

2018 Annual Policing Report

Cultivating a Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Community

January 2020



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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Report

In accordance with [Council Policy C-PS-02 Policing Services](#), the City of St. Albert Annual Policing Report is a formal report on Policing Services prepared for the St. Albert Policing Committee, City Council and the Community as a whole.

Background

On June 23, 2014, City Council approved the [Policing Services Long Term Department Plan](#) to be used as a guiding document for police resource planning purposes.

On September 17th, 2018, City Council updated the Policing Services Policy ([Council Policy C-PS-02 Policing Services](#)) which guides the Policing Service levels and standards delivered to the Community.

On June 12, 2017, City Council approved the establishment of a formal [Policing Committee](#) as defined in the Alberta Police Act. The Committee was formed in January 2018.

Department Overview

The Policing Services Department has a mandate to; preserve the peace, protect life and property, prevent crime and offences, and apprehend criminals, offenders and others who may be lawfully taken into custody. This is done through a contract with Public Safety Canada (RCMP Municipal Police Service Agreement) as well as other services provided by Municipal Employees including Municipal (Bylaw) Enforcement and the operation of the Primary 911 call answer and policing dispatch centre.

CORE Services

Policing Services provides the following services to residents and/or internal stakeholders including, City Departments and Council:

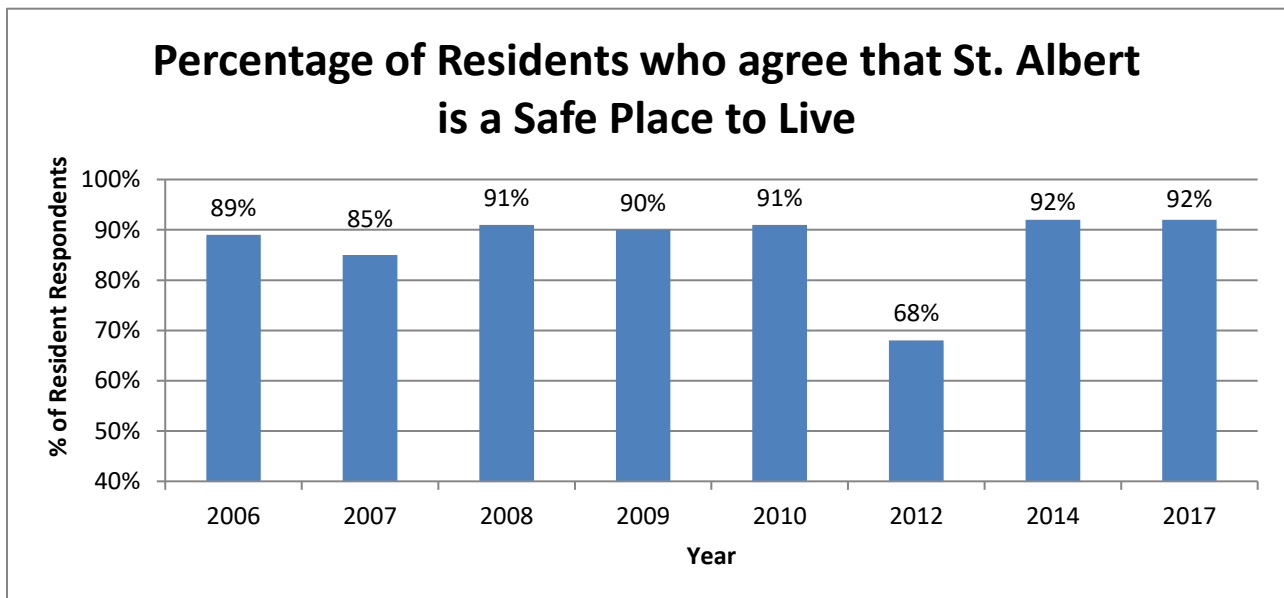
- [Prevention and Education Services](#) – This is a proactive approach to reduce crime and increase community safety.
- [Protective Services](#) – This service is generally described as one designed to reduce victimization through proactive approaches such as park patrols and reactive approaches such as 911 responses.
- [Intelligence Services](#) – The gathering, compiling and disseminating information about crimes, offences, trends and social issues.
- [Investigation Services](#) – The gathering of information to determine the facts surrounding a particular crime or offence.

- Enforcement Services – The proactive approach to address violations and criminal acts.
- Other Police Services – services that cannot be delivered by another department or are best to be provided through policing such as police information/criminal record checks and fingerprint services.
- Support Services – Numerous services that are essential to the department’s daily operations such as 911/Dispatch, police records management, and property and exhibit control.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Perceptions of Safety

The City of St. Albert completes a statistically representative satisfaction survey on a biannual basis. With the exception of 2012, St. Albert residents have consistently reported that they believe St. Albert is a safe place to live.



*Data above obtained from [City of St Albert Community Satisfaction Surveys](#) Note: A corporate community satisfaction survey did not take place in 2018. Next available data on perceptions of safety will be 2020.

Criminal Activity

Crime Severity and Crime Rate are two of the most important high-level measures for criminal activity. Both measures are governed through a uniform crime reporting process that is administered by Statistics Canada.

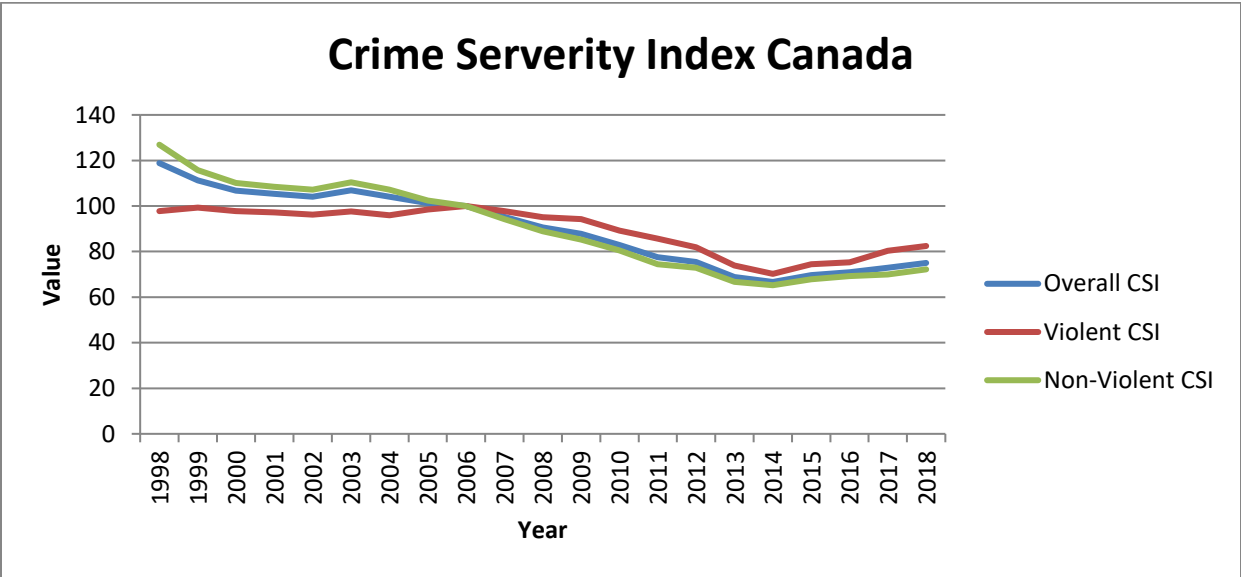
Crime Severity Index

The Crime Severity Index (CSI) is a measure of all police-reported crime that takes into consideration both the volume and the seriousness of the crime. The CSI is gathered and published by Statistics Canada and is comprised of all Criminal Code violations including Traffic and Drug violations and all Federal Statutes.

The CSI measures changes in the level of severity of crime from year to year. All crimes are assigned a weight depending on their seriousness. The level of seriousness is based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights while less serious offences are allocated lower weights. As a result, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes to the CSI.

National Crime Severity Index

Overall, the national CSI increased for the fourth year in a row (up about 2.8% from 2017).

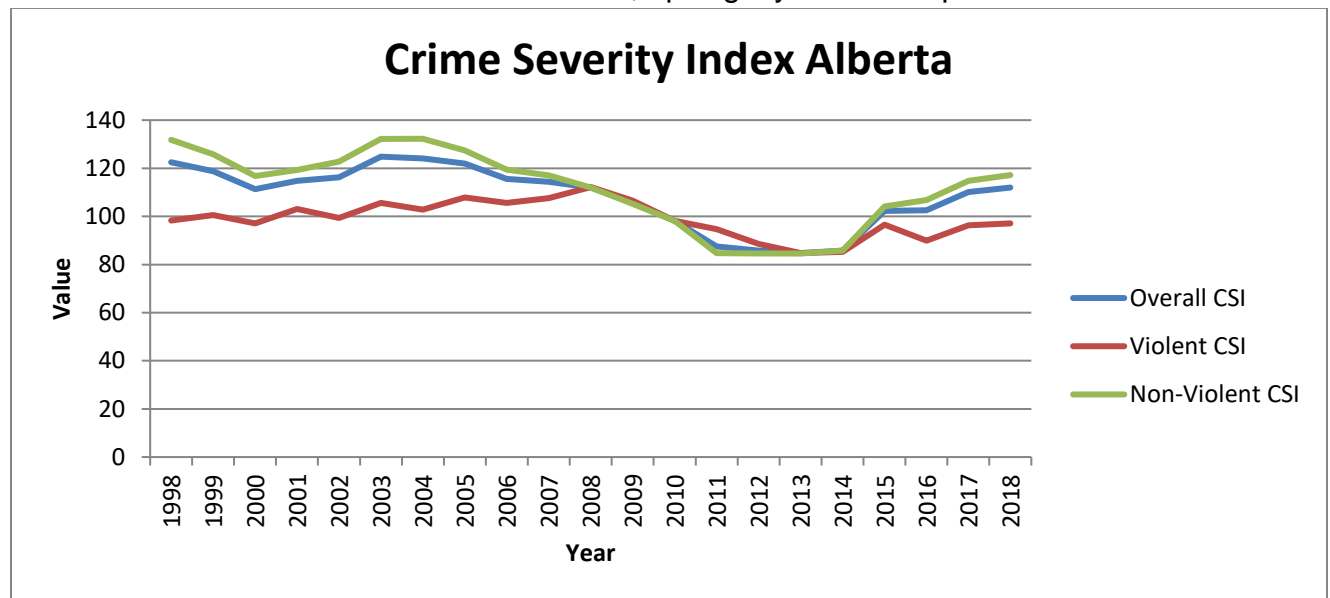


*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada



Provincial Crime Severity Index

Alberta's overall CSI also increased in 2018, up slightly 1.8% compared to 2017.

