

CACP NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Investigators

SYMPOSIUM NATIONAL DE L'ACCP pour les enquêteurs sur les personnes disparues et les restes non identifiés

Nov 30 - Dec 2 / 30 nov - 2 déc, 2025 | Ottawa, ON



The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) in partnership with National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR) are hosting the CACP National Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Investigators Symposium in an effort to bring together missing persons investigators and subject matter specialists from across the country to collaborate, enhance investigative skills, and share best practices.

The symposium will focus on identifying innovative and effective technologies, approaches and strategies in the search, investigation, identification, recovery, and reunification of missing persons. Participants will gain knowledge and proficiency in evidence-based, state-of-the-art, and collaborative solutions, while exploring tools and techniques from the initial response through recovery and resolution, vital to the missing and their families. The symposium will also examine the complex and multifaceted nature of missing person cases and the unique needs of diverse, vulnerable, and at-risk population groups such as 2SLGBTQI+ people, indigenous persons, and others.

Who should attend

- Law Enforcement personnel (Investigators, Front Line, Supervisors, Senior Managers, and Executives)
- Organized Crime Units (CFSEU, IHIT, FSOC, Gun & Gangs, Street Crime, Patrol/Highway Traffic, etc.)
- Intelligence and Crime Analysis Professionals
- Crowns
- Coroner/Medical Examiners working with unidentified remains
- Missing Persons Coordinators and those working in MP units

TIME	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025
17:00 – 19:00	Onsite Registration (<i>Newbridge Ballroom Foyer</i>)

TIME	MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025
07:00	Onsite Registration <i>(Newbridge Ballroom Foyer)</i>
07:00 – 08:15	Breakfast <i>(Newbridge Ballroom Foyer)</i>
08:15 – 16:15	Plenary Sessions <i>(Newbridge Ballroom)</i>
08:15 – 08:30	Opening Ceremonies Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Thomas Carrique, C.O.M., Ontario Provincial Police; President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
SESSION 1 08:30 – 08:45	Overview of the Missing Persons Scene in Canada Presenter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sergeant Sue Shaw-Davis, National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR), Royal Canadian Mounted Police Description <p>Canadian law enforcement is a multi-tiered system which incorporates Federal, Provincial, Municipal and Indigenous police services. Canadian police investigate over 60,000 missing persons cases every year in Canada. There are approximately 700 Unidentified remains in Canada that agencies are working tirelessly to identify every day. Partnerships and communication between diverse organizations are essential components to achieving excellence in service to the public when working missing persons files. We'll look at what has shaped this investigative area in the last decade, where we are going, and how this symposium aims to strengthen partnerships, share knowledge, and establish a community of practice for continued growth and advancement.</p>
SESSION 2 08:45 – 10:15	Advanced Investigative Technologies Facilitator Detective Staff Sergeant Heather Bowden, Ontario Provincial Police Description <p>Discover cutting-edge investigative technologies that reveal an individual's location and movement patterns—featuring tools like vehicle and movement tracking, FINTRAC analysis, and digital forensics. Learn how these advanced resources are transforming modern investigations.</p>
10:15 – 10:45	Network Break <i>(Newbridge Ballroom Foyer)</i>
SESSION 3 10:45 – 11:45	Using National and Provincial Resources – The Services of Provincial and National Centres Presenters

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sergeant Sue Shaw-Davis, National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR), Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sergeant Lana Prosper, National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR), Royal Canadian Mounted Police <p>Description</p> <p>As a missing persons investigator, you have access to resources at provincial and national levels. This session will focus on the services available through the National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Program offered through the NCMPUR and provincial partner MP centres. Learn what these services can do for your investigation, when and how to take advantage of them, including specialized analysis, assistance with international cases, advice and training, the Canada's Missing website, and more.</p>
SESSION 4 11:45 – 12:15	<p>Using Your Provincial or Territorial Missing Persons Act</p> <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olivia Sadaphal, Royal Canadian Mounted Police <p>Description</p> <p>Most provinces have enacted similar legislation to allow police access to information and premises related to a missing person case when there is not a criminal case. Some provinces have had this in place for years, and for others it is relatively new. What value does this bring to your investigation, and how are these working in practice? What are the issues?</p>
12:15 – 13:15	<p>Lunch (<i>Newbridge Ballroom Foyer</i>)</p>
SESSION 5 13:15 – 13:45	<p>Intel Analysis Resources, Tools, and Open-Source Sites for MPUR Investigations</p> <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valerie Shaver, NCMPUR, Royal Canadian Mounted Police <p>Description</p> <p>Go beyond Google and police database searches and learn new-to-you resources, tools and open-source sites that have been used to solve or provide timely, actionable leads in MPUR investigations. Previous investigator and analyst attendees to a similar presentation have indicated that they were not aware or had not used several of the sites and resources presented. Success stories will for discussed for context, and a reference guide will be provided.</p>
SESSION 6 13:45 – 14:30	<p>National Missing Persons DNA Program</p> <p>Presenters</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ingrid Muhlig, National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR), Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sara Wheadon, National DNA Data Bank (NDDB) <p>Description</p> <p>Since March of 2018, the National Missing Persons DNA Program has provided over 120 associations that helped to resolve missing persons and unidentified remains investigations across Canada, locally and internationally. Learn about successes, what works, what doesn't help, and how best to take advantage of this program.</p>
14:30 – 15:00		Network Break (<i>Newbridge Ballroom Foyer</i>)
SESSION 7 15:00 – 15:45		<p>Pathways to Success for Using Investigative Genetic Genealogy for Humanitarian Cases</p> <p>Description</p> <p>See how two different organizations use Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) to identify unidentified remains. Learn how IGG works for them, its costs, privacy considerations, and other issues that could affect how you use this tool. This presentation will provide you with the roadmap of IGG logistics so you know where to turn next.</p>
SESSION 8 15:45 – 16:15		<p>Seeking Information from the Public</p> <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sergeant Annie Delisle, National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Amanda Pick, Missing Children's Society Canada <p>Description</p> <p>Broadcast Intrusive Alerts, news releases, social media, websites and other public engagement methods are crucial for obtaining valuable tips and investigative leads in missing persons and unidentified remains cases. This session will put these tools into perspective and discuss when and how to use them effectively in your investigations.</p>
16:15		Closing Remarks

