



Putting the Police inCHARGE

In the early 1990's, changes to Federal legislation held police responsible for a larger portion of the paperwork that goes into processing charges. The Courts complained about delays and backlogs in their dockets, as police departments were overwhelmed by these new demands.

Eldon Amoroso, London Police Service's Director of Information Technology, began to look for a way to use computer technology to manage the problem. He convinced the London Police Services Board to provide the resources to develop such a system. "What choice did we have?"

Working with Praeda Systems www.praeda.com, a local London firm, along with support from the Canadian Police Research Centre (CPRC) and NRC-IRAP (National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program) **inCHARGE** was developed and installed at the London Police Service in 1994. "Immediately we improved the overtime and staffing situation," says Amoroso. "We were current and up-to-date with our police charges."

The London Police Service is known as the Centre of Excellence in automated charge preparation through the use of **inCHARGE**. Several other police services are in the process of adopting the system, which Praeda has continued to refine. The current version allows for information to be transferred securely across networks.

The **inCHARGE** approach has made it possible for police to weather legislative changes with sweeping administrative implications in a simple, seamless and timely manner. When the Youth Criminal Justice Act replaced the Young Offenders Act in April 2003, the specifics of the new legislation were easily incorporated. "We were completely ready to go," recalls Amoroso. "The statutes were updated, the new wording and new sections were added. Due to the Praeda upgrade, we were literally ready for business on the 1st of April 2003."

Since the Fall of 2003, London Police have been using the improved **inCHARGE** system to electronically send entire Crown briefs directly from the police service to the Court offices, dramatically simplifying the complex procedure. "You can capture what you need perfectly, and when you produce something for the courts, it's going to be accepted," Amorosa says. "The police who work in court services immediately saw the benefits."

"When making an arrest, processing the paperwork could take up to three hours. Today with inCHARGE it takes 20 minutes." — Eldon Amoroso, Director of Information Technology London Police Service.



"We have a number of years' experience with inCHARGE and can vouch for the savings and efficiencies associated with it" — Chief Julian Fantino, of the Toronto Police quoted while Chief of London Police Service.

THE CANADIAN POLICE RESEARCH CENTRE (CPRC) IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP), THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE (CACP) AND THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (NRC) – www.cprc.org 