



SCAN

SAFER COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

2019 Annual Report





General information

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods
Government of Yukon
1-866-530-7226 or 867-456-SCAN (7226)
SCAN@gov.yk.ca

October 2020

The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit plays an important role in building safer communities by responding to the concerns of Yukoners and disrupting the illegal sale of alcohol, the illicit distribution of cannabis, drug trafficking and prostitution

The SCAN Unit of the Department of Justice supports community safety by investigating and, if necessary, shutting down residential and commercial buildings regularly used for illegal activities.

Yukoners can seek relief from recurring crime that is undermining community safety by reporting a complaint confidentially to SCAN. Filing a complaint does not raise threats of violence, retaliation and intimidation from those involved in the criminal activity.

The SCAN Unit is a law enforcement agency within the Department of Justice and SCAN investigators are peace officers when carrying out their duties.

The complaint process

Working to address illegal activity starts when one or more residents of a community file a complaint with the SCAN Unit. The complainant's identity is confidential and will not be revealed at any time. Complainants are not required to be involved in any investigative or court proceedings that may result from the complainant.

Prior to proceeding with any action under the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, the investigators carry out a comprehensive investigation of the activities occurring at the property. Depending on complexity, this extensive work can span many weeks.

SCAN Investigators may attempt to resolve the problem informally by working with the property owner and, where appropriate, the tenant(s). A warning letter may be sent or an agreement signed to ensure the cessation of illegal activities. If the activity threatens the safety of the community, a five-day eviction notice signed by the landlord may be served to the tenant.

For more serious complaints, for private or commercial property, or where the owner of the property is responsible for the activity, the Director of SCAN may apply to the Supreme Court for a Community Safety Order (CSO). If a CSO is granted, the resident will be required to vacate the premises within a timeframe set out by the Court and the property may be closed for up to 90 days.

Protecting vulnerable persons

There are a number of discretionary powers included in the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* to provide protection for vulnerable persons. Generally, the SCAN Unit will work in cooperation with a variety of local social service agencies to promote safe and peaceful communities. If the SCAN Unit has reason to believe that children are residing in a building that is under investigation, Family and Children's Services will be notified. In addition, an occupant who is required to vacate a residential property that is not a participant in the illegal activity may receive assistance in finding alternative accommodations. Assistance can include providing information about or referrals to community resources and housing authorities, or arranging for short-term accommodations.

Common signs of illegal activities taking place at a property include:

- Frequent visitors – at all times of the day and night.
- Frequent late night activities.
- Numerous short visits to the property that may be suspicious in nature.
- Visiting vehicles may have multiple occupants yet only one person goes into residence.
- Residence may have blackened windows or curtains always drawn.

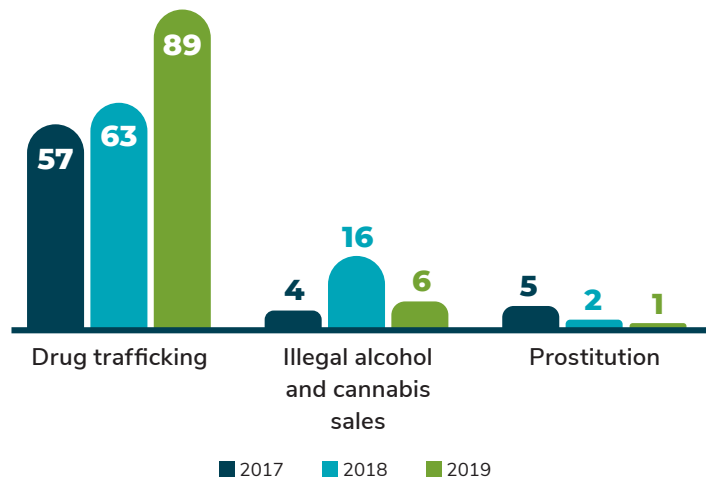
Number of Complaints

SCAN received the following number of complaints from the public in the last three calendar years. Some complaints have more than one specified use and therefore any three of the types of complaints could form one file for the calendar year.

| 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 61 | 76 | 90 |

Types of Complaints/Specified Uses

The majority of SCAN complaints relate to the specified use of trafficking in controlled substances from a property. The illegal sale of liquor is the second most prominent specified use investigated by SCAN and complaints have increased in number over the last three years.



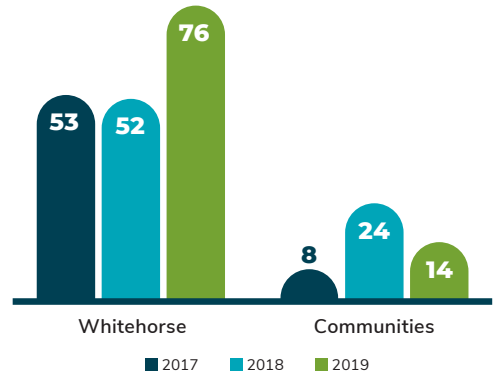
In 2019, SCAN received and investigated 90 complaints. Within a complaint there can be more than one specified use being reported. Complaints are property based and are cleared or concluded into one of three categories:

- **Operational Closures:** Investigations that are cleared or concluded by Evictions, Warnings or Community Safety Orders.
- **File Closures:** Investigations that are cleared or concluded by other investigative outcomes that lack evidence for an operational closure.
- **Open Investigations:** Investigations that are ongoing and are carried forward into the 2020 calendar year.

