

Oversight Unseen – Facts and Highlights

SIU today

Budget: About \$5.5 million

Investigative staff: 12 full-time investigators; 30 part-time “as needed”; 10 part-time forensic technicians

Incidents investigated in 2006: 226 (Toronto Police and Ontario Provincial Police each account for about one-third of incidents, with the remaining third coming from all other police services)

Charges laid in 2006: 2

Constituting authority: Section 113, *Police Services Act*.

Highlighted cases

Jeffrey Reodica, May 21, 2004, Scarborough – page 36

- 17-year-old shot by Toronto officer who thought he had a knife
- SIU notified almost 1 hour after shooting
- First of 10 investigators arrived more than 2 hours after incident; last arrived 6 hours after
- Youth witnesses held at police station until 2 a.m.
- Key witness officer not interviewed until 2 days after incident
- SIU failed to test knife found at scene for DNA

James Maltar, September 18, 2005, Port Credit – page 36

- Arrested driving car without plates; died from gunshot wound at OPP station
- SIU notified 1 hour later
- First of 8 investigators arrived more than 2 hours after incident; last after almost 5 hours
- Witness officers and civilians not interviewed for more than 1 week

Duane Christian, June 20, 2006, Toronto – page 37

- 15-year-old shot by police after charging officer in a stolen van
- SIU not notified for 1 hour and 15 minutes
- First investigator arrived almost 1 hour after notification
- SIU staff called from as far away as Ottawa, canvass of witnesses didn't start for 5 hours
- Mother of deceased was waiting at police station, not notified of son's death for hours
- Key witness officer not interviewed for 6 days; 6 others not interviewed for 17-24 days
- Subject officer was never interviewed, despite being willing

O'Brien Christopher-Reid, June 13, 2004, Toronto – page 35

- Mentally ill man shot by three officers after lunging with knife
- SIU notified by Toronto police in under 1 hour
- SIU took more than 1 hour to notify staff
- First SIU investigator arrived 2.5 hours after shooting; last called was closest to scene

Frank Greda, June 27, 2005, London – page 35

- Murdered two children and their mother, killed self after shooting at police
- SIU took 1.5 hours to dispatch 7 investigators
- First investigator arrived 3 hours after incident, last arrived 8 hours after
- Police interviewed surviving 9-year-old girl immediately after she witnessed murder
- SIU didn't interview witness officer until next evening

Hafeez Mohammed, May 23, 2006, Durham Region – page 43

- Arrested for impaired driving, claimed to be punched and kicked by police
- SIU notified next day but told injury didn't appear to meet "serious injury" threshold
- SIU informed he was in hospital 5 days later with several fractures to face

Jason Steacy, November 4, 2005, Elgin – page 54

- 20-year-old shot by OPP who thought computer mouse in his hand was a gun
- Three OPP officers on scene designated by SIU within 4 hours; 7 others 2 days later
- Interviews didn't start until 6 days after incident; not completed for 69 days
- Key witness officer on sick leave, lawyer reluctant to give interview
- SIU review found computer mouse was never sent for forensic examination

SIU timeline

1981: Toronto Police set up pilot civilian complaints project – made permanent in 1984

1988: Toronto creates Race Relations and Policing Task Force (in wake of shootings)

1989: Task force recommends independent investigative team for police shootings

1990: SIU created, along with province-wide system for public complaints about police

Reviews of SIU, 1990-2003 (pages 9-12):

Year	Report	Key recommendations
1992	Report to Premier Bob Rae by race relations advisor Stephen Lewis	Recommended adequate funding for SIU, move jurisdiction from Solicitor General to Attorney General
1992	Report of reconstituted Task Force on Race Relations and Policing	Warned that without more resources, SIU would be subject to criticism
1995	Report of Commission on Systemic Racism in the Ontario Criminal Justice System (created in 1991)	Called for more funding and stronger legislation to ensure police co-operation with SIU
1996	Report to Premier Mike Harris by Roderick McLeod	Recommended regulatory requirements for police co-operation with SIU
1998	Consultation report by former justice George Adams	Recommended greater resources and more detailed regulatory framework
2003	Second consultation report by George Adams	Found improved police and public confidence in SIU