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LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW AGENCY RELEASES 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

According to the 2004 annual report of the Law Enforcement Review Agency (LERA), the number of new files opened and the number of investigations completed increased.

LERA investigates public complaints about the 14 municipal police forces in Manitoba. It does not investigate criminal matters, but focuses on complaints about the way officers conduct themselves on duty.

Last year, 252 formal complaints were filed with LERA, up from 250 the year previous. The number of new investigations, combined with ongoing files meant the agency worked on a total of 495 investigations in 2004.

Some cases were resolved through an informal process. Some matters where an informal resolution was not possible and enough evidence existed for a more formal review were referred to a provincial judge. A total of 15 complaints were referred for that kind of hearing last year.

Complaints included allegations of abuse of authority, arrest without reasonable or probable grounds, using unnecessary or excessive force, using oppressive or abusive conduct or language and being discourteous or uncivil.

(MORE)

This year's annual report, along with a number of previous years' reports and links to other civilian law enforcement agencies and more information about LERA are posted on the agency's Web site at www.gov.mb.ca/justice/lera.

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