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2003 CACP INFORMATICS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Similar to all elements of law enforcement in Canada the technology support activities of our organizations continue to present significant challenges. This report will address the progress being made along with some of the challenges we continue to face.

The committee met four times over the past year. Meetings were held on November 4, 2002; February 11, 2003; April 10, 2003 and June 4, 2003. While I am still concerned regarding representation, the levels of participation are improving. Last year it was reported new representatives joined the committee and I am pleased to note they have participated on a consistent basis. However, I believe representation could still be improved as the level of chief participation is low. Numerous meetings were also held by an Informatics sub-committee that is working with CACP support staff to arrange a technology seminar in Montreal this fall (details below).

Given the Informatics committee has been in place for some time and in light of the changing world in terms of organized crime, security challenges and terrorist attacks it was decided to review the direction of the committee itself. Mr Ross Christensen was asked to look at this area-the result being a document defining the Strategic Direction for the Committee for the period 2003 - 2005 (copy attached). This strategy will be reviewed in detail by committee members at the meetings in Halifax.

The purpose of the strategy document is to provide clarity and focus to the Informatics Committee and ensure it is in alignment with the strategic objectives of CACP. It is also designed to lead to a work plan which will set clear objectives and deliverables for the committee.

One of the single most important challenges facing technological support groups within law enforcement today is information sharing and integration. Although many agencies saw this as a priority prior to September 11, 2001 it became much more compelling after that date. Considerable progress has been achieved in preparing the way for these sharing partnerships. We have been very successful in establishing standards, most technologies of the day employ open architecture solutions etc., but we have only begun to scratch the surface in this area.

In an attempt to move an information agenda forward committee members in partnership with CACP support staff have been investing considerable time and effort in organizing a seminar to be held in Montreal on November 24, 25, 26 2003. This will be a follow-up to the conference held in 2000 at Cornwall and will focus on the DELIVERY of integrated solutions. While Cornwall considered what opportunities existed and what potential sharing/partnership opportunities could exist, the Montreal conference will examine the progress made and the problems encountered with actual initiatives so as to identify how the success patterns can be repeated and expanded into the future. This will focus on programs which can be actually executed. A draft agenda for these

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