) Maintenance of an internal audit process to ensure compliance of incident reports, investigation reports, and police officers' notes.

## Property Handling and Seized Property Management

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding property handling and seized property management, for:
  - a) Control and management of the property; and
  - b) Supervision of control and management of the property.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding property handling and seized property management established under section 2 of this standard shall be established within the following parameters:
  - a) The primary focus is always the safety and security of the public and police personnel;
  - b) Reasonably ensuring that all properties lawfully and securely held by police respect evidentiary standards to maintain admissibility of the property for purposes of the administration of justice; and
  - c) Recognition that to be lawfully and securely held by police, all property shall be retained upon specific statutory or common law authority, subject only to a valid order from the court.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding appropriate control and management of all property by police established under subsection 2(a) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Criteria, established prior to seizure, to ensure planning of the seizure of the property and, where applicable, to coordinate adequate assistance from related agencies;
  - b) Prior lawful restraint of property by police pursuant to common law, statutory authority, or an order of the court, including one or more of the following types of orders:
    - i. Interim Preservation Order;
    - ii. Forfeiture Order;
    - iii. Management Order;
    - iv. Protection Order;



- v. Restraint Order; and
  - vi. Any other lawful order of the court placing restrictions on ordinary use and enjoyment of seized property pursuant to this standard.
- c) Initial seizure of property, including criteria to document all information necessary to ensure complete identification of seized property, including all the following:
- i. Date, time, and place of seizure;
  - ii. Identification of seizing police officer(s);
  - iii. Description of the article being seized;
  - iv. Information if custody of seized property was turned over to another police officer(s) or other authorized personnel at the time of the initial seizure; and
  - v. Electronic recording of the exhibit, as required.
- d) Storage of the seized property requiring enhanced storage requirements, including:
- i. Larger than routine storage;
  - ii. Off-site storage;
  - iii. Enhanced security;
  - iv. Ongoing maintenance to preserve asset value;
  - v. Enhanced personnel and equipment as supplied through support agencies; and
  - vi. Other asset-specific requirements necessary to secure and preserve seized property.
- e) Establishing criteria to provide documentation for:
- i. The transport, reception, and storage of the exhibit to the secure exhibit facility; and
  - ii. Any subsequent handling of the exhibit during storage, sampling for further analysis, or audit processes.
- f) Examination or analysis of the seized property and establishing criteria to provide documentation for all the following:
- i. All investigational contact with the seized property during detention, including sampling, direct analysis, and use for copying, photography, demonstration, or measurements; and

- ii. All third-party contact with the seized property during detention, including contact with or viewing of the exhibit by defence counsel, as approved through the relevant office of the Public Prosecution Service.
- g) Disposition of the seized property and criteria to provide documentation for final disposition of the seized property from police detention, including all the following:
  - i. Submission of the seized property to a court during a criminal prosecution;
  - ii. Return to the rightful owner, as confirmed and/or determined by the court;
  - iii. Ordered turned over to a new rightful owner, as determined by the court;
  - iv. Forfeiture of the seized property to the Crown;
  - v. Destruction of the seized property; and
  - vi. Any other lawful court order or statutory authority regarding ownership and possession.
- 5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the supervision of control and management of seized property established under subsection 2(b) of this standard shall address:
  - a) Establishing criteria to provide monitoring of all seized property handling; and
  - b) Storage to ensure audit compliance through supervision and reporting systems.

## Prosecution Files and Court Dockets

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding prosecution files and court documents, for:
  - a) Preparation and management of prosecution files;
  - b) Preparation and management of court dockets; and
  - c) Supervision and review of the preparation and management of prosecution files and court dockets.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding prosecution files and court dockets established under section 2 of this standard shall address:
  - a) Police duties recognizing fundamental rights and principles of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*;
  - b) Police responsibility to ensure all necessary information pertaining to criminal charges be provided in a timely manner and in an appropriate format, pursuant to principles of common law and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; and
  - c) Local, regional, and provincial court procedures in preparation and management of prosecution files and court dockets, in compliance with the *Criminal Code* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the preparation and management of prosecution files, pursuant to section 2(a) of this standard, includes:
  - a) When commencing prosecution in accordance with common law and under an enactment of Parliament of Canada or an enactment of the Legislature of Nova Scotia:
    - i. The requirement for reasonable grounds of belief the person has committed an offence;
    - ii. The authority of the Attorney General of the Province of Nova Scotia to initiate the private prosecution of an accused/defendant when warranted subsequent to an investigation; and
    - iii. In relation to summary offence charges, adaptation of the prosecution file to the summary offence.