In 2019, the SCAN Unit had **38 Operational Closures, 52 File Closures** and **28 Open Investigations**.

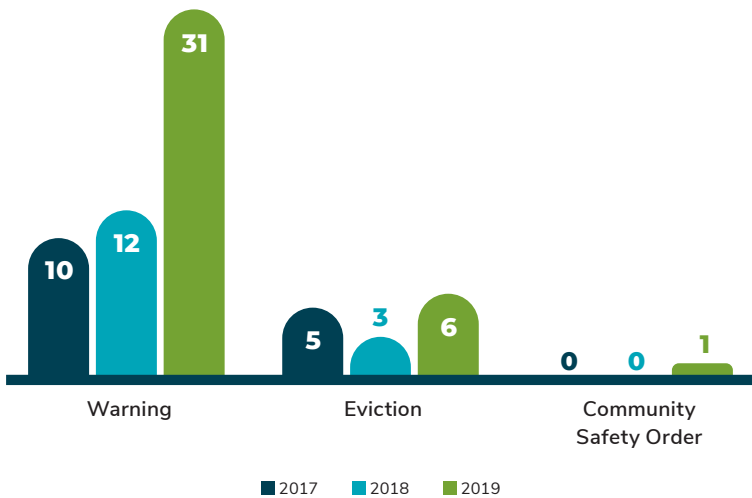
Complaints in Whitehorse vs Communities

While the majority of complaints emanate from Whitehorse, there is an increasing number of community-based complaints. This may be connected with ongoing engagement by the SCAN Unit with First Nations governments and communities outside of Whitehorse. There are a higher incidence of complaints related to the illegal sale of alcohol in the communities.



SCAN actions

Below is a graph of the type of actions SCAN took over the last three years.



Combined actions are cases where the SCAN Unit is conducting an investigation and where the RCMP are investigating, in parallel, complaints related to the same persons/tenants or property. Where lawful and appropriate, the SCAN Unit and RCMP will share information and evidence and take separate but coordinated actions on properties connected with illegal and criminal activity.

It is important to note that there is separation between the SCAN Unit's civil investigations under territorial legislation and the RCMP's criminal investigations.

Combined action with RCMP or other law enforcement

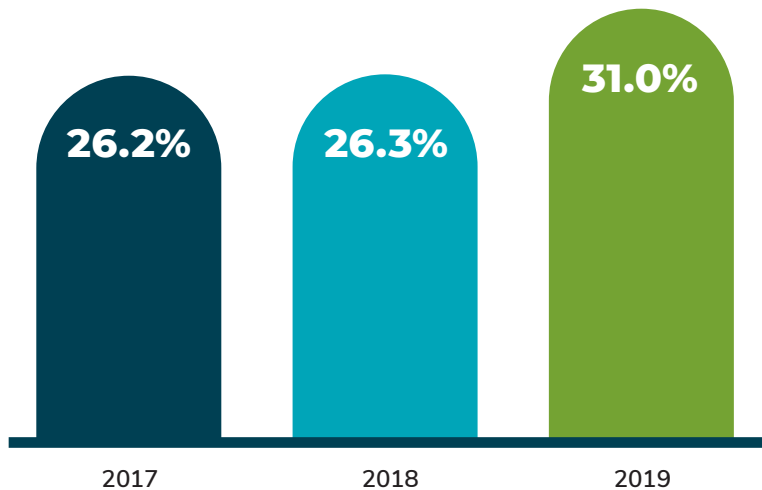
| 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|
| 4 | 3 | 15 |

Protocols with Yukon First Nations governments

The Director of SCAN has entered into agreements with nine Yukon First Nations governments to support communication and decision making related to investigation on settlement land. The agreements establish the lead contact person and authority who represents the First Nations government in a partnership with the SCAN Unit. The agreements also support First Nations community safety through community justice processes like community conferencing.

Complaints related to suspected organized crime

Of increasing concern to the Department of Justice and partners is the involvement of organized crime groups, whether from southern based gangs or the formation of standalone criminal groups in the territory. The following table depicts the percentage of files where information or intelligence has shown that the occupants or tenants of a property are connected, directly or indirectly to organized crime.*



*Organized Crime is defined in the Criminal Code as a collection of three or more persons involved in the facilitation or commission of one or more serious offences that results in the receipt of a material benefit by the persons. The benefit can include, but is not limited to, power, reputation, profit, economies of scale, and control and influence over territory for licit or illicit purposes.



Contact

If there's a suspicious property in your neighbourhood, do not investigate it yourself or approach the occupants.

Call SCAN at **867-456-SCAN (7226)**,
toll free **1-866-530-SCAN (7226)**
or use the **online SCAN form**
to report the property.

Your information will remain confidential.

A member of the SCAN Unit
will contact you about your concerns.



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