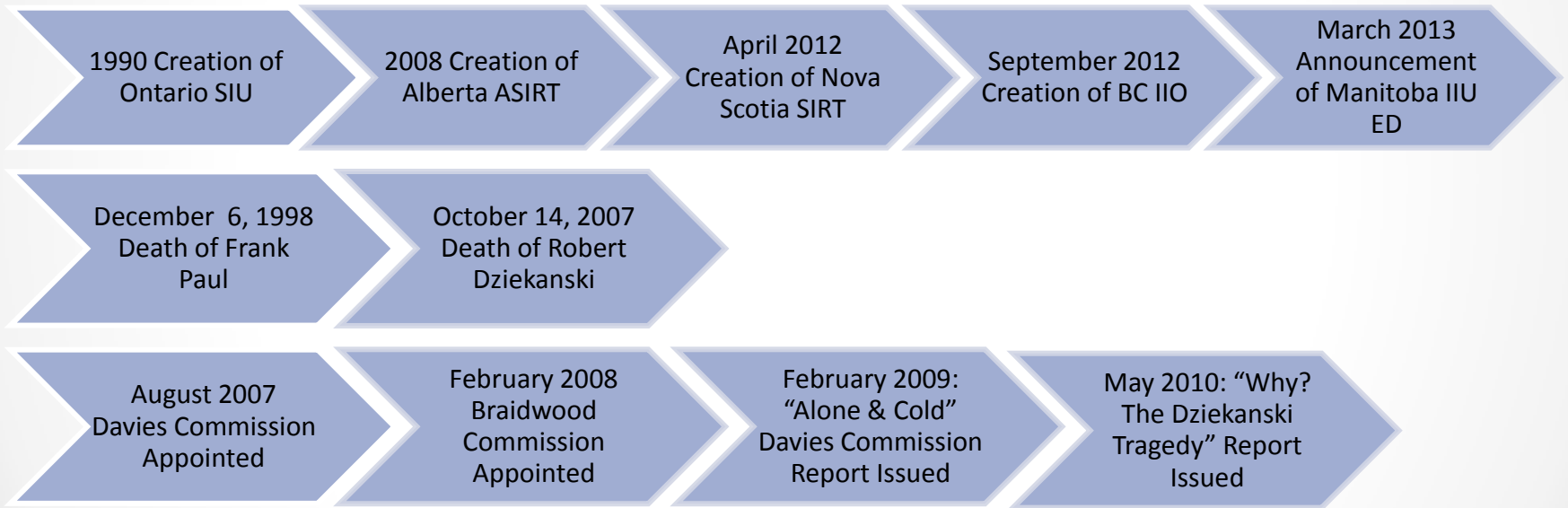




INDEPENDENT
Investigations Office of BC

History of Civilian Led Criminal Investigations of Police Use-of-Force in Canada



Independent Investigations

- The Independent Investigations Office (IIO) has jurisdiction over incidents in B.C. involving on-duty and off-duty municipal police and the RCMP that result in serious harm or death
- The IIO also has jurisdiction over on-duty Provincial Special Constables

Serious Harm Definition

- Part 11 of the Police Act defines serious harm as:
 - “Injury that
 - may result in death,
 - may cause serious disfigurement, or
 - may cause substantial loss or impairment of mobility of the body as a whole or of the function of any limb or organ”

The CCD and IIO Investigators

- The CCD is not permitted to have ever served as a police officer
- The CCD and IIO investigators have “all of the powers, duties and immunities of a peace officer and constable at common law and jurisdiction throughout the Province (s. 38.07(1))
- Approximately 2/3 of IIO investigators have experience as former police investigators; the other 1/3 have investigative experience in areas other than policing
- No investigator may have served as an officer in BC during the 5 years preceding his/her appointment

Responsibilities of the Chief Civilian Director

- Reporting to Crown Counsel if the CCD “considers that an officer may have committed an offence under any enactment”
- Where CCD does not make a report to crown, he will conclude the case with a public report after consulting with the Information and Privacy Commissioner