- b) Federal, provincial, and/or municipal Public Prosecution Services requirements in bringing a matter to court;
  - c) The following content in a prosecution file, where applicable:
    - i. Copy of sworn information;
    - ii. Copies of documents commanding appearance before a Justice;
    - iii. Documentation relating to interim release from arrest pending appearance before a Justice;
    - iv. Court brief summarizing the evidence supporting the charge(s);
    - v. Witness list summarizing the evidence expected to be presented through witness testimony;
    - vi. Witness statements;
    - vii. Criminal record of the accused;
    - viii. Statement(s) of the accused;
    - ix. Forensic report summarizing evidence to be presented through expert testimony;
    - x. Audio and/or visual surveillance reports;
    - xi. Exhibit list and descriptions; and
    - xii. Any other pertinent information applicable to the prosecution of the matter.
  - d) Where items listed in subsection 4(c) of this standard are not available at the initial stage of prosecution, an approved supplemental disclosure package should be submitted to a supervisory for review;
  - e) Prompt and timely disclosure of information to the prosecution for distribution to the defence to meet Nova Scotia Provincial Prosecution Service Disclosure timelines;
  - f) Information to be disclosed to the defence is recorded in a compatible format to allow for proper vetting and disclosure;
  - g) Any concerns regarding disclosure of information are brought to the prosecution in a timely manner; and
  - h) Recognition that disclosure is an ongoing obligation.
- 5.** Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding preparation and management of court dockets, pursuant to section 2(b) of this standard, shall address:

- a) Accused or defendant identification;
  - b) Offences according to charge and relevant statute;
  - c) Date, time, and identification of court; and
  - d) Any other pertinent information applicable to the prosecution of the matter or required by court.
6. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the supervision and review of the preparation and management of prosecution files and court dockets, pursuant to subsection 2(c) of this standard, shall require:
- a) Decisions made under this standard are consistent;
  - b) Any decision to proceed with prosecution of an offence considered alternate measures as provided by the Minister as part of the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program;
  - c) Any prosecution is appropriately established through admissible evidence obtained during the investigation;
  - d) Completion of prosecution files and/or any follow-up information was provided in a timely manner; and
  - e) Appropriate disclosure was made in conjunction with the prosecution file.

## Public Policy Publication Standard

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure that all police agencies make policies, procedures, and protocols publicly available when they pertain to:
  - a) The governance of interaction between the police and the public;
  - b) The manner in which police services are provided to the public; and
  - c) Communication with the public.
3. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer may assess and determine where a policy, procedure, and protocol, or a portion thereof, is deemed confidential, is subject to common law rules of privilege (e.g., investigative techniques), or meets statutory exceptions to disclosure, and in so doing may exempt the publication of the policy, procedure, and protocol, or a portion thereof.

## Warrants and Other Judicial Authorizations

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding warrants and other judicial authorizations, for all the following:
  - a) Officer training on application for and execution of judicially authorized orders;
  - b) Applications for judicially authorized orders by the police;
  - c) Execution of judicially authorized orders by the police;
  - d) Supervision of applications and execution of judicially authorized orders; and
  - e) Judicial compliance with appropriate legal foundations, common law, statutory authority, and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
3. A policy, procedure, or protocol regarding officer training established under this standard shall address all the following regarding warrants and judicial authorizations:
  - a) Statutory requirements;
  - b) Admissibility of evidence and information;
  - c) Legal and constitutional requirements; and
  - d) Ongoing mentorship for officers required to apply for an execution of judicial authorization.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding applications for judicial authorization established under this standard shall address:
  - a) Situations that necessitate the use of certain investigatory procedures;
  - b) Appropriate manner and form of an application, including:
    - i. Sufficiency of information;
    - ii. Urgency and timeliness of an application;
    - iii. Consideration of seeking judicial authority for certain specific measures required to properly address the circumstances of the proposed police action; and
    - iv. Consideration of seeking a sealing order.

