



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

The Review of the Investigation of Sexual Assaults – A Decade Later, Toronto Police Service

Date:	April 14, 2010
To:	Toronto Police Services Board
From:	Auditor General
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

Attached is the Auditor General’s report entitled “The Review of the Investigation of Sexual Assaults – A Decade Later, Toronto Police Service.” The report provides an overview of the changes to the investigation of sexual assaults over the last ten years. These changes are a result of the collective efforts of the Toronto Police Service, the Toronto Police Services Board, City Council, various community groups working with women who have been sexually assaulted, and last but not least, the woman known as Jane Doe.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Auditor General recommends that:

1. The Toronto Police Services Board receive the report and attachment for information.
2. The Toronto Police Services Board forward this report to the Audit Committee for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of recommendations contained in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

Since 1999, the Auditor General has conducted three independent reviews on the police investigation of sexual assaults.

In 1999, the Auditor General issued a report entitled “Review of the Investigation of Sexual Assaults – Toronto Police Service”. The review was conducted at the request of City Council in response to the successful civil case of Jane Doe versus the Commissioners of Police of the then Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. The report contained 57 recommendations.

Subsequent to the issuance of the 1999 audit report, the Auditor General issued two follow-up reports in 2004 and 2010 respectively on the implementation status of audit recommendations relating to sexual assault investigations.

The original 1999 audit report and the two follow-up reports are available at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/audit/1999/102599.pdf>

http://www.toronto.ca/audit/reports2004_sub4.htm

COMMENTS

The 2004 and 2010 follow-up reports provide detailed audit findings for each of the recommendations previously issued by the Auditor General with respect to police investigation of sexual assaults. The structure of the follow-up reports, however, does not facilitate an analysis or illustration of the changes to sexual assault investigations over the years.

A separate report entitled “The Review of the Investigation of Sexual Assaults – A Decade Later” was therefore prepared to provide an overview of the significant changes that have taken place over the past decade. The report is attached as Appendix 1. It compares “where we were at in 1999” to “where we are now in 2009” with respect to the following areas:

- The sexual assault investigative procedures
- The Sex Crimes Unit
- The training of sexual assault investigators
- The Violent Crime Linkage System (ViCLAS), and
- The provision of public information and community warnings.

The attached report also highlights other benefits and impacts resulting from the original 1999 audit and the two subsequent follow-up reviews.

CONTACT

Jeffrey Griffiths, Auditor General

Tel: 416-392-8461, Fax: 416-392-3754, Email: Jeff.Griffiths@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Jeffrey Griffiths, Auditor General

ATTACHMENT

Appendix 1: The Review of the Investigation of Sexual Assaults – A Decade Later,
Toronto Police Service