TIME		TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025
07:00 – 08:30		Breakfast (<i>Newbridge Ballroom Foyer</i>)
08:30 – 15:15		Plenary Sessions (<i>Newbridge Ballroom</i>)
SESSION 9		How Mashkode Bizhi'ikwe (Buffalo Woman) was identified as Ashlee Shingoose

TIME	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025
08:30 – 09:30	<p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winnipeg Police Service Investigators <p>Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Bonnie Emerson, Winnipeg Police Service <p>Description</p> <p>There are many complexities investigating homicide and the challenges are increased when you have no bodies and the victim’s identity is unknown.</p> <p>July 2024, Jeremy Skibicki was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, Rebecca Contois, and an unidentified victim gifted the name Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe, which means Buffalo Woman, by members of the Indigenous community.</p> <p>Throughout the investigation, during and after the trial, investigators from the Homicide, Missing Persons and Forensic Identification Units continued their pursuit to determine the identity of Buffalo Woman. In March 2025 Buffalo Woman was positively identified as Ashlee Shingoose.</p> <p>This session will discuss this complex investigation, how they worked backwards to identify Buffalo Woman as Ashlee Shingoose and share some lessons learned.</p>
SESSION 10 09:30 – 10:15	<p>Indigenous Related Considerations and Inquiry Implementation</p> <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Gary Maracle, Bureau Commander, Indigenous Policing Bureau, Ontario Provincial Police <p>Description</p> <p>Superintendent Maracle will discuss how police services are responding to Inquiry findings – through efforts to rebuild trust, transform investigative practices, and engage meaningfully with affected communities – while also addressing ongoing challenges and work that remains.</p>
10:15 – 10:45	Network Break (<i>Newbridge Ballroom Foyer</i>)

TIME	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025
SESSION 11 10:45 – 11:45	<p>Support for International Investigations</p> <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporal Tammy Zubyck, NCMPUR • INTERPOL Ottawa <p>Description</p> <p>In this session, you will learn where to get assistance when Canadians go missing abroad as well as how Canada can help other countries with their Missing Persons investigations. What are the considerations and resources available to Law Enforcement? We will explore the services of NCMPUR, INTERPOL, CBSA, GAC and others.</p>
SESSION 12 11:45 – 12:00	<p>Good Investigative Information: What it is, How to Share it, and Why it Matters</p> <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin O’Shea, National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains, Royal Canadian Mounted Police <p>Description</p> <p>As case reviews and inquiries have shown, information quality can make or break a case. This brief session will look at ways to ensure data quality from collection to file closing, with emphasis on sharing information through your RMS, CPIC and beyond, showing the benefit of quality information sharing to your investigation.</p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Lunch (<i>Newbridge Ballroom Foyer</i>)</p>
SESSION 13 13:00 – 13:30	<p>Forensic Art – A Valuable Tool in your Missing Persons Investigation</p> <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detective Constable Duncan Way, Forensic Artist / Forensic Facial Imaging Specialist, Ontario Provincial Police <p>Description</p> <p>This lecture will outline the disciplines within the Forensic Art Services that can assist you in your MP investigation. It will focus specifically on the Age Progression, Postmortem Restorative Drawings and Skeletal Remains Facial Reconstructions. It will cover the benefits of forensic art in MP and UR investigations and discuss minimum qualifications & requirements, and how to access the services.</p>

TIME		TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025
SESSION 14 13:30 – 14:15	From Lost to Found: Search and Rescue and Missing Persons Investigations in Canada Description Learn about Search and Rescue organizations and resources across Canada. Details to follow.	
14:15 – 14:30	Network Break (<i>Newbridge Ballroom Foyer</i>)	
SESSION 15 14:30 – 15:00	Family Perspective in Relation to Missing Loved Ones Description Listen to the voices of family members who have experienced the profound uncertainty and grief of having a loved one go missing. Through personal testimonies, gain a deeper understanding of the emotional, psychological, and social impacts that disappearances have on families. This session sheds light on the unique form of trauma known as ambiguous loss and explores how families cope with the ongoing absence of answers. There is a critical need for systemic support and empathetic, trauma-informed approaches from institutions, professionals, and communities. By bringing these lived experiences to the forefront, this session challenges attendees to consider the broader implications of disappearances, and the responsibilities of society in addressing the needs of affected families.	
15:00	Closing Remarks	