



RCMP National Ports Strategy

Overview

The RCMP National Ports Strategy is part of the RCMP's overall mandate to ensure border integrity. The objective is to take an intelligence-led, multi-disciplinary and integrated approach to prevent, deter and detect any illicit and/or terrorist activity, cargo or people at Canada's major marine ports that may pose a threat to national, US and global safety and security. The mandate is to significantly disrupt and/or eliminate the capacity of organized crime groups to utilize ports as a conduit for the entry of cargo and/or persons that could pose a risk to national security.

As an intelligence-led organization, the RCMP is an active participant in Canada's Interdepartmental Marine Security Working Group (IMSWG) and works with many national and international partners daily to enhance security at Canada's major marine ports.

National Port Enforcement Teams (NPETS) are part of the RCMP Border Integrity Program. These integrated intelligence-led teams conduct investigations of federal statute offences that involve Canadian ports. The RCMP enforces federal statutes such as those involving smuggling, illegal drugs, immigration and national security.

NPETS investigative priorities include: national security, organized crime and other criminal activity. Early in 2003, \$11.5 million (to be disbursed over five years) was committed to the RCMP via a Memorandum to Cabinet on Canada's Marine Security submitted by Transport Canada. This funding enabled the RCMP to establish a permanent presence at Canada's major three major ports—Halifax, Montreal and Vancouver. The teams are operational and are part of the RCMP's National Ports Strategy. NPETS are part of the RCMP's existing federal mandate at the marine ports and include various partners from federal, municipal and provincial government and law enforcement agencies.

Policing of Ports

Basic security functions such as access control are the responsibility of the Port Authorities and police force of jurisdiction, which provide standard police services/law enforcement at the ports. Private security companies provide port security. The RCMP is responsible for investigation of federal statutes as well as national security investigations at all ports whether we have a presence on-site or not.

Quick Facts

- The RCMP National Ports Strategy is part of the RCMP's overall mandate to ensure border integrity.
- In 2003, the RCMP received up to \$11.5 million over five years to conduct enhanced Emergency Response Team training, to establish a permanent presence at major ports, and to conduct personnel screening on behalf of Transport Canada.
- The RCMP is responsible for investigation of federal statutes as well as national security investigations at all ports.



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Quick Facts

- The RCMP operates five patrol vessels) over 9.2 m (30.19 ft.) in length; one on the east coast and four on the west coast.

- The Force owns and operates 377 smaller boats at various locations across Canada.

- RCMP patrol vessels are staffed by peace officers who have specific on-the-job training in navigation, seamanship or engine equipment operation

Vessels - The RCMP operates five patrol vessels (PVs) over 9.2 m (30.19 ft.) in length, one on the east coast and four on the west coast. All PVs are equipped with radar and the latest computer and electronic navigational aids. Under the control of divisional criminal operations officers, they provide marine transportation and regular patrol service to coastal areas inaccessible by land.

The patrol vessel *Inkster*, a 19.75 metre fast patrol aluminum catamaran, was accepted by the RCMP on February, 8, 1996. The vessel, which was constructed by Allied Shipbuilders Ltd. of North Vancouver, was officially commissioned on June 27th, 1996, in Prince Rupert B.C., home base for the vessel. The *Inkster* is powered and equipped similar to the other existing catamaran patrol vessels and carries a complement of four crew persons.

Class I — *Nadon*, *Higgitt*, *Lindsay* and *Simmonds* are 17.7 m (58 ft) fast patrol catamarans powered by twin 820 horsepower D2840 LE401 V-10 Man diesel engines and are capable of reaching a maximum speed of 36 knots. *Simmonds* is stationed on the south coast of Newfoundland; the remainder are on the Pacific Coast.

Personnel - RCMP patrol vessels are staffed by peace officers who have specific on-the-job training in navigation, seamanship or engine equipment operation. Navigators hold certificates of competency ranging from Watchkeeping Mate with a Command Endorsement to Master 350 Home-Trade. Crews range in size from three to four members depending upon the size of the vessel and workload. The vessels, depending upon their size, have either a sergeant or a corporal as captain.

Inland Water Transport (IWT)
The RCMP owns and operates 377 smaller boats at various locations across Canada. Included in this number are all vessels less than 9.2 m (30.19 ft.) in length and range from canoes and car toppers to rigid-hulled inflatables and the very stable, commercially-built, inboard/outboard vessels. IWT are used for general investigations and for enforcement of the *Canada Shipping Act*, *Small Vessel Regulations*, *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and various other federal or provincial statutes.

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