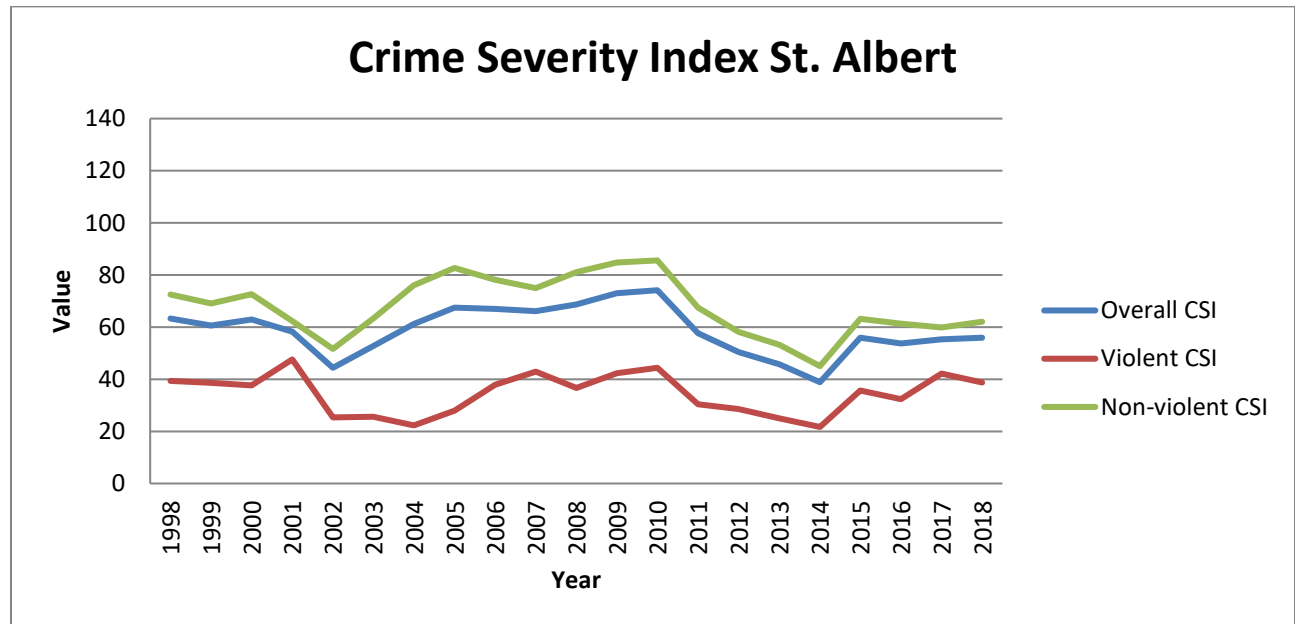


*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada



Municipal Crime Severity Index

St. Albert's overall CSI remained relatively the same from 2017 to 2018. St. Albert did however see a small decrease in the Violent Crime Severity Index (down 8%) and a small increase of 3.7% in the Non-violent Crime Severity Index.

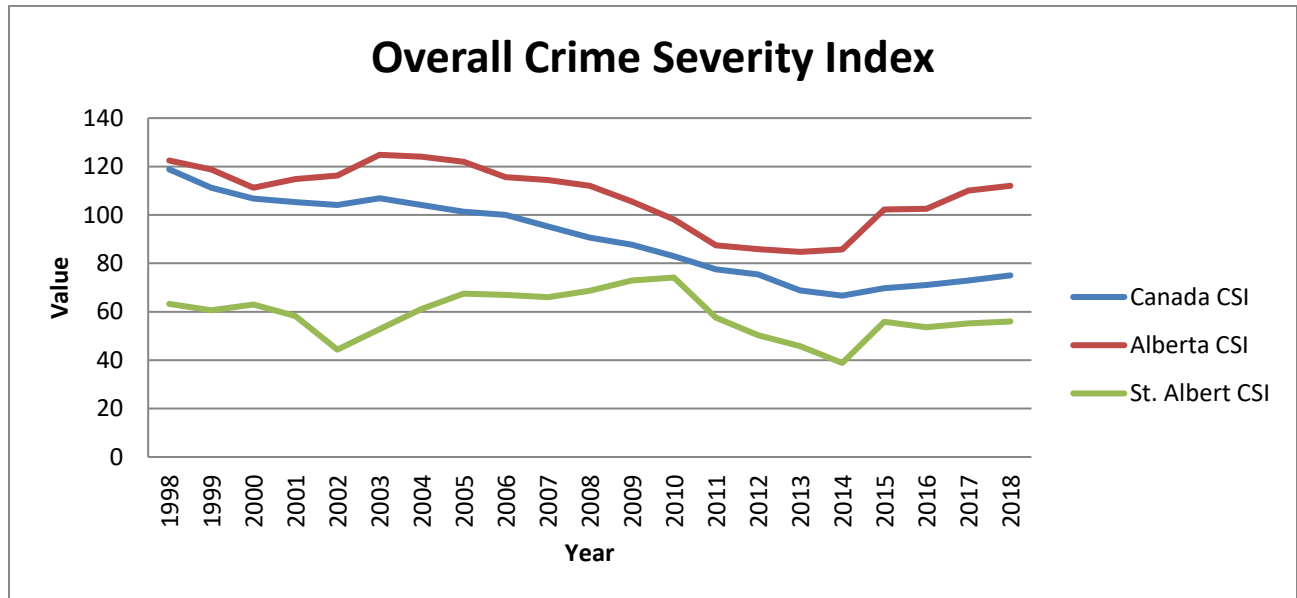


*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada



Municipal/Provincial/National Crime Severity

St. Albert has historically been below the Provincial and National overall CSI averages and 2018 is no different. Having said this, as the graph below depicts, the 2014 – 2018 trend line between St. Albert and Alberta shows similarities which is representative of Alberta's crime trends also impacting St. Albert.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada



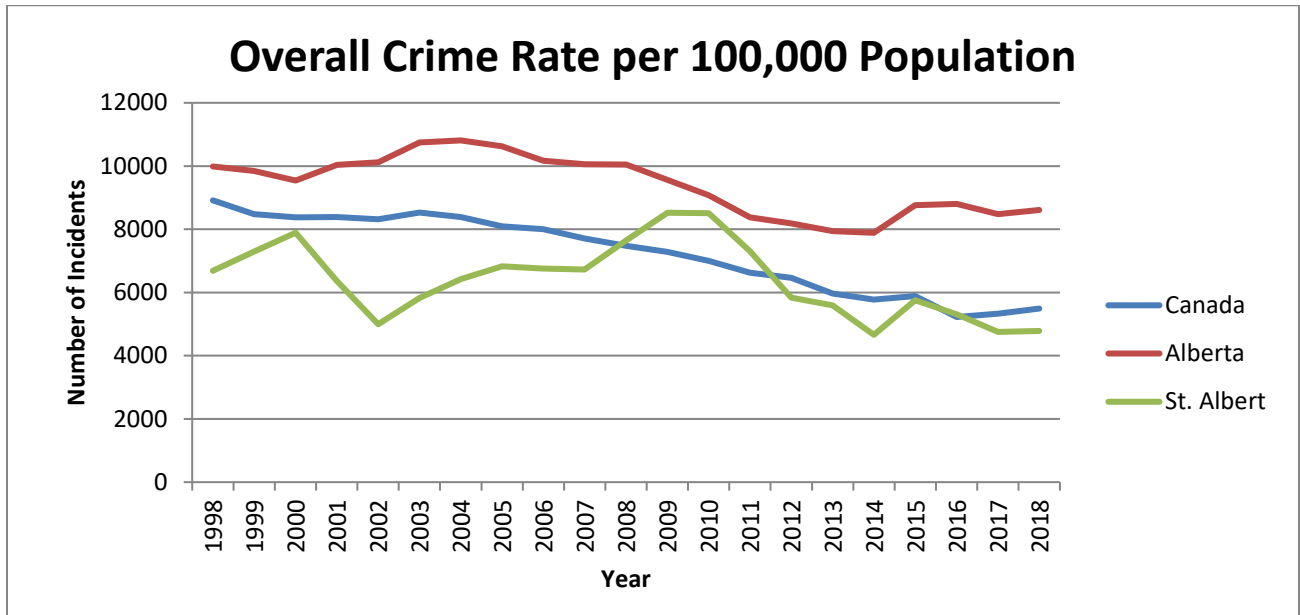
Crime Rate

The crime rate includes all police-reported Criminal Code incidents and is generally expressed as a rate per 100,000 population. The crime rate differs from the CSI in that all incidents are treated equally regardless of their severity. Furthermore, the crime rate excludes Criminal Code traffic violations, as well as other federal statute violations such as drug offences. This traditional way of looking at crime is susceptible to fluctuations in the number of high-volume, but low-severity, offences such as mischief and theft under \$5000. These types of offences account for approximately 40% of all police reported crime in Canada. Yet, victimization data has shown that less serious offences tend to go

unreported to police. As a result, some police agencies practice certain policies to promote reporting. Both under-reporting and pro-reporting policies influence the number of crime reports in a given year.

Municipal/Provincial/National Crime Rate

St. Albert’s overall Crime Rate in 2018 remained relatively the same when comparing it to 2017 as did the Alberta and National averages.



