Preface

In reflecting on my twenty-eight years of law enforcement, I realized that many of the stories from the pre-information age eras are fast disappearing. The policing profession has evolved in ways that were not imagined twenty years ago. Personal computers, smartphones, and social networking have become part of our new human experience. Increased access to information has transformed the public relationship with government agencies, including the police, and has changed the nature of accountability. Globalization and the complexity of today’s social problems have created the need for more collaborative, multi-disciplinary approaches. Gender, race, and age diversity have also changed policing dramatically.

This book describes a frontline officer’s perspective on how policing has evolved over the past two decades. It offers first-hand experiences and observations supported and complemented by a wide range of academic and professional sources. While it is not an account of all aspects of policing, this book describes two decades of unprecedented change. The views expressed in this book are my own and do not represent those of the Winnipeg Police Service.