Goals of the IIO

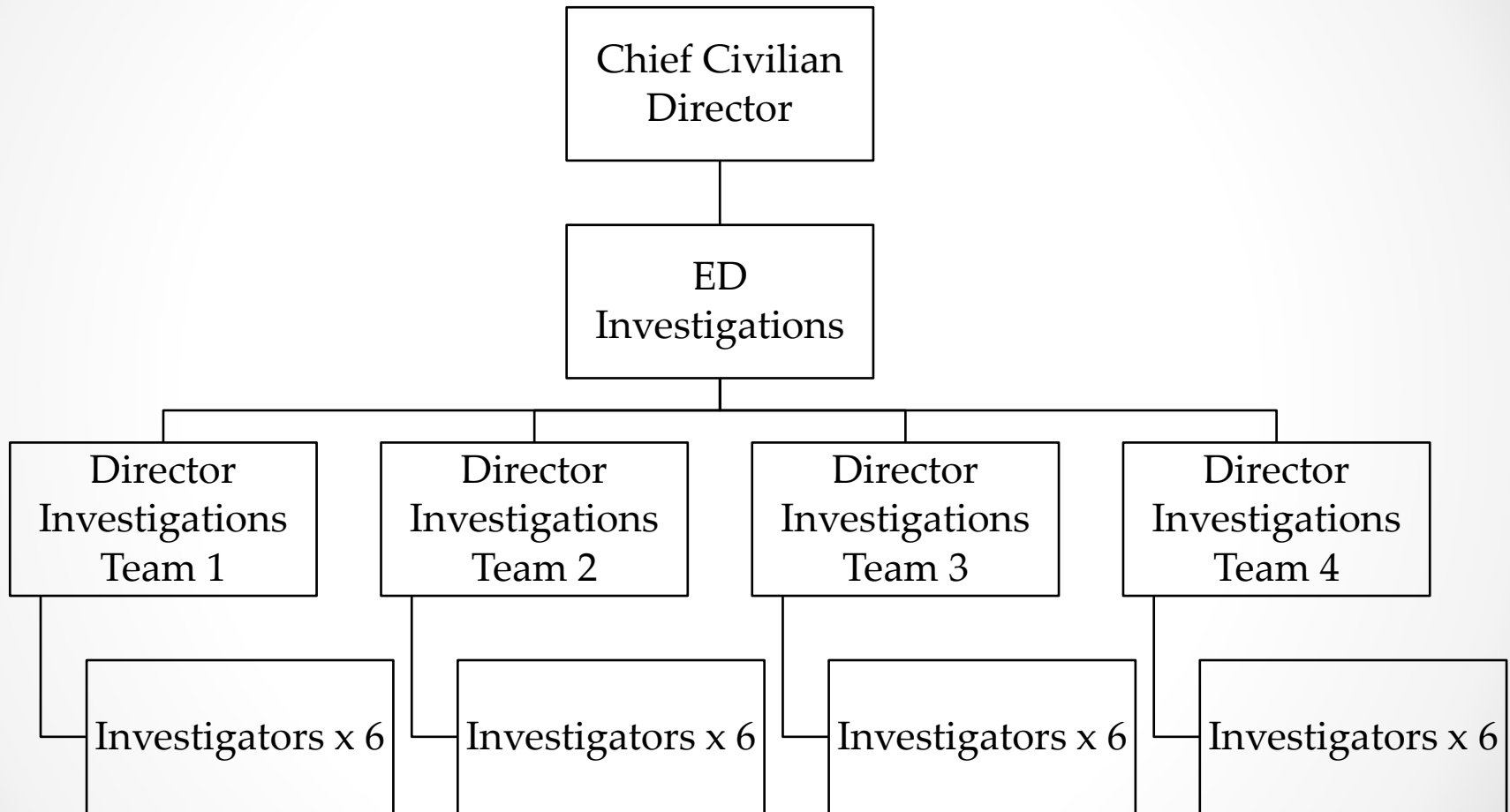
- To complete competent, unbiased, thorough investigations
- To improve the timeliness of investigations
- Transparency and accountability through public reporting

Decision Point: How many offices? Any “as needed” investigators?

The IIO is located at Surrey Central



Decision Point: Stand-alone Forensics?



Decision Point:
Regulation - Legislation or MOU?
Police Union participation or not?

IIO MOU Key concepts

- Notification
- Scene Security
- Parallel (concurrent) Investigations
- Specialized Field Services
- Forensic Support
- Exhibit Storage
- Officer Sequestration
- Witness Officer Responsibilities – Timing of Interviews
- Video Recorded Interviews

Decision Points:

Timely Response v. Perception of Independence

- Should the IIO use RCMP planes or automobiles?

Video Interviews

- Should the IIO insist on witness officers submitting to video interviews?

Emergency Equipment

- Should IIO vehicles be equipped with emergency equipment?

Sequestration of Officers

- Should the IIO insist on the implementation of rules regarding officer sequestration?