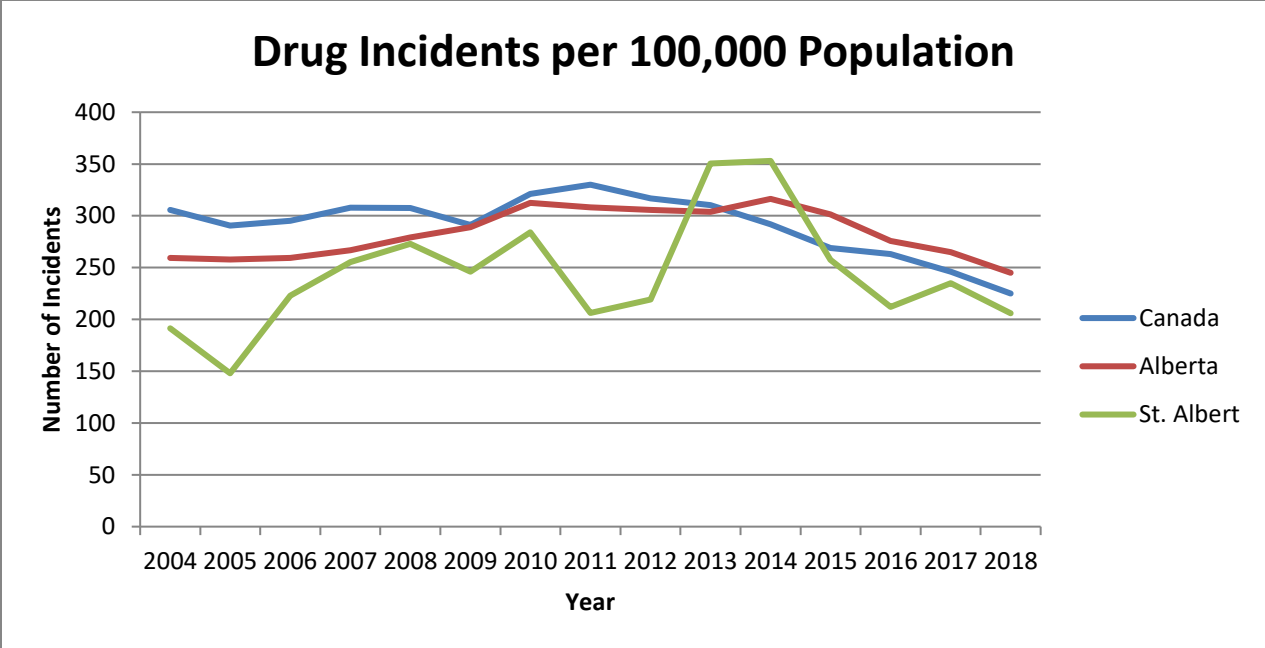
*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Drug Activity

Drug statistics are highly susceptible to changes since it depends on the resources allocated to enforce drug-related offences. For example, officers focused on drug-related offences generate an increase in incident reporting and a higher number of charges.

Drug Related Incidents

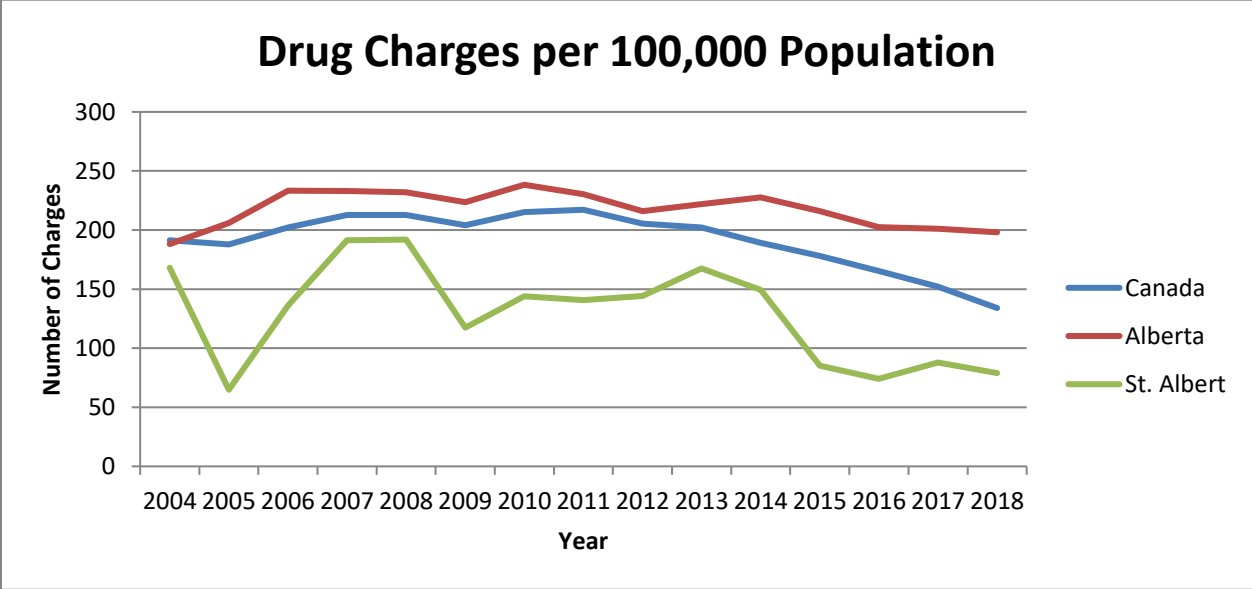
From 2017 to 2018, the number of drug incidents per 100,000 population decreased by approximately 12% in St. Albert. Both the National and Provincial averages decreased at a similar rate.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Drug Charges

In 2018, St. Albert saw a small decrease in drug charges laid per 100,000 population (down approximately 10%). The National or Provincial average also saw small decreases.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Other Criminal Activity

The following section illustrates more specific key crime categories.

Person's Related Crime

Not all categories of person's related crimes are summarized below. For instance, other categories include uttering threats, criminal harassment, sexual assaults, etc. But, when looking at all person's related crime, we see that there was a small decrease from 2017 to 2018 (approximately 2%).

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% change 2017 to 2018
Homicide & Offences Related to Death	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	4	2	-50%
Robbery	13	21	23	13	12	6	5	13	10	20	17	-15%
Assault (Not incl. sexual assault)	394	409	406	355	295	333	295	313	371	367	357	-3%

*Numbers in the above table were obtained from the RCMP K Division Operations Strategy Branch

Property Related Crime

Although St. Albert experienced increases in some property related crimes, this category overall had a decrease when comparing the numbers in 2017 to the numbers in 2018. In 2017, there were 2847 property related offences reported and in 2018 there were 2793 offences (decrease of approximately 3%).

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% change 2017 to 2018
Break and Enter	254	249	227	216	185	184	127	239	245	245	256	+4%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	140	144	136	100	93	89	100	126	160	144	153	+6%
Theft over \$5000	38	30	20	22	17	20	13	29	26	31	38	+23%
Theft under \$5000	1088	1448	1347	974	874	857	792	1242	1256	1294	1169	-10%
Possession of Stolen Property	71	66	56	44	34	50	35	55	67	75	118	+57%
Fraud	223	226	192	170	164	125	167	218	263	293	299	+2%

*Numbers in the above table were obtained from the RCMP K Division Operations Strategy Branch

Community Policing Activity

The St. Albert Detachment has continued to focus on pro-active activities within the community as resources allow. Much of this work is coordinated by, and happens within, the Community Policing unit. Community Policing reports to the community on a school year period. For easy access to the 2018/19 report, please click on the below link.

[2018/19 School Resource Officer/Community Policing Program Report](#)

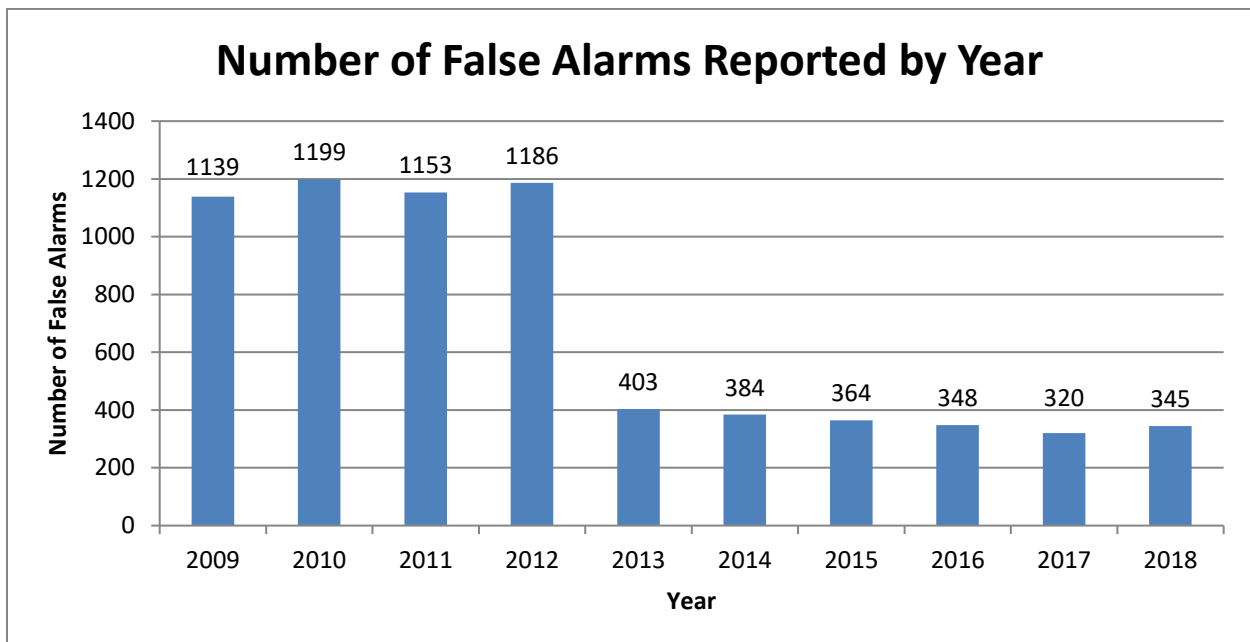


Other Policing Activities

Policing Services is also involved in several other activities that do not relate directly to criminal activity. Below are a few key areas.

