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Witness Protection Program Act - Annual report: 2013-2014

Background

This is the eighteenth Annual Report on the Witness Protection Program (WPP) as required by section 16 of the *Witness Protection Program Act*.

The Witness Protection Program continues to be an effective tool for law enforcement to combat terrorism and organized crime. In the last year, in partnership with its many stakeholders, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has continued to work at implementing a number of significant enhancements in order for the Program to become more accountable, effective and protectee focused. The Program remains available to not only the RCMP, but to all law enforcement agencies in Canada and to foreign agencies.

The statistics included in this report are based on the services provided by the RCMP between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. Protectees include individuals from RCMP cases, protectees referred by other Canadian police services and foreign protectees under subsection 14(2) of the Act. Protection given under subsection 14(2) is on a cost-recovery basis.

In order to not jeopardize the integrity of the Program, or the safety of any individual within the Program, statistics have been provided on the most relevant areas of the Program, without details concerning individual cases.

Services provided:

The following is a breakdown of services provided to the law enforcement community (Appendix "A"):

Admission:

During this period, the RCMP considered a total number of sixty-five cases for admission purposes. Thirty-four protectees were admitted to the Program, all of whom were granted a secure name change.

A total of twenty-five protectees accepted in the Program resulted from RCMP cases.

The RCMP provided assistance to other Canadian law enforcement agencies during the last year, as provided for under paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Act. The RCMP admitted five protectees into the Program on behalf of other Canadian law enforcement agencies. The assistance provided by the RCMP in these instances is mostly related to securing federal documentation. The responsibility for protective measures for these protectees rests with the requesting agencies. Four international protectees were also admitted.

Eleven cases were provided with alternative methods of protection. Alternative methods of protection are provided in cases where individuals refuse to be admitted into the Witness

Protection Program or fail to meet the criteria for admission into the Program. Some of the reasons stated for the refusals include the conditions imposed and an unwillingness to relocate.

Fluctuations related to admissions from year to year are largely due to: i) law enforcement activities during the fiscal year, ii) single protectees, rather than those with dependants, being admitted to the Program, and iii) variables outside the administration of the Program.

Termination:

There were four cases of termination from the Program this year, i.e., one case of voluntary termination and three cases of involuntary termination under section 9 of the Act.

General:

There was one case of civil litigation filed against the RCMP during the reporting period.

Cost of the Program:

The RCMP is now providing Parliament with a more detailed list of the costs to administer the WPP, which is reflected in Appendix "B".

The total cost of the administration of the Program for the reporting year was \$9.325M. As detailed in Appendix "B", this amount includes wages for personnel, expenses, travel costs, administrative and protection expenses.

Appendix A

Statistical Summary of WPP Cases - Fiscal Years - 12/13 -13/14		
Number of	2012-2013	2013-2014
Total Number of RCMP Cases assessed for the program:	86	65
Total Number of Protectees accepted in the WPP:	34	34
-other law enforcement agencies	(10)	(9)
-RCMP	(24)	(25)
Total secure identity change:	29	34
Voluntary Terminations:	11	1
Involuntary Terminations:	0	3
Refusal of protection by witnesses:	26	13
Lawsuits filed in court and complaints with the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP in relation to the program:	2	1
Alternate methods of protection:	5	11

Appendix B

RCMP Expenditures 2013-2014	
1) RCMP Compensation:	\$3,953,082.29
2) Public Servant Compensation:	\$630,879.88
3) Other Police Department Secondment:	\$349,329.45
4) Travel:	\$491,464.35
5) Administration:	\$253,345.68
6) Witness Protection Expenses:	\$2,487,826.09
7) Miscellaneous:	\$1,082,677.66
8) Civil Litigation Costs:	\$76,716.31
Total:	\$9,325,321.71

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