



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE POLICE ADVISORY BOARD (PAB)

Submitted by: Paul Morton, WHRM Councillor District 8

Meeting Date: July 21st, 2025

Meeting Location: Council Chambers, 76 Morison Drive

SUMMARY/UPDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

The Police Advisory Board (PAB) meeting highlighted important updates on operations.

The meeting can be viewed on the West Hants YouTube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/@westhantsregionalmunicipal6378>

Minutes for the meeting can be found at <https://www.westhants.ca/police-advisory-board/2025-police-advisory-board-minutes.html>

Operational Update:

Sergeant Tim Doyle will be filling in for the intern as Acting Staff Sergeant. A new Staff Sergeant is scheduled to start in mid to late September.

The department is currently operating at 19.81 officers.

Traffic Enforcement & Call Volume:

Call volume has increased by approximately 200 calls, largely due to a rise in traffic stops. RCMP officers are adopting a more proactive approach to traffic enforcement, focusing on visibility and deterrence rather than responding reactively. Speeding violations remain the leading cause of traffic tickets being issued, while impaired driving incidents have shown a slight increase this quarter.

Technology & Equipment:

A new live scan fingerprint system is being implemented, enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of fingerprint processing. The associated costs will be reflected in upcoming financial statements from the detachment.

Investigations & Units:

The General Investigation Section (GIS) remains focused on internet-related investigations, addressing the growing number of online crimes. Our Safety Officer is currently off duty, representing a significant operational gap. Further updates on their status will be provided as available.

The Street Crime Unit has seen a high level of activity. Our two dedicated officers will now be part of a shared resource model within the Southwest Policing area, allowing for greater flexibility and regional support where needed.

As of this report, approximately \$235,150 worth of illegal products have been removed from circulation across the Southwest Region, demonstrating the ongoing effectiveness of coordinated enforcement efforts.

Community Engagement & Public Safety:

Increased checkpoints will be established throughout the region to enhance public awareness, improve police visibility, and reinforce community safety initiatives.

The Acting Sergeant commended the exceptional coordination between Police, Fire, and Ambulance services during the recent five-person fatality on Highway 101. The seamless response by all agencies involved was a testament to their professionalism and preparedness—a job well done.

Crime & Public Health Trends

Mental health-related calls have shown a slight decrease this quarter, indicating a possible stabilization in related incidents or improved early intervention. Conversely, parole violations and breaches have experienced a modest increase, which will continue to be monitored to assess any emerging patterns or contributing factors.

Emergency Response & Collaboration

The Nova Scotia Guard is expanding rapidly, with volunteer recruitment helping to fill key roles and enhance response capacity. Drones were successfully deployed by the Guard in search operations for missing children.

The Emergency Management Office (EMO) is actively ramping up operations in preparation for increased regional coordination. It is anticipated that we will soon need to partner with either East Hants or Kings County to strengthen our collective emergency response capabilities.

Traffic & Rural Safety

Concerns have been raised regarding unsafe passing of farm vehicles on Highway 215, posing serious risks to both rural drivers and agricultural operators. In response, plans are being considered for a joint information session involving the Federation of Agriculture and the RCMP to promote safe driving practices and increase public awareness in rural areas.

NS Police Review – Ongoing Reforms:

The provincial police review is currently underway, with a focus on modernizing and strengthening policing across Nova Scotia. Six key reforms have been identified for implementation:

1. Standardization of police technology to ensure compatibility and efficiency across jurisdictions.
2. Review of staffing levels to ensure appropriate personnel resources are available.
3. A layered policing approach, incorporating safety officers, bylaw enforcement, and citizen patrols.

4. Revamped police oversight to enhance accountability (further details to follow).
5. Enhanced policing standards, including the introduction of body-worn cameras.
6. Alternative funding models, such as “pay-what-you-use” frameworks for shared assets like planes and helicopters.

Additional changes are currently under discussion, with further updates to be shared as they become available.

Respectfully Submitted, Councillor Paul Morton