False Alarm Incidents

In 2018, there was a small increase in the number of false alarm reports (up 25 calls, 320 in 2017 to 345 in 2018).¹



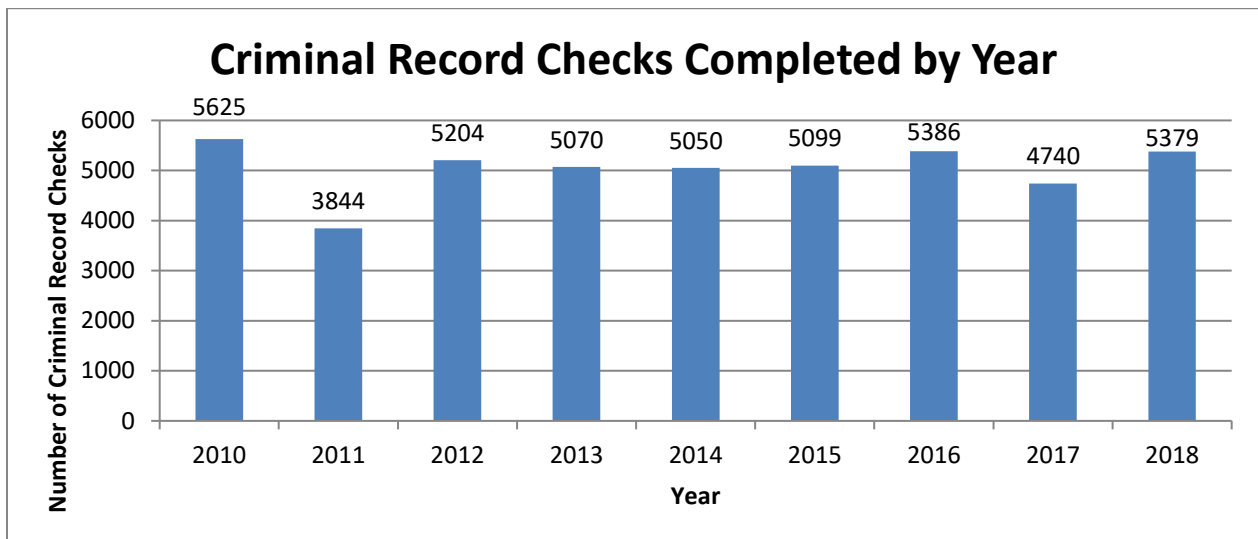
* Numbers in the above graph were obtained from the RCMP K Division Operations Strategy Branch



¹In 2012, City Council passed a new Alarm Bylaw that took effect in 2013. Since the implementation of that Bylaw, calls for service have dramatically decreased (approximately 75%). The significant policy change in the Bylaw was that the police would only respond to “validated” alarms. This change appears to be having the desired impact on these calls for service, freeing up RCMP time to focus on actual crime and crime prevention.

Processed Criminal Record Checks

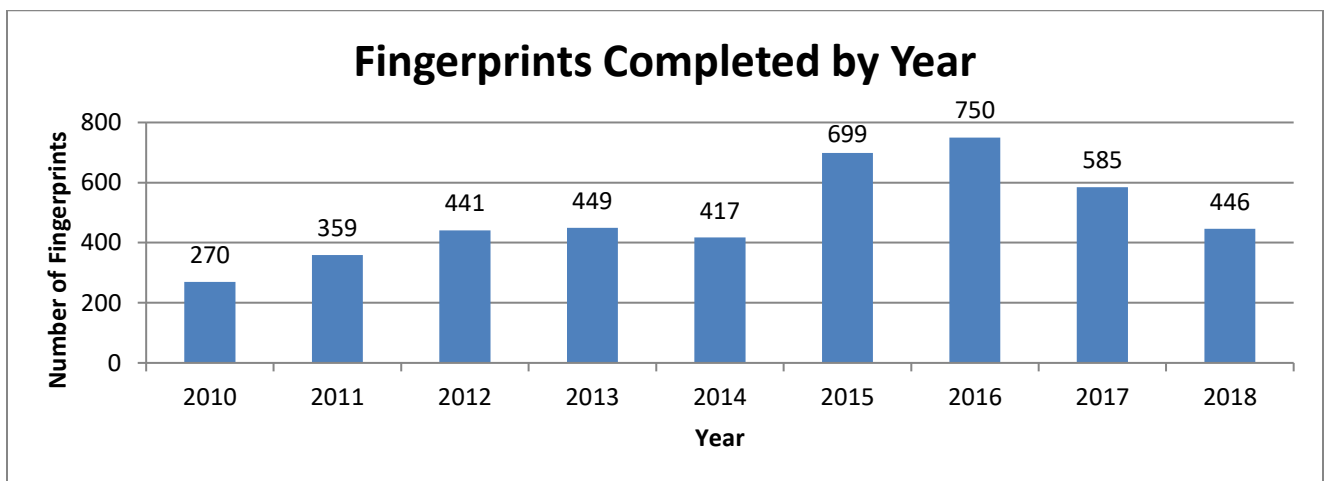
Many organizations, both for and not for profit, have processes in place to have potential employees and volunteers complete a criminal record check as part of their screening processes. With approximately 5000 Criminal Record Checks processed per year, this continues to be one of the main service areas for our front counter. There were approximately 600 more criminal record checks processed in 2018 than in 2017.



* Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally at the St. Albert Detachment

Civilian Fingerprints Processed

Civilian fingerprint services often go hand in hand with criminal record check applications. This often needs to be completed when fingerprints are required to confirm the person in the application either has, or does not have, a criminal record. There was a decrease in the demand for this service for a second straight year.



* Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally at the St. Albert Detachment

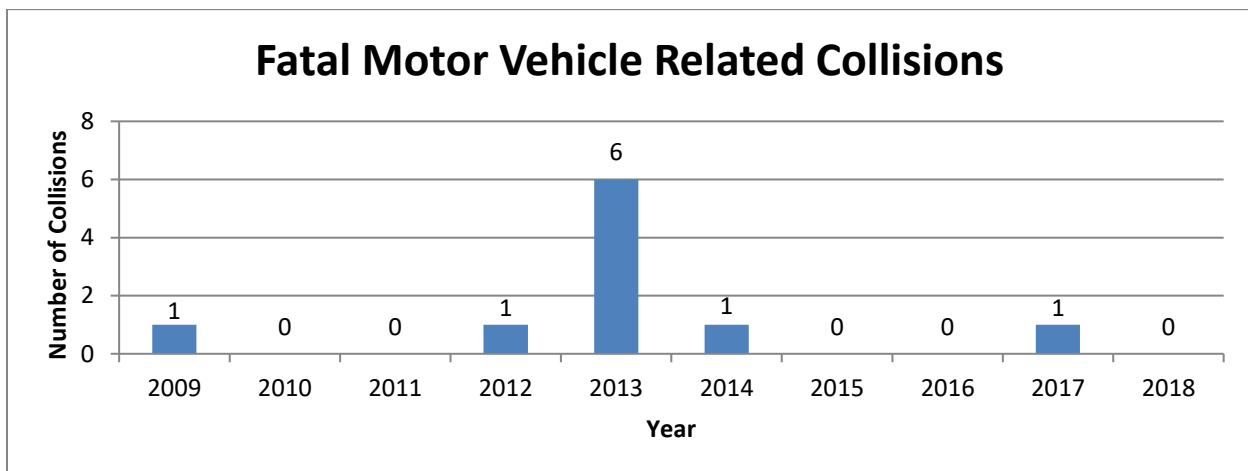
Traffic Safety

Traffic safety continues to be top of mind for Policing Services with dedicated RCMP and Municipal Enforcement Officers assigned specifically to traffic enforcement duties. In 2018, Policing resources continued to participate in the internal Traffic Safety Committee where representatives from Engineering, RCMP, Municipal Enforcement and Communications work collaboratively on traffic safety matters by utilizing a “4 E” approach (Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Evaluation). The below statistics have been captured from the RCMP records management system and there may be slight differences in these when compared to other traffic safety reports. For a more detailed look at collision statistics and traffic safety programs and initiatives, please visit www.stalbert.ca

Collisions

Fatal Collisions

In 2018, there were no fatal motor vehicle collisions in St. Albert.

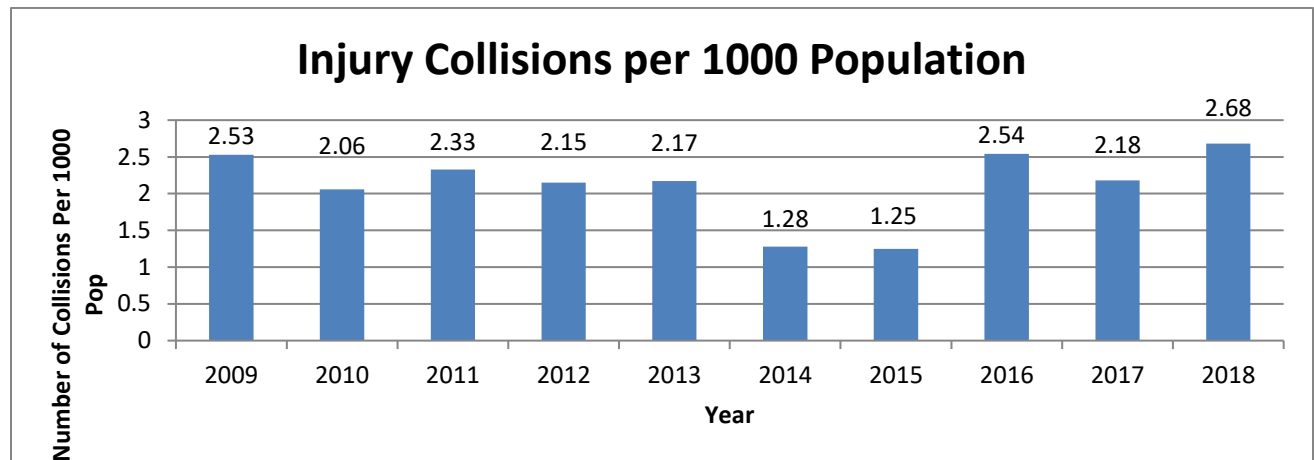


* Numbers in the above graph were obtained from the RCMP K Division Operations Strategy Branch



