



# InterPARES 3 Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

TEAM Canada

## Structured Records: Vancouver Police Department

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InterPARES 3 Project  
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# VPD Background

- Formed in 1886
- First RMS in 1990
- 1994 Stanley Cup riots
  - Justice Oppal recommended a police communications and information system for records and major case management
- 1996 Bernardo Investigation
  - Justice Campbell determined need for “a system of case management for major and inter-jurisdictional serial predator investigations”
- Moved systems in 1999



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# Mandated Collaboration

- 2003 Legislation for all police forces to use common information system
  - First in Canada for province-wide collaboration
- PRIME-BC (Police Records Information Management Environment for British Columbia)
- Comprised of three systems
  - Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD)
  - Records Management System (RMS)
  - Mobile Work Station (MWS)



# PRIME

- Center of all things
  - Little concern about administrative records
- Index to all cases, many jurisdictions
  - Patrol through Jail
- Referenced by unique PRIME number
- ‘Notes’ pages lockable
- Scanning operation, Quality control from RM
- Standing committee for change orders
- Files attachable, linkable
  - Capacity is limited



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# Tiered Record Practices

- Patrol
- Investigative Division
  - Domestic Violence Criminal Harassment Unit
  - Robbery/Assault/Arson Unit
  - Sex Crimes Unit
  - Tactical Support
  - Vice Unit
  - Undercover Units
- Major Crimes Section (including Homicide)
- Covert/Special Operations
- Jail



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# Strong Requirements + Teeth

- Planning and Research recommends policy
- Police Board Approves
- Once approved, compliance required by British Columbia Police Act
- Rank structure audits and enforces compliance
- Backed by Crown prosecutors



# Controlled Record Creation Process

- Call generates record
- Once investigation begins, becomes General Occurrence (GO)
- Coded Reports
  - Property, Will Say, Patrol Notes, Witness Statements
- Suspect in Custody = NCO review of records
- Forwarded to station NCO = second check
  - QC review and approve charges sent to Crown
- Prosecutor reviews content in PRIME



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# But...

## Doesn't work well in complex investigations

- Documentary exhibits = too many to scan
- Cases are too complex with linkages to enter into PRIME
- No Hyperlinking capabilities

## Results

- Major cases tend to work outside system with mutual agreement with Crown
  - Special individuals in Crown to deal with large cases





# Recordkeeping Practices

- STRONG OWNERSHIP/INVESTMENT
- Most records are generated through investigation
- Organization of files is generally determined by the investigator
- Records are linked through PRIME
- Records are generally stored in shared drive of each unit, or, *burned to CD or DVD and kept with paper file*
- Records generally kept with investigator in charge – up to and including retirement



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# Record Challenges, Police Style

- What is a record?
  - Little understanding of archiving or records management
  - Very investigation-centric
- Consistency within units, not across units
- Highly individualized to investigator
  - Including where, how and naming
- Major Crimes highly refined, not extendable
- Some units 'need to know'
- PRIME still evolving, not built to handle the volume or complexity
- No preservation planning
- Several stand-alone repositories
- Need to expand understanding of storage capacity



# Questions?



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