1.1 The Special Investigation Unit of Ontario: A Model for the Investigation of Police-involved Fatalities.
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Learning Objectives
At the end of the investigation, participants will be able to
1. Recall the key features of the SIU of Ontario
2. State the recurring issues that threaten the SIU’s efficacy.
3. List and discuss the important issues that will impact the work of the SIU in the near future.

Abstract
The Special Investigations Unit, or SIU, is Ontario’s oversight body tasked with investigating deaths, serious injuries or allegations of sexual assault in cases involving the police. It is comprised of non-police officer investigators (though some of them are former police officers) charged with conducting independent investigations of the aforementioned incidents. At the conclusion of investigations, the SIU’s director must decide whether there are grounds to proceed with criminal charges against the officer or officers under investigation. If so, charges are laid and referred to the prosecution service. If not, a report is produced and posted publicly on the SIU’s website. The SIU is this year celebrating its 30th anniversary. With the use of specific examples from recent death cases, some of the lessons learned from its history will be examined with a focus on the manner in which the SIU’s independence and credibility are threatened. The presentation concludes with a brief look toward the future and the issues on the horizon that will impact the work of the SIU.