Injury Collisions

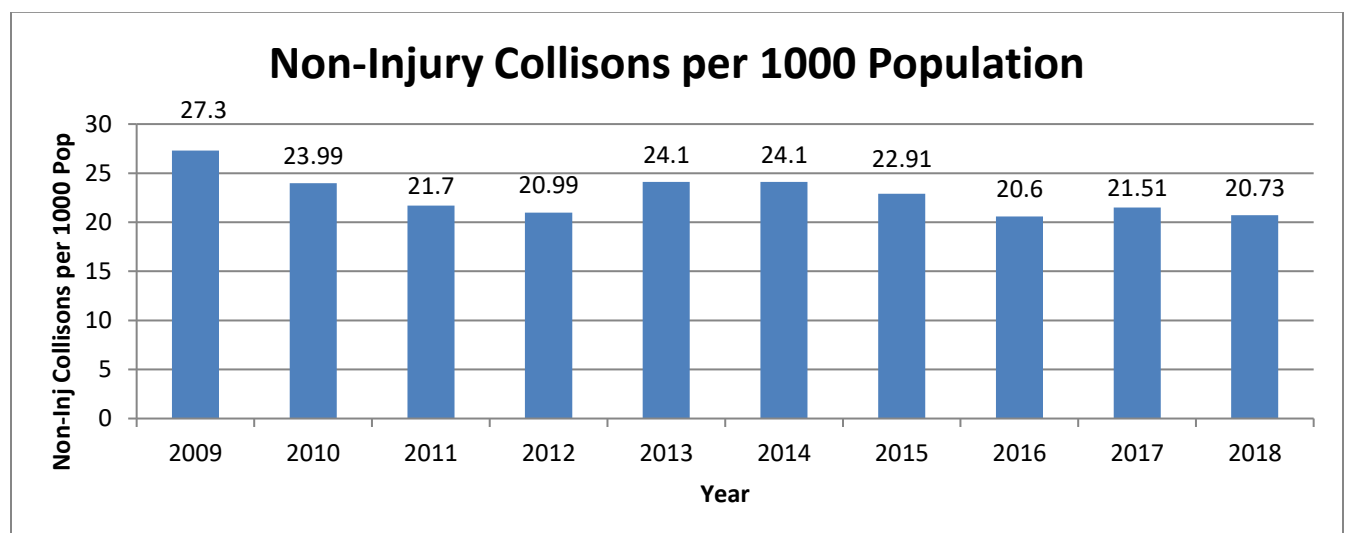
In 2018, injury collisions per population increased slightly.



* The number of collisions used to make the above graph were obtained from the RCMP K Division Operations Strategy Branch. Population is based on the latest census data. Where updated census data is not available, a 1.5% population increase is assumed.

Non-Injury Collisions

From 2017 to 2018, there was a small decrease in the non-injury collisions per 1000 population rate.

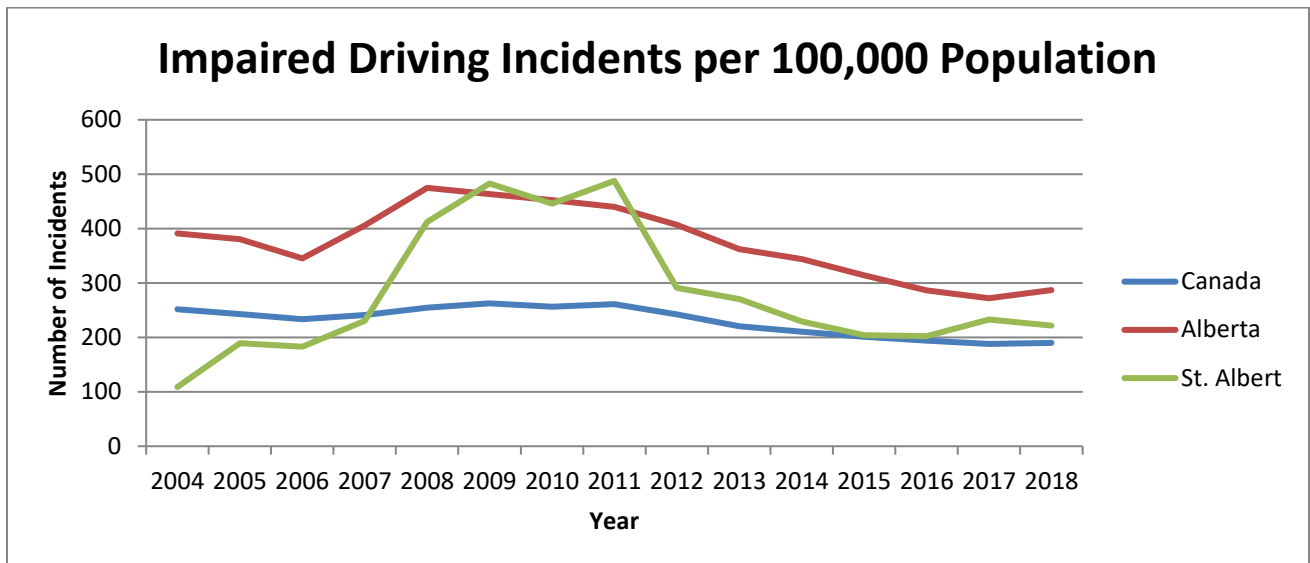


* The numbers of collisions used to make the above graph were obtained from the RCMP K Division Operations Strategy Branch. Population is based on the latest census data. Where updated census data is not available a 1.5% population increase is assumed.

Impaired Driving

Impaired Driving Incidents

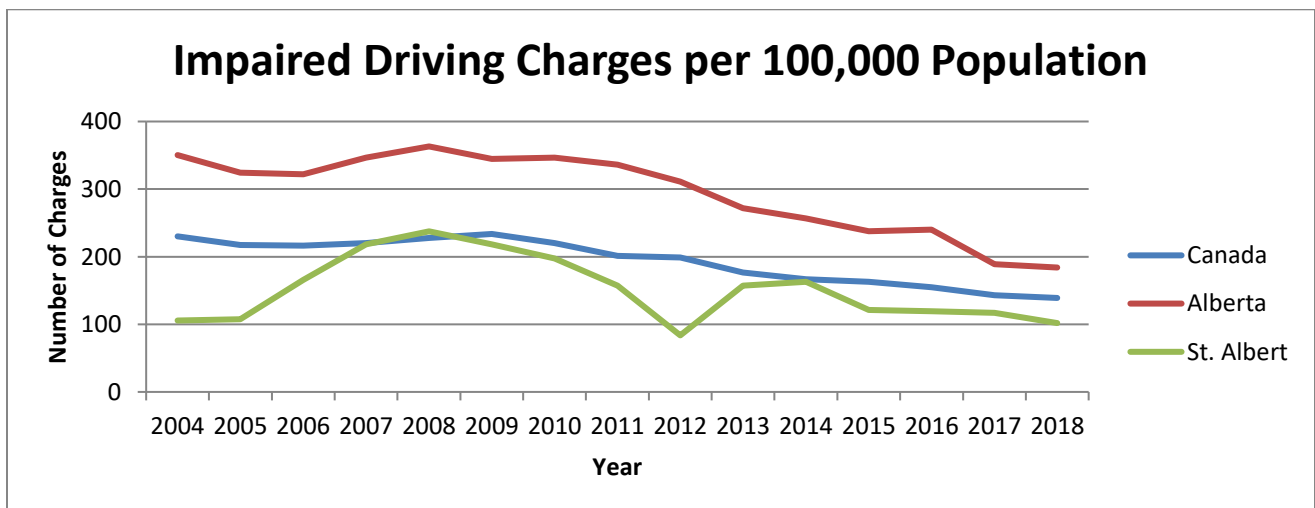
In 2018, the total reported number of impaired driving incidents per 100,000 population in St. Albert decreased slightly from 2017. However, the National and Provincial averages increased.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Impaired Driving Charges

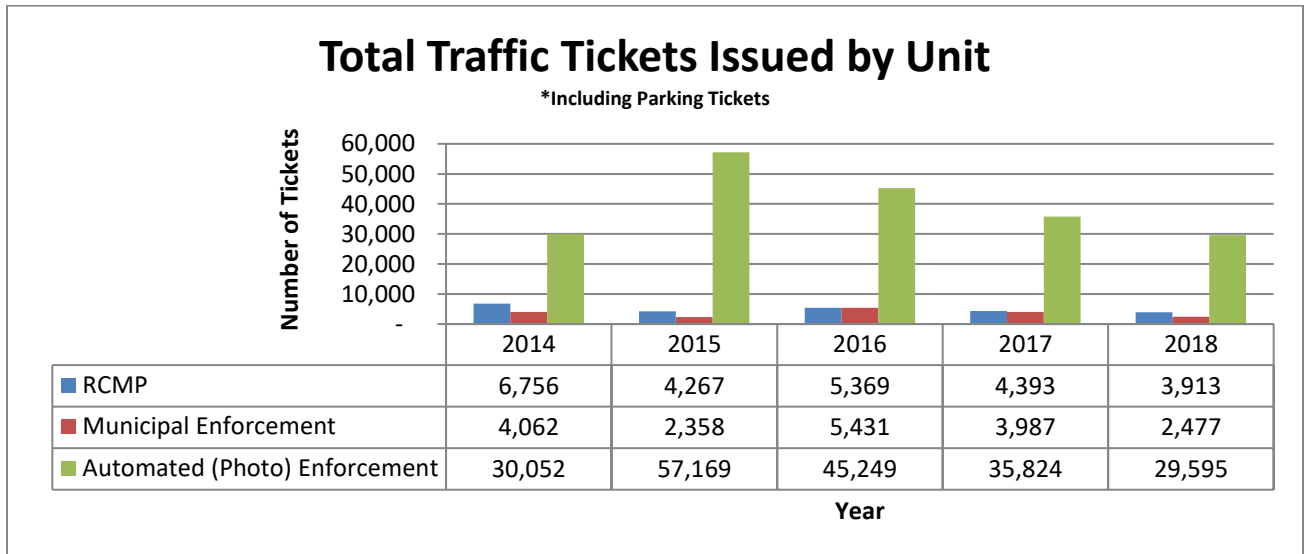
Since 2015, the total number of impaired driving charges per 100,000 population has remained relatively steady however there was a slight decrease in 2018 compared to 2017 (approximately 15 less charges laid per 100,000 population).