- c) Presentation of application to an appropriate level of judicial authority; and
  - d) Legal advice or representation while preparing and presenting the application, if required.
5. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the execution of judicially authorized orders established under subsection 2(c) of this standard shall address the appropriate manner of execution for all the following:
- a) Statutory requirements;
  - b) Adversarial nature of the process;
  - c) Security requirements of the information and/or evidence sought;
  - d) Privilege issues of innocent third parties arising from execution of the order;
  - e) Public and police safety and security issues; and
  - f) Post-execution requirements to preserve jurisdiction of the information and/or evidence seized.
6. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the supervision of applications and execution of judicially authorized orders established under subsection 2(d) of this standard shall address:
- a) Ongoing review of application and execution processes;
  - b) Proper justification for requests;
  - c) Timeliness of application and execution;
  - d) Proper post-execution reporting;
  - e) Proper handling of evidence and/or information obtained pursuant to the judicially authorized order; and
  - f) Identification of training issues.



## Part 5 – Use of Force

### Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW)

#### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized arrangement for access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Conducted Energy Weapons, for:
  - a) Training;
  - b) Issuance and availability;
  - c) Qualification and re-qualification;
  - d) Maintenance of records of all training, issuance, qualification, and re-qualification;
  - e) Proper use and storage of Conducted Energy Weapons, consistent with legislation and regulations regarding same;
  - f) Maintenance and testing of Conducted Energy Weapons;
  - g) Officer evaluation of the appropriateness of using a Conducted Energy Weapon;
  - h) Addressing of legal justifications for use of force, pursuant to the *Criminal Code*;
  - i) Post-discharge care of subject(s); and
  - j) Reporting and reviewing obligations, in accordance with Nova Scotia Provincial Policing Standards regarding Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Conducted Energy Weapons established under section 2 of this standard shall be established within all the following parameters:
  - a) Conducted Energy Weapons provide police with less lethal incapacitating force capabilities when defending against a threat of bodily harm to a member of the public or a police officer;
  - b) Conducted Energy Weapons remain the property of the police agency, and their use must be strictly limited to police duties;
  - c) Police officers have a duty and a responsibility to consistently use, store, and handle Conducted Energy Weapons in compliance with the criminal law and firearms legislation;

- d) The safety of the public and police officers is always of paramount importance; and
  - e) Any contextual factors that may impact the use of a Conducted Energy Weapon, including the location of use, ability to maintain care and control after discharge of a Conducted Energy Weapon, and the individual's present activity.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Conducted Energy Weapons established under section 2 of this standard shall include requirements on the nature, scope, and timing for issuance and availability, testing, training, and qualification and re-qualification of Conducted Energy Weapons as may be set by the provincial Use of Force Working Group that is aligned with the National Use of Force Framework and/or the IMIM or equivalent organization, as approved by the Department of Justice.

## Crisis Intervention & De-escalation

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or have formalized access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Crisis Intervention and De-escalation techniques, for:
  - a) Training;
  - b) Qualification and re-qualification;
  - c) Maintaining records of all training, qualification, and re-qualification; and
  - d) Use of techniques when safe, feasible, and without compromising law enforcement.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques established under this standard must include requirements on the nature, scope, and timing for qualification and re-qualification of Crisis Intervention and De-escalation techniques as may be set by the provincial Use of Force Working Group, that is aligned with the National Use of Force Framework and/or the RCMP Incident Management/Intervention Model (IMIM) or equivalent organization, as approved by the Department of Justice.
4. Officers should use strategies and techniques to decrease the intensity of a situation, improve decision-making and communication, reduce the need for force, and increase voluntary compliance.

## Firearms

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized arrangement for accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding service firearms, for:
  - a) Training;
  - b) Issuance and availability;
  - c) Qualification and re-qualification;
  - d) Maintenance, storage, handling, and security;
  - e) Maintenance of records of all training, issuance, qualification, and re-qualification;
  - f) Use of approved ammunition;
  - g) Addressing of legal justifications for use of force, pursuant to the *Criminal Code*;
  - h) Post-discharge care of subject(s);
  - i) Reporting and reviewing obligations, in accordance with Nova Scotia Provincial Policing Standards regarding Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force; and
  - j) Supervision of all aspects of service firearms.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding service firearms established under section 2 of this standard shall be established within the following parameters:
  - a) Service firearms provide police with deadly (lethal) force capabilities when defending against a threat of grievous bodily harm or death to a member of the public or a police officer;
  - b) Police officers have a duty and a responsibility to consistently and safely use, store, and handle service firearms and ammunition in compliance with the criminal law and firearms legislation;
  - c) Service firearms and ammunition remain the property of the police agency, and their use must be strictly limited to police duties; and
  - d) The safety of the public and police officers is always of paramount importance.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding service firearms established under section 2 of this standard shall include requirements on the nature, scope, and timing

