The OPP is administered from general headquarters at Toronto by the commissioner, under the solicitor general's ministry. Other senior executive officers include two deputy commissioners and six assistant commissioners. The force has two principal sides – operations and services – each administered by a deputy commissioner. In turn, six divisions at the next level – field, traffic, management, staff services, special services, and staff development – are administered by assistant commissioners.

Under provisions of the Ontario Police Act, the force is responsible for: enforcing federal and provincial statutes in those areas that are not required to maintain their own police departments; maintaining a traffic patrol on the more than 21 000 kilometres of highways and 104 607 km of secondary county and township roads; enforcing the Liquor Licence Act and the Liquor Control Act for Ontario; and maintaining a criminal investigation branch and other specialized branches to assist all other forces in investigation of major crimes.

A central records and communications branch offers continuous service to all police departments in Ontario on such matters as criminal and fingerprint records.

The OPP operates one of the largest frequency-modulation radio networks in the world, with 107 fixed radio stations and more than 1,532 radio-equipped mobile units including motorcycles, boats and aircraft. It also operates a telecommunications network connecting all 16 districts as well as other police departments on a local, national and international basis.

Quebec Police Force. Under the authority of the attorney general, the Quebec Police Force is responsible for maintaining peace, order and public safety throughout the province, and for prevention and investigation of criminal offences and violations of provincial law. The force is under the command of a director general assisted by five assistant directors general and a director of personnel and communications.

For police purposes, the province is divided into nine districts each under the command of a chief inspector or an inspector and named as follows: Bas St-Laurent, Saguenay–Lac St-Jean, Quebec, Mauricie, Estrie, Montreal, Outaouais, Nord-Ouest and Côte-Nord. Strength of the force at the end of November 1977 was 4,340 officers, non-commissioned officers and constables and 1,004 civilian employees.

Municipal police forces. Provincial legislation makes it mandatory for cities and towns to furnish adequate municipal policing for the maintenance of law and order in their communities. Also, all villages and townships or parts of townships having a population density and a real property assessment sufficient to warrant maintenance of a police force, and having been so designated by order-in-council, are responsible for policing their municipalities.

2.7.2 Uniform crime reporting

The present method of reporting police statistics, known as the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, was started on January 1, 1962.

As shown in Table 2.2, police personnel in Canada numbered 63,675 at the end of 1976, including 51,629 sworn-in police officers, 11,503 other full-time employees serving as clerks, technicians, artisans, commissionaires, guards, special constables and 543 cadets. The ratio of police personnel per 1,000 population was 2.8 and the ratio of police was 2.3. Comparable statistics for 1975 are also given in Table 2.2. In 1975 provincial and territorial ratios for police personnel ranged from 1.5 to 5.9 per 1,000 persons and for police only from 1.4 to 5.0. Total municipal police personnel numbered 34,911 made up of 32,182 members of municipal forces, 2,667 Royal Canadian Mounted Police and 62 Ontario Provincial Police under municipal contracts.

Two policemen were killed by criminal action during 1975. Police facilities at the end of the year included 11,900 automobiles, 845 motorcycles, 1,089 other motor vehicles, 437 boats, 31 aircraft, 237 horses and 145 service dogs.

Table 2.3 shows the number of crimes dealt with by police in 1975 and 1976 including offences under the criminal code, federal statutes, provincial statutes and municipal bylaws other than traffic. In 1975 offences reported or known to police which investigation proved unfounded are not shown but numbered 118,329 including 94,149