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Traffic Tickets Issued (Including Parking tickets)

In 2018, St. Albert saw decreases in the total number of tickets issued by all units. The most significant decrease was in automated (photo) enforcement tickets issued which was down approximately 6,000 tickets from 2017.



*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally at the St. Albert Detachment



911/Communications/Dispatch

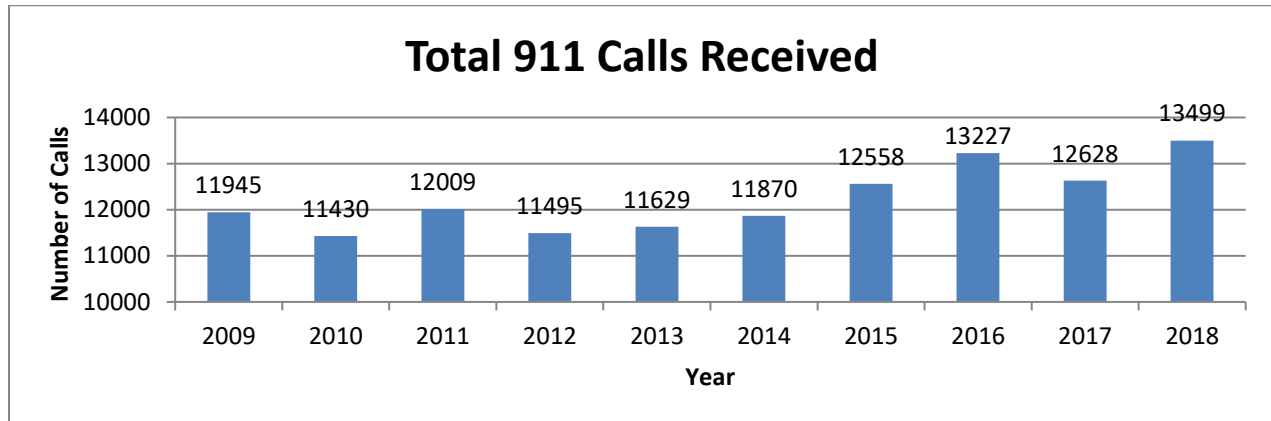
Policing Services runs the primary 911 public safety answering point (PSAP) for the community. All initial 911 calls made in the community go directly to the Policing Services communication centre at Maloney Place, where operators record and dispatch police related calls and transfer out fire and ambulance calls.

In 2014, the Province of Alberta enacted the new Alberta 911 Emergency Act which resulted in a new 911 grant being passed down to primary PSAPs. The new Act also brought with it a requirement to meet new 911 standards and reporting.

911

Total 911 Calls

In 2018, there was an increase (approximately 6.9%) in the total number of 911 calls received.

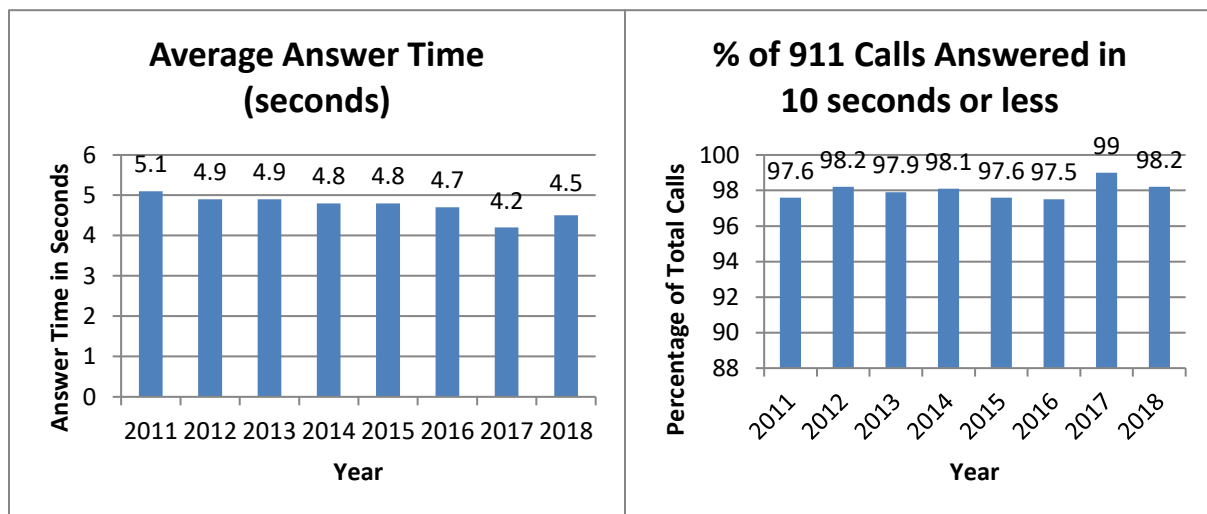


*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally at the St. Albert Detachment from data received from Telus.

911 Speed of Answer

The average answer time of all 911 calls received has remained steady – between 4 and 5 seconds over the last 7 years. However, there was a small increase from 2017 to 2018 (0.3 seconds).

In 2018, 98.2% of all 911 calls received were answered within 10 seconds or less. The Alberta Government 911 Standard is set at answering 95% of 911 calls within 15 seconds or less. St. Albert continues to exceed this standard.



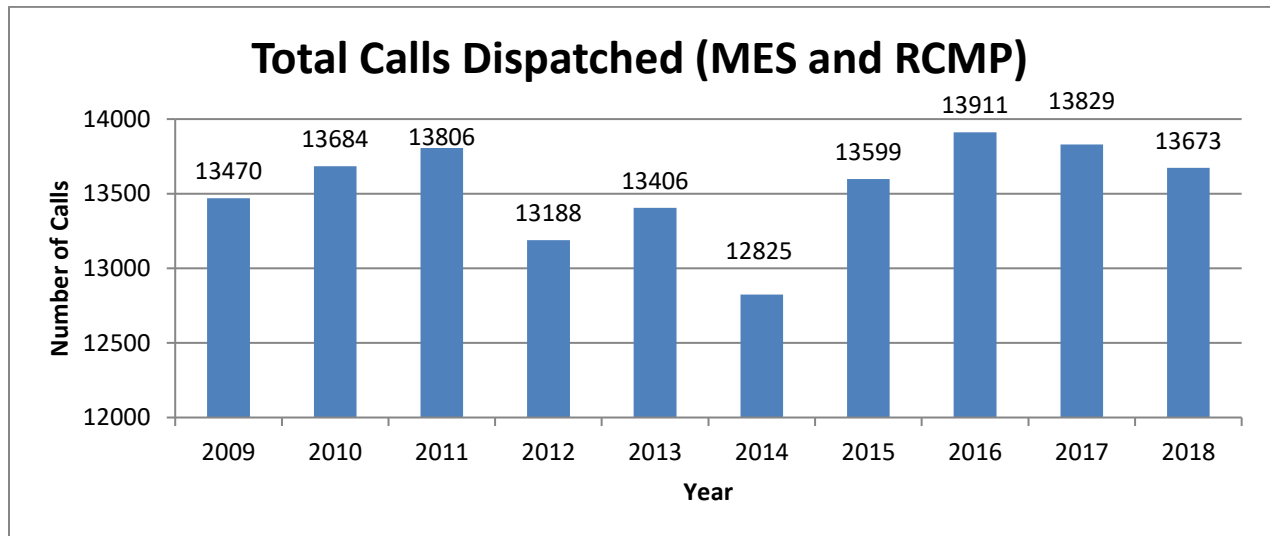
*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Telus

Communications/Dispatch

The Communications Center housed within Maloney Place dispatches all calls to the RCMP as well as to Municipal Enforcement.

Total Calls Dispatched

On average, the total number of calls for service that are dispatched out to officers have been around 13,000 per year (approximately 35 per day). When comparing 2017 to 2018, there was a small decrease in total calls (approximately 150).



*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally at the St. Albert Detachment



Municipal Enforcement Services

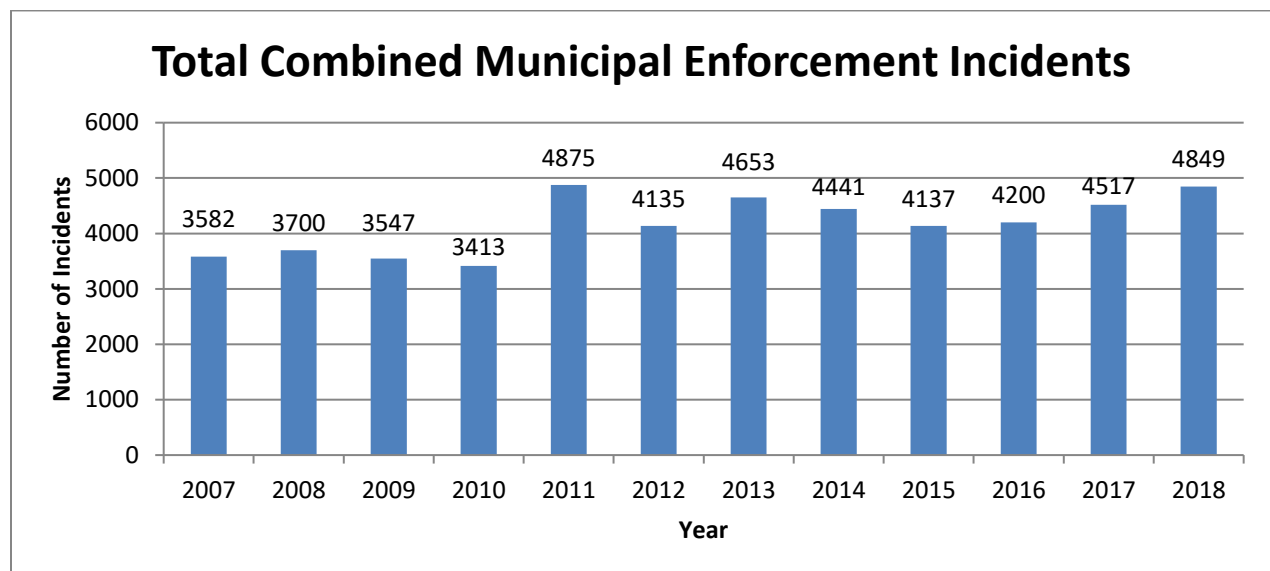
The Municipal Enforcement Service has a primary duty to answer and investigate Municipal Bylaw complaints such as parking, animal control and property related offences such as unkempt land. In addition to this, there are two officers that have been assigned a primary role of pro-active traffic safety duty.