for training, issuance, and availability, and qualification and re-qualification of service firearms as may be set by the provincial Use of Force Working Group that is aligned with the National Use of Force Framework and/or the IMIM or equivalent organization, as approved by the Department of Justice.

## Impact Weapons

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized arrangement for access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Impact Weapons, for all the following:
  - a) Training;
  - b) Issuance and availability;
  - c) Qualification and re-qualification;
  - d) Maintenance of records of all training, issuance, qualification, and re-qualification;
  - e) Proper use and storage of Impact Weapons;
  - f) Maintenance and testing of Impact Weapons;
  - g) Officer evaluation of the appropriateness of using an Impact Weapon;
  - h) Addressing of legal justifications for use of force, pursuant to the *Criminal Code*;
  - i) Post-application care of subject(s); and
  - j) Reporting and reviewing obligations, in accordance with Nova Scotia Provincial Policing Standards regarding Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Impact Weapons established under section 2 of this standard shall be established within all the following parameters:
  - a) Impact Weapons provide police with less lethal incapacitating force capabilities when defending against a threat of bodily harm to a member of the public or a police officer;
  - b) Impact Weapons remain the property of the police agency, and their use must be strictly limited to police duties; and
  - c) The safety of the public and police officers is always of paramount importance.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Impact Weapons established under section 2 of this standard shall include requirements on the nature, scope, and timing for training, issuance, and availability, qualification, and re-qualification of Impact Weapons as may be set by the provincial Use of Force Working Group that is aligned

with the National Use of Force Framework and/or the IMIM or equivalent organization, as approved by the Department of Justice.

## Intermediate Weapons

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized arrangement for access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Intermediate Weapons, for all the following:
  - a) Training;
  - b) Issuance and availability;
  - c) Qualification and re-qualification;
  - d) Maintenance of records of all training, issuance, qualification, and re-qualification;
  - e) Proper use and storage of Intermediate Weapons;
  - f) Maintenance and testing of Intermediate Weapons;
  - g) Officer evaluation of the appropriateness of using an Intermediate Weapon;
  - h) Addressing of legal justifications for use of force, pursuant to the *Criminal Code*;
  - i) Post-application care of subject(s); and
  - j) Reporting and reviewing obligations, in accordance with Nova Scotia Provincial Policing Standards regarding Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Intermediate Weapons established under section 2 of this standard shall be established within the following parameters:
  - a) Intermediate Weapons provide police with less lethal incapacitating force capabilities when defending against a threat of bodily harm to a member of the public or a police officer;
  - b) Intermediate Weapons remain the property of the police agency, and their use must be strictly limited to police duties; and
  - c) The safety of the public and police officers is always of paramount importance.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Intermediate Weapons established under section 2 of this standard shall include requirements on the nature, scope, and timing for training, issuance, and availability, and qualification and re-qualification of Intermediate Weapons as may be set by the provincial Use of Force Working Group



that is aligned with the National Use of Force Framework and/or the IMIM or equivalent organization, as approved by the Department of Justice.

## Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols for the police agency regarding reporting and investigation following the use of force.

### Reportable Use of Force

3. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure the following uses of force in an operational setting on a person are reported:
  - a) Use of Physical Control—soft, if an injury occurred to anyone from the application of that force;
  - b) Use of Physical Control—hard;
  - c) Use of Vascular Neck Restraint;
  - d) Intermediate Weapon display or discharge/application;
  - e) Firearm display or discharge;
  - f) Police Dog display or bite;
  - g) Use of Specialty Munitions; and
  - h) Use of Weapons of Opportunity.

### Reporting format and timelines

4. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure that all uses of force, as per section 3 of this standard above, are to be recorded in a provincially approved Subject Behaviour/Officer Response Use-of-Force Report.
5. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure that each Use-of-Force Report is completed within 48 hours of the incident, by either the force-applying officer or on-scene supervisor, unless there are exceptional circumstances that warrant an extension. Extensions are to be approved by the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer.

