



FALCONERS  
LLP

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# NAPS BIGGEST CHALLENGES



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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## ➤ The Officers factor

- HR
- Isolation
- Remuneration
- Housing
- Detachment Conditions
- No Partner
- Away from Family

## ➤ The Remoteness factor

- Housing for officers
- The cost of living and detachments
- Need for dedicated aircraft



# Lena Anderson



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- Death of Lena Anderson at age 23- February 2013
  - Dies by suicide after being left in the back of a NAPS police car in Kasabonika Lake First Nation.
  - Officer had no radio and had to go physically look for back-up, leaving Ms. Anderson alone in the back of the cruiser where she died by suicide.
  - The potential partner was on a different shift.



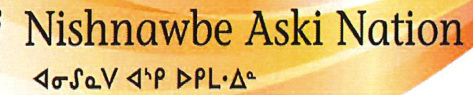


**7:** Ensure adequate and sustainable funding and policy support to ensure that police officers in First Nations communities have access to a central communication dispatch centre that meets the requirements of the *Police Services Act*.



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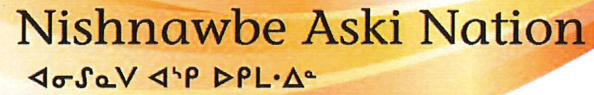




- Northeast Region – 1/5 remote locations had one officer working
- Central Region – 6/8 remote locations had one officer working, one had more than one working and one had no coverage
- Northwest Region 5/11 remote locations had one officer working

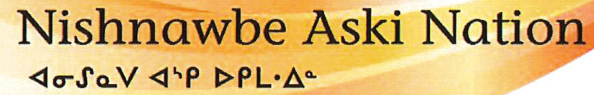
**\*\* Over half of our communities have one officer or less working at a time**





- Burnt out officers are a threat to public safety
- Communities are at risk with only one assigned officer. Chief and Council are having to do the job of the police without the training and/or qualifications
- Lack of proactive policing
- Emergency response times lengthened
- High stress leading to burnout/retention issues
- Dynamic situations become more dangerous
- Supervision suffers





- Public safety jeopardized
- Lack of officers greatly affects retention
- Exit interviews express working alone biggest factor for leaving
- Contributes to elevated numbers off on sick leave
- Quality of investigations greatly affected with one officer or no officers in the communities. Impractical and dangerous to believe that one officer can watch multiple crime scenes, apprehend suspects etc.
- Overtime levels are over double what we are funded for due to shortages
- Burnout increased by long periods covering on overtime





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## ➤ Examples of When Not Having a Partner Threatened Public Safety

- Cat Lake First Nation, December 2017. There was a double homicide and officer Chris Head, a Junior, was working alone in the community. The officer arrested the accused. The issue was there were multiple crime scenes. There was no back-up.
- Fort Severn First Nation, December 2015. Homicide with three crime scenes and the subject was at large. Officer David Dodsworth, during the homicide investigation, received a gun call. He called for back-up at 8pm, the other officer did not arrive until 1pm the next day. The officer in the community had to secure the body, and monitor 3 crime scenes.



# WHY NAPS OFFICERS NEED A PARTNER



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➤ On April 4, 2018, Chief Armstrong received a drug analysis from a bust NAPS did on “percs”. The Percocets turned out to be caffeine and carfentanil. Carfentanil is a highly lethal drug whereby even the lightest of contact could put an officer at risk of death. This is our first exposure to this drug in our communities. What happens if an officer is working alone under these circumstances? They will not be able to self-administer the potentially life-saving antidote Naloxone.



# OPP POLICY



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➤ The OPP's Orders Chapter 2: Law Enforcement, Section 2.14.3 Initial Response states:

➤ "A domestic violence occurrence is considered a life threatening call and the PCC shall dispatch **two uniform** members to the scene, regardless of the call being disconnected, i.e. hang-up, or the caller indicating that the police are no longer required." (emphasis added)

➤ "A uniform member who has been dispatched to a domestic violence occurrence shall: wait for the **second uniform member** to attend the scene, unless there is an obvious or perceived danger that requires immediate police intervention" (emphasis added)

➤ \*OPP are not required to attend calls such as domestic and severe crimes alone but NAPS have no other choice.



# WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO GET A PARTNER



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- Cost of 69 1<sup>st</sup> class officers is 10,906,513
- Cost of 10 Sergeant Officers is 1,658,032
- Total cost: \$12,564,544



# No Radio



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- NAPS requests funding for radios, August 2016
- Ontario confirms Public Safety Canada (PSC)'s support for feasibility study and radio pilot, August 2016
- Bell and OPP provide costing estimate for NAPS' requested radios and information is shared with PSC and MCSCS, July 2017
  - Start-Up: \$1 826 823.76
  - Annual Operating: \$2 354 371.80
- Ontario balks: "[T]he province is not in a position to bilaterally fund this project at this time" – Ontario, November 2017



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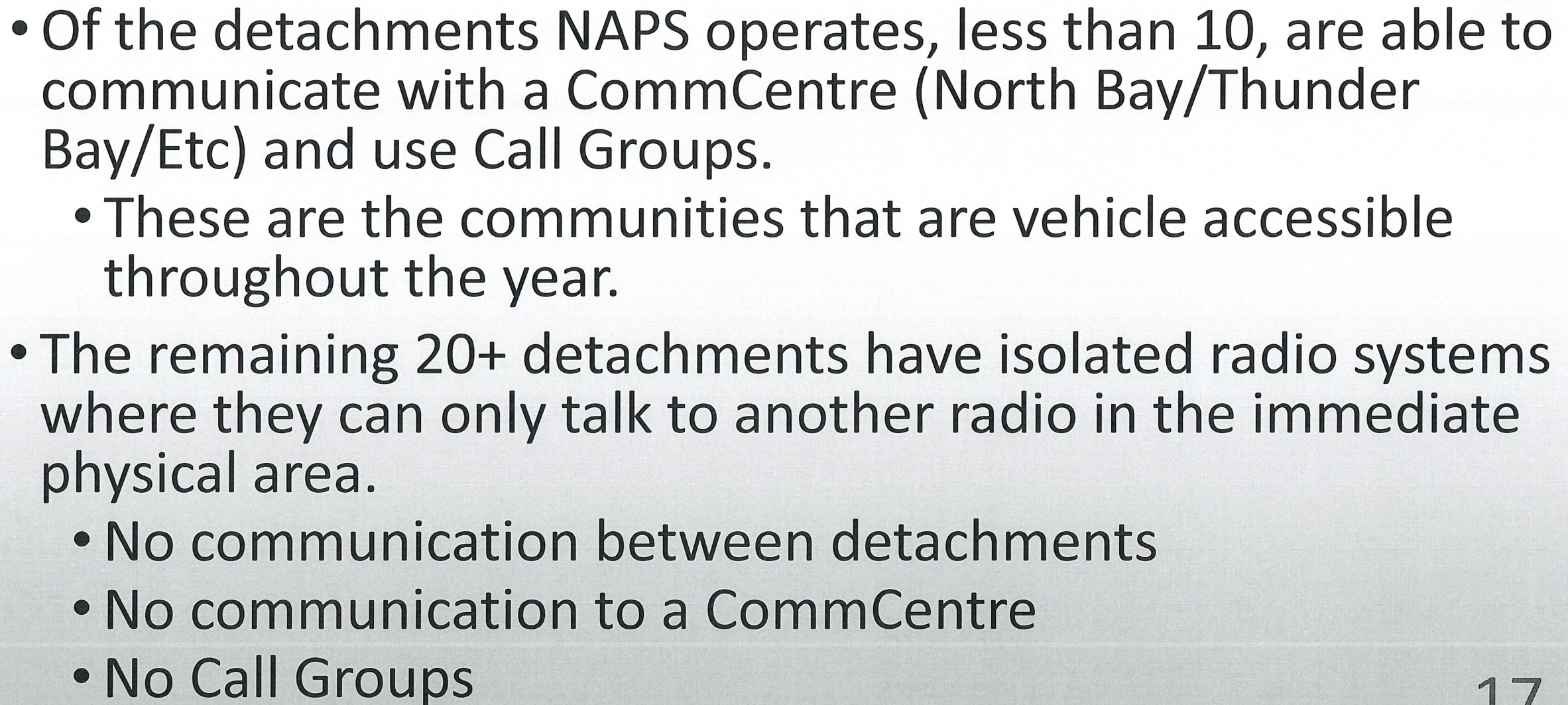
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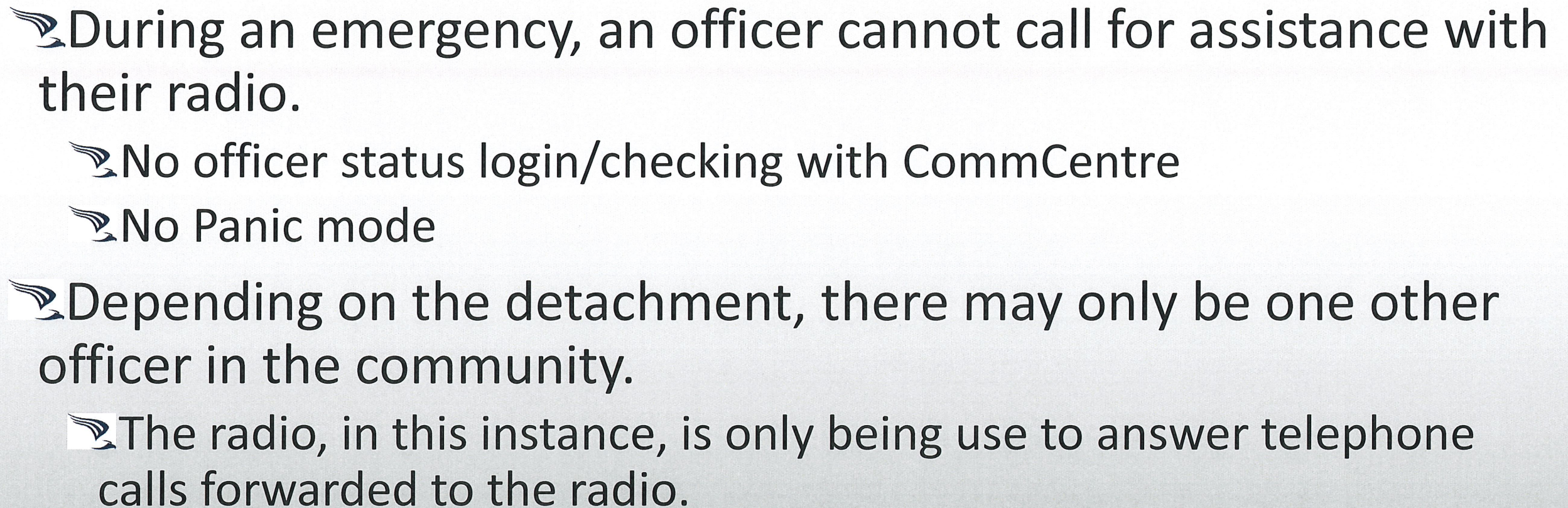
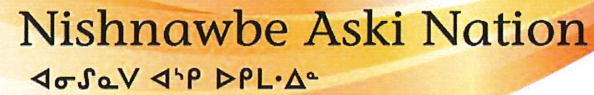
## Consequences of Not Having a Radio

- Public safety jeopardized
- Lack of proactive policing
- Emergency response times lengthened
- Disconnected from sources of support/back-up
- High stress leading to burnout/retention issues
- Dynamic situations become more dangerous
- Supervision suffers

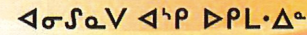














## The Ask:

- Radio Access to:
  - Communications Centres
  - Call Groups from isolated detachments

## What it Would Take to Get a Radio:

-  Start-Up Cost: \$1 826 823.76
-  Annual Operating Cost: \$1 989 327.80