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## Eight new Halifax cops sworn in

By DAN ARSENAULT Crime Reporter

Eight young men said their oaths of office, received badges and became the newest members of the Halifax Regional Police on Friday.

"The impact of these (new) officers is felt directly on the front lines," Deputy Chief Chris McNeil said in an interview after the half-hour ceremony at city hall.

"It has enabled us to enhance our beat patrols."

He said the new officers, along with the graduation of policing students in October, will bring the force up to 518 officers. Halifax RCMP have more than 200 officers working in the municipality.

The rise is all part of the provincial government's announced plans to add 250 officers to Nova Scotia's police forces by 2012.

Deputy Chief McNeil remembers the day he got his badge and said it's an honour.

"I've always believed that being a municipal police officer is a sacred trust," he said.

The new officers will begin working right away at a salary of \$42,000; most senior constables earn about \$70,000.

All but one of the new police officers has experience with other forces. They will be on probation for a year and will work alongside experienced officers to learn the ways of the local force.

Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly spoke briefly during Friday's ceremony and asked the new officers to try to speak to residents every chance they get.

"It's important that they see that you are the face of policing in Halifax Regional Municipality," the mayor said.

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