Incident Reporting

Total Incidents

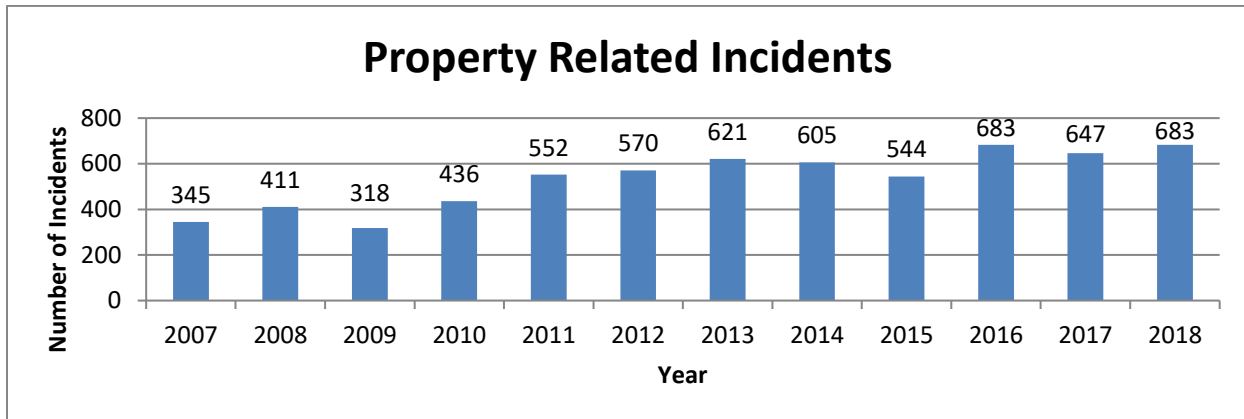
There were a number of consecutive years where Municipal Enforcement experienced a decrease in incidents. However, in the last three years (2016, 2017 and 2018), this has changed with Municipal Enforcement seeing an increase in incidents. From 2015 to 2018 we have seen an increase of approximately 17% (700 incidents).



*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally by Municipal Enforcement.

Property Related Incidents

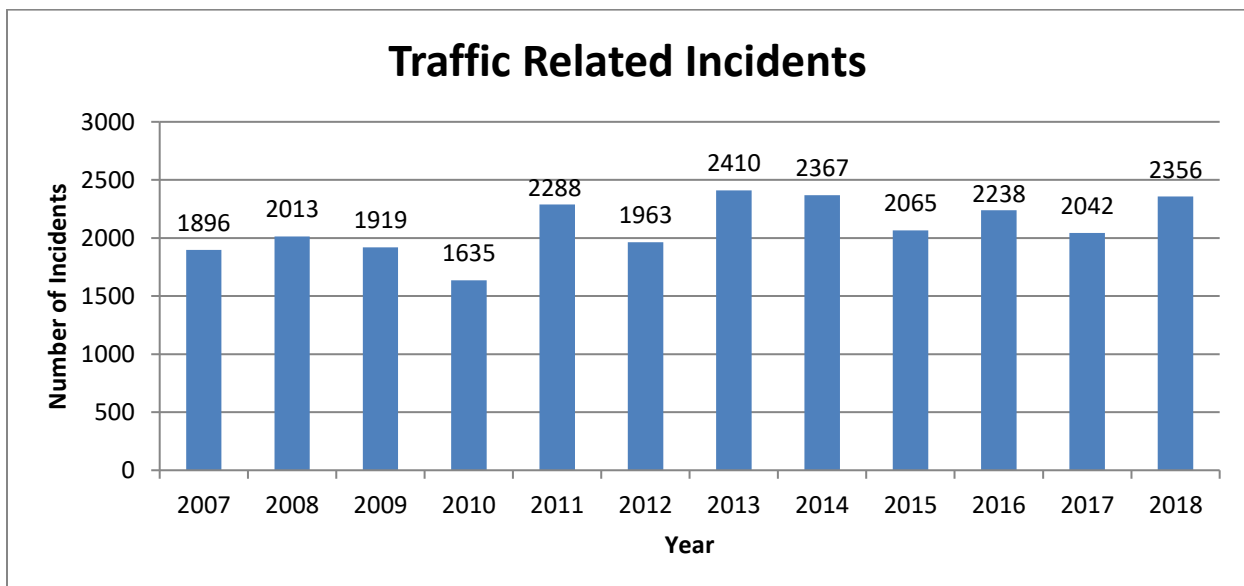
In general, property related complaints, such as being unsightly, having excessive waste, uncut weeds/grass or icy sidewalks, have been on the rise since 2009. In 2018, there was a small increase in the category compared to 2017 (Approximately 35 more incidents).



*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally by Municipal Enforcement.

Traffic Related Incidents

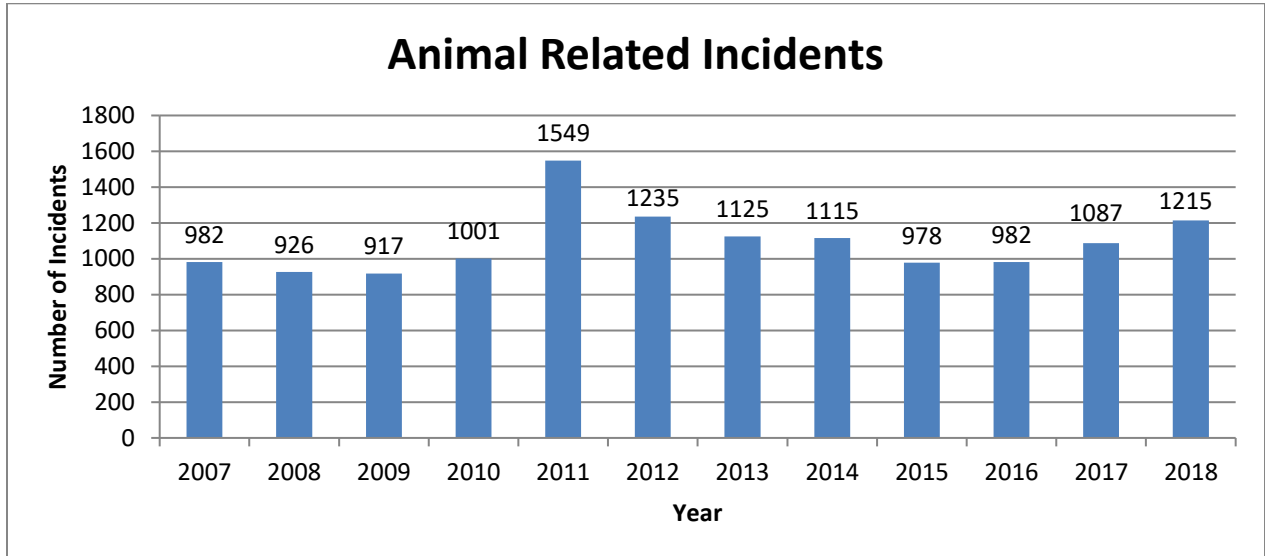
Traffic related incidents include prohibited parking and roadway obstructions, among other categories. Compared to 2017, there was an increase in 2018 with approximately 300 more incidents per year.



*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally by Municipal Enforcement.

Animal Control Related Incidents

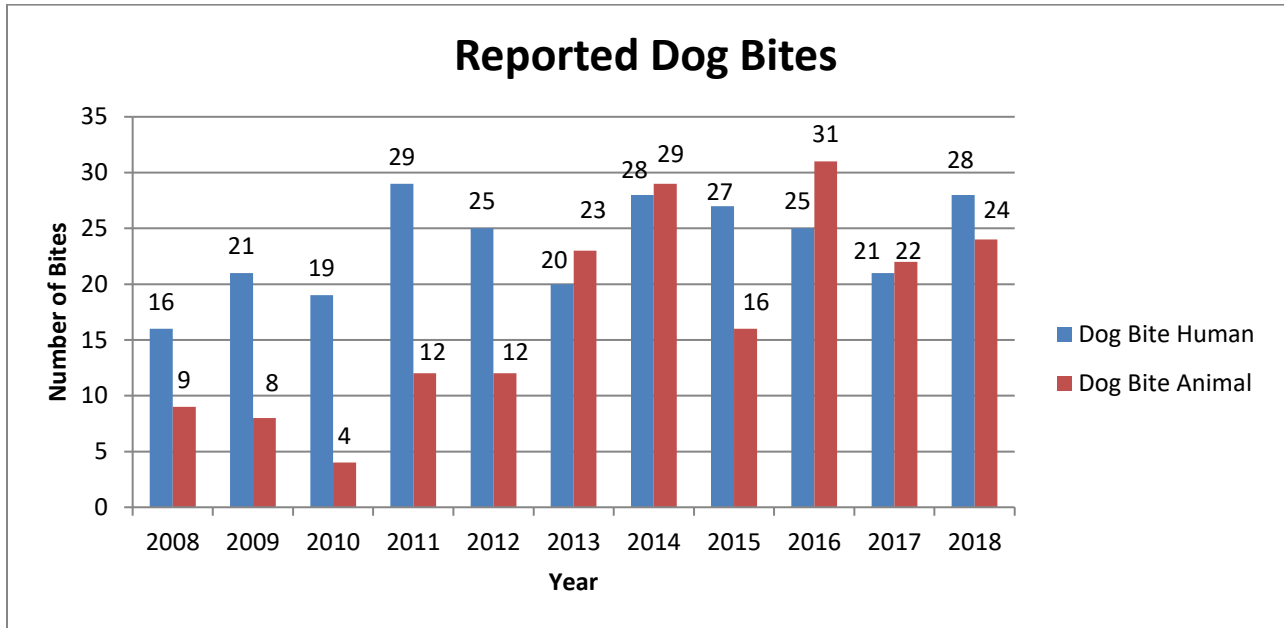
Animal related incidents increased for a second year in a row. This increase represents approximately 120 more incidents or 10 more per month.



