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Cost of Police Education and Learning in Canada

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The results summarized herein reflect the analysis of the author and the nature of the data used. The analysis does not necessarily reflect the position of the Department of Public Safety Canada or the cited references.

Canada 

Purpose



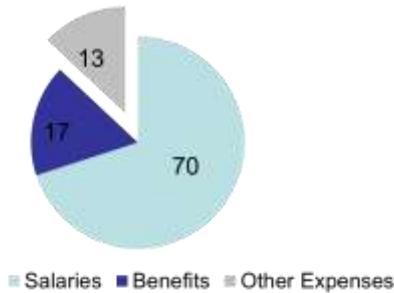
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- The purpose of this research is:
 - to examine available data on cost of police training in Canada; and
 - suggest potential cost savings related to innovative education and learning approaches.

Urban Municipal Policing Expenditures



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- Salaries and wages – 70% of total police expenditures
- Benefits – 17% of total police expenditures
- Other – 13% of total police expenditures
- Expenditures on training are included in “other” expenditures

Toronto Auditor General – Review of Police Training



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- In 2006, the City of Toronto’s Auditor General produced an internal audit report titled “Review of Police Training, Opportunities for Improvement” for the Toronto Police Service.
- The report found that in 2005 the Toronto Police Service spent approximately **\$46.5** million training.
- The amount represented about **6.3%** of the Toronto Police Service total operating budget in 2005.

Applying the Toronto Estimate to the Cost of Police Training in Canada



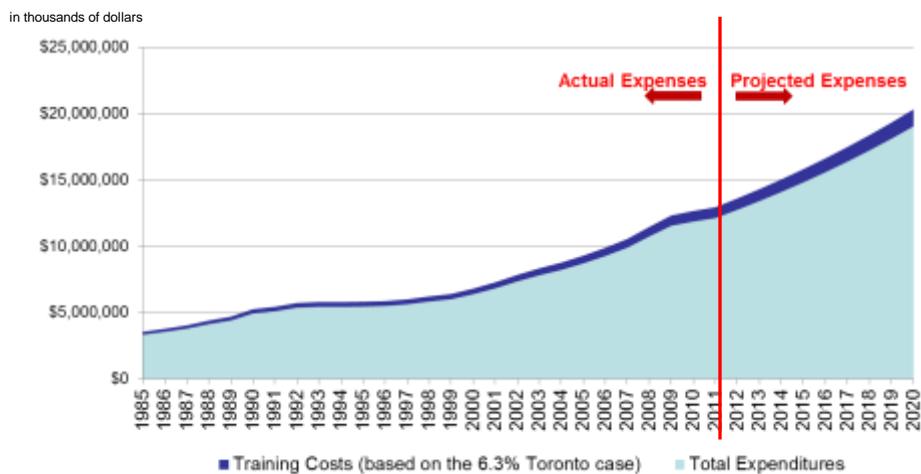
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- Using Toronto's 6.3% figure, we can estimate that approximately \$797 million was spent on police training in Canada in 2010 and \$814.7 million in 2011.
- These approximations can be used to estimate past costs of police training as well as predict future trends.

Applying the Toronto Estimate to the Cost of Police Training in Canada



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Online Training: The Toronto Police Service



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- A case study of 500 officers in the Toronto Police Service in 2009 revealed that:
 - Costs for online training (i.e., licenses) were \$72,000 in the first year (about \$144 per learner) and \$24,400 in the second year (about \$48 per learner)
 - Sending 500 learners for traditional, in class training sessions would cost approximately \$425,000, or about \$850 per learner.
- Considering that in that same year, the Toronto Police Service administered 25% of its courses online, this represented a significant cost savings.

Online Training: Medium-Sized Police Service in British Columbia



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- In 2012-2013, Public Safety conducted a case study of a medium-sized Police Service in British Columbia to determine differences in costs between traditional and online learning.
- Traditional courses cost on average \$165 per course, while online courses are approximately \$47 per course, or 1/3 of the cost.

Online Training: Medium-Sized Police Service in British Columbia (cont.)



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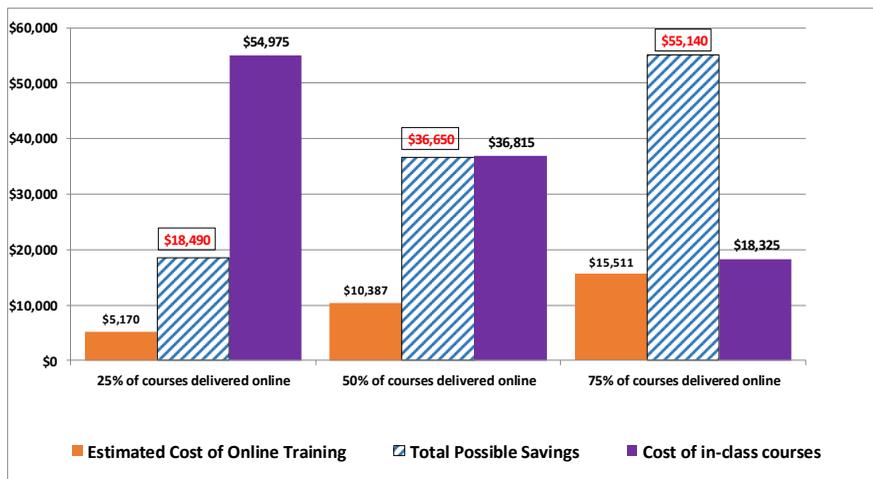
- Using the findings from the B.C. case study, we can extrapolate the savings the Police Service could realize if it expanded the use of online learning:
 - 25% of training delivered online: \$5,170 for online training, or \$18,490 freed up for other training.
 - 50% of training delivered online: \$10,387 for online training, or \$36,650 freed up for other training.
 - 75% of training delivered online: \$15,511 for online training, or \$55,140 freed up for other training.
- A higher portion of online training translates into considerably greater savings.

Online Training: Medium-Sized Police Service in British Columbia Example (cont'd)



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- Summary of possible savings scenarios



Developing a Baseline



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- This brief survey highlights both the potential savings and lack of knowledge related to police training costs
- National-level data on police training costs and mitigating measures is required:
 - Total costs for training, by Canadian police service
 - Current training methods, by police service, type and cost
- Using this data will allow for comparisons between training delivery methods and associated costs.

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