### Internal review of Use-of-Force Reports

6. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure that a supervisor and/or supplemental reviewer:
  - a) Ensures completion of all Use-of-Force Reports; and

b) Reviews each Use-of-Force Report for compliance with agency policy.

7. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure that where improper use of force occurs, a report is submitted to the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer.

#### **Reporting of Use of Force resulting in injury or death**

8. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure that any use of force by any police officer that results in death or serious injury to or of any person is reported to their supervisor and to Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team.

#### **Discharge of Firearm by police officers not resulting in any injury or death**

9. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure any officer who discharges a firearm while on duty, and the discharge does not result in any injury or death of a person, notifies their supervisor of the discharge and the circumstances surrounding the discharge as soon as possible.
10. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure that an officer is appointed to investigate the reason for the discharge and to submit a report to the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer.

#### **Reporting excessive Use of Force**

11. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure that any officer with reasonable grounds to believe they have witnessed excessive use of force by another officer is to report the incident to a supervisor or senior officer as soon as reasonably practicable.
12. If the incident referred to in section 11 of this standard is not covered by section 8 of this standard, the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure that an officer is appointed to investigate the incident and to submit a report to the Chief of Police or Commanding Officer.

#### **Providing data to the DOJ**

13. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure annual submissions to the Department of Justice, and at any time on the request of the Department of Justice, of data from all completed Use-of-Force Reports.
14. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall ensure that all information requests, as per section 13 of this standard, are completed within 90 days of the request being received.

## Specialty Munitions

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or formalized arrangement for access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Specialty Munitions, for:
  - a) Training;
  - b) Issuance and availability;
  - c) Qualification and re-qualification;
  - d) Maintenance of records of all training, issuance, qualification, and re-qualification;
  - e) Proper use and storage of Specialty Munitions;
  - f) Maintenance and testing of Specialty Munitions;
  - g) Officer evaluation of the appropriateness of using Specialty Munitions;
  - h) Addressing of legal justifications for use of force, pursuant to the *Criminal Code*;
  - i) Decontamination and care of persons affected by a Specialty Munition; and
  - j) Reporting and reviewing obligations, in accordance with Nova Scotia Provincial Policing Standards regarding Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Specialty Munitions established under section 2 of this standard shall be established within the following parameters:
  - a) Specialty Munitions provide police with less lethal incapacitating force capabilities when defending against a threat of violence or aggression to a member of the public or a police officer;
  - b) Specialty Munitions remain the property of the police agency, and their use must be strictly limited to police duties;
  - c) Police officers have a duty and a responsibility to consistently use, store, and handle Specialty Munitions in compliance with Canadian law; and
  - d) The safety of the public and police officers is always of paramount importance.
4. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Specialty Munitions established under section 2 of this standard shall include requirements on the nature, scope, and timing for training, issuance, and availability, qualification, and re-qualification of Specialty

Munitions as may be set by the provincial Use of Force Working Group that is aligned with the National Use of Force Framework and/or the IMIM or equivalent organization, as approved by the Department of Justice.

## Vascular Neck Restraint

### Standard

1. Any formalized agreements referred to in this Policing Standard must be provided to and acknowledged by the Department of Justice.
2. The Chief of Police or Commanding Officer shall establish policies, procedures, or protocols, or a formalized arrangement for access to an accredited and approved law enforcement service for the police agency regarding Vascular Neck Restraint, for:
  - a) Training;
  - b) Qualification and re-qualification;
  - c) Maintenance of records of all training, qualification, and re-qualification;
  - d) Officer evaluation of the appropriateness of using Vascular Neck Restraint;
  - e) Addressing of legal justifications for use of force, pursuant to the *Criminal Code*;
  - f) Post-application care of subject(s); and
  - g) Reporting and reviewing obligations, in accordance with Nova Scotia Provincial Policing Standards regarding Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force.
3. Any policy, procedure, or protocol regarding Vascular Neck Restraints established under section 2 of this standard shall include requirements on the nature, scope, and timing for training, qualification, and re-qualification of Vascular Neck Restraints as may be set by the provincial Use of Force Working Group that is aligned with the National Use of Force Framework and/or the IMIM or equivalent organization, as approved by the Department of Justice.