*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally by Municipal Enforcement.

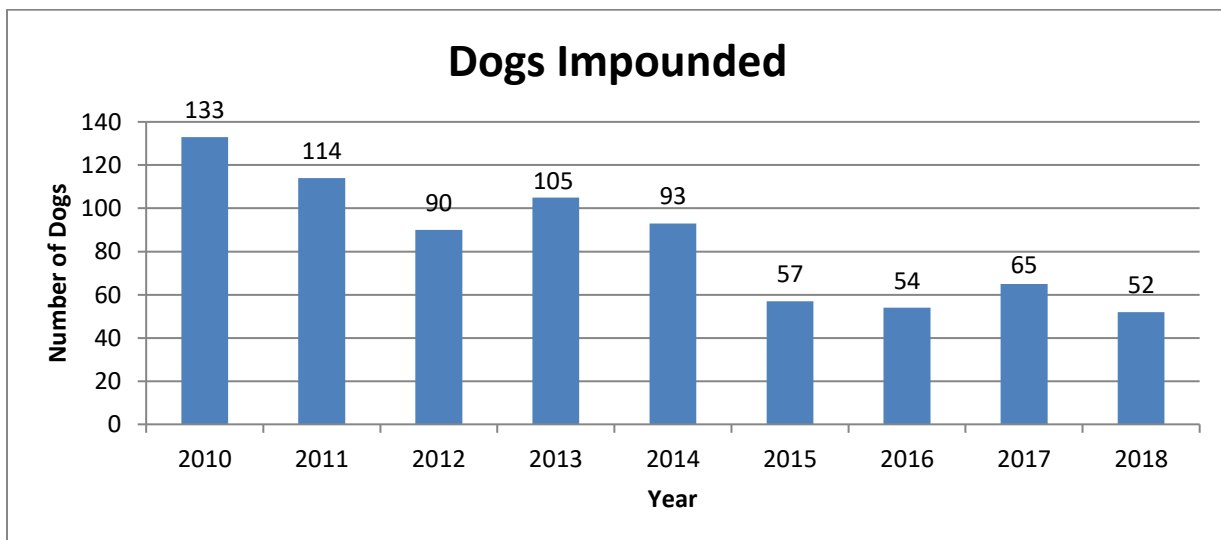


In 2018, the total number of reported dog bites increased in comparison with the number of reports in 2017 (approximately 20%). This increase was mainly attributed to the number of reports of dog biting humans (7 more in 2018 than 2017).



*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally by Municipal Enforcement.

There was a small decrease in the total number of dogs impounded in 2018 (65 to 52).

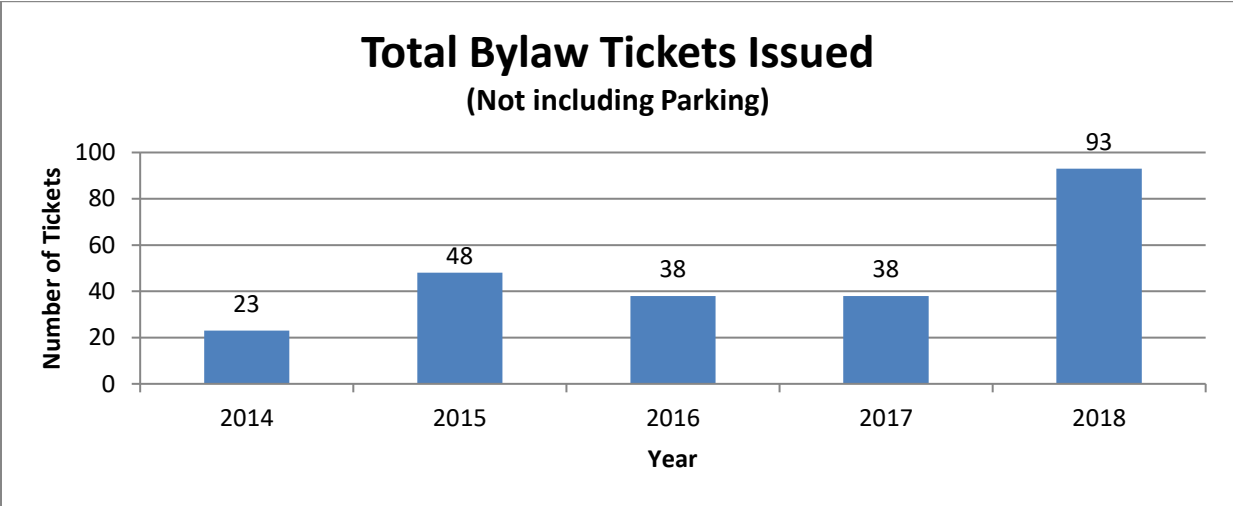


*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally by Municipal Enforcement.

Tickets Issued

Bylaw Tickets Issued

The numbers below represent the total number of tickets issued related to all Bylaw matters such as animal control, unsightly properties, noise complaints, etc. These do not include parking violations. There was a significant increase in Bylaw tickets issued in 2018 from 2017 (approximately 145%). This increase was is a result of increase pro-active work related to Animal Bylaw enforcement.



*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally by Municipal Enforcement.

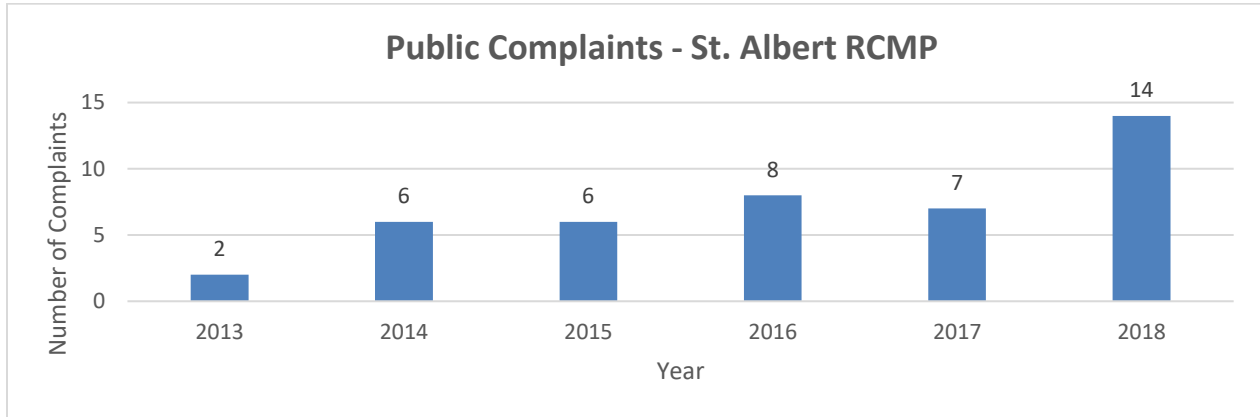
PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AGAINST OFFICERS

It is very important for the public to have trust in the law enforcement services within their community. As a result, law enforcement agencies have developed robust public complaint and appeal processes. Complaints made against any RCMP member is overseen by the independent [Civilian Review and Complaints Commission](#). Complaints made against a St. Albert Community Peace Officer are handled by a civilian employee of the City and reported to, and overseen by, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.

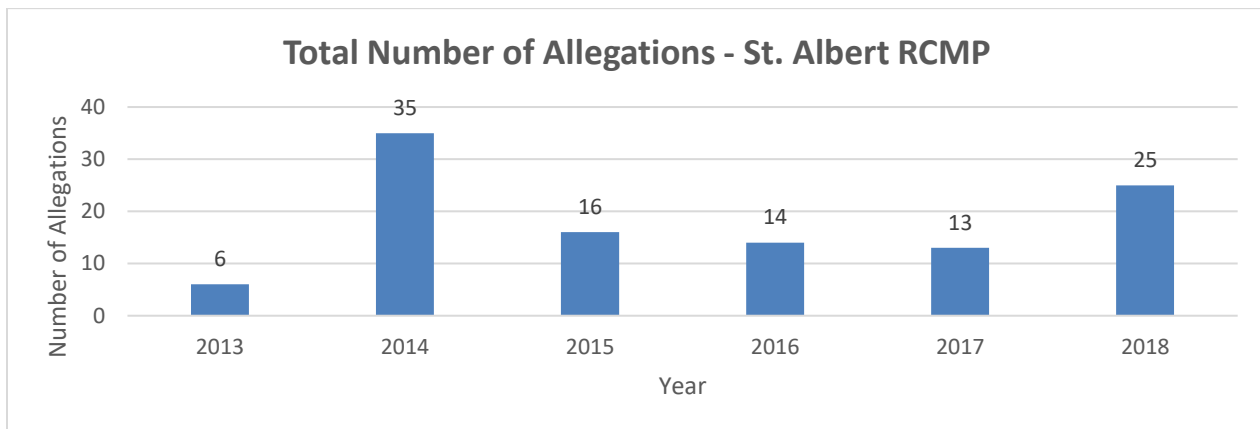
In our continuing effort to increase public trust through service excellence and transparency, Policing Services is providing the below statistical information related to the public complaints received by both the RCMP and Municipal Enforcement.

RCMP MEMBERS

