



Biology Program

Overview

As part of the RCMP's National Police Services (NPS), the Biology Program processes biological trace evidence from crime scenes to generate DNA typing profiles. The processing of biological trace evidence uses highly sophisticated technology to create a DNA profile that helps law enforcement to solve crimes.

The process used in the Forensic Laboratory Services (FLS) Biology Program is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) which involves:

- the recovery of evidence;
- the extraction, amplification and generation of genetic profiles;
- the interpretation of results; and
- quality assurance.

Biological trace evidence can be recovered and identified from body fluids such as blood, semen and saliva, hair, and cellular material from handled objects. Samples are processed at either the Ottawa or Vancouver FLS sites.

The Biology Program will compare the collected DNA profiles to determine if there are any significant forensic associations. Reports containing the findings are provided to the law enforcement agency that submitted the crime scene evidence.

Interpretation and reporting are provided at the Ottawa, Vancouver, Halifax, Regina, and Edmonton FLS sites.

Selected DNA typing profiles are submitted to the Crime Scene Index of the National DNA Data Bank of Canada.

For more information, please visit www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

Quick Facts

- In 1989, the first DNA evidence was permitted in a Canadian court case.
- In 2003, the Biology Program processed over 2,100 cases.
- On average, each case submitted contains six exhibits to be processed.