

Missing Persons Policy

The Thunder Bay Police Services Board recognizes the seriousness of the issue of missing persons in our city and the negative impact on the family and loved ones of missing persons.

It also recognizes that each missing person's absence is unique, but that racism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia, other forms of marginalization and the legacy of colonization are factors that may increase the risk of a person becoming a missing person.

It is therefore the policy of the Board that investigations into missing persons are undertaken and managed with the above in mind and with sound investigative principles in place.

To support this policy, the Chief of Police shall develop and maintain procedures and processes that:

- a) in developing the procedure and as part of its reviews and updates, the Service must consult with Indigenous leaders;
- b) provide direction to be implemented when investigating missing persons, giving special consideration to vulnerable persons, children, youth and the elderly;
- c) where foul play is suspected, ensure Officers comply with the procedures with respect to Major Case Management;
- d) consider Amber Alert activation in all missing children investigations and that Major Case Management is implemented in all cases where an Amber Alert is activated;
- e) ensure families are consulted and informed of investigative status on a regular and ongoing basis;
- f) ensure there is investigative follow up on all outstanding cases.

Section 8 of the *Missing Persons Act* requires municipal Chiefs of Police to report to the police services board annually on the Service's use of urgent demands under the Act. This report is required by April 1st and shall contain:

- a) the total number of urgent demands made in the previous year and the number of missing persons investigations to which they are related;
- b) a description of the types of records specified in the urgent demands;
- c) total number of missing person investigations and their outcomes; and
- d) any other prescribed information.

After receiving the report, the Board shall:

- a) provide a copy of the report to the Minister; and
- b) make the report available to the public by ensuring it is posted on the Service's website by June 1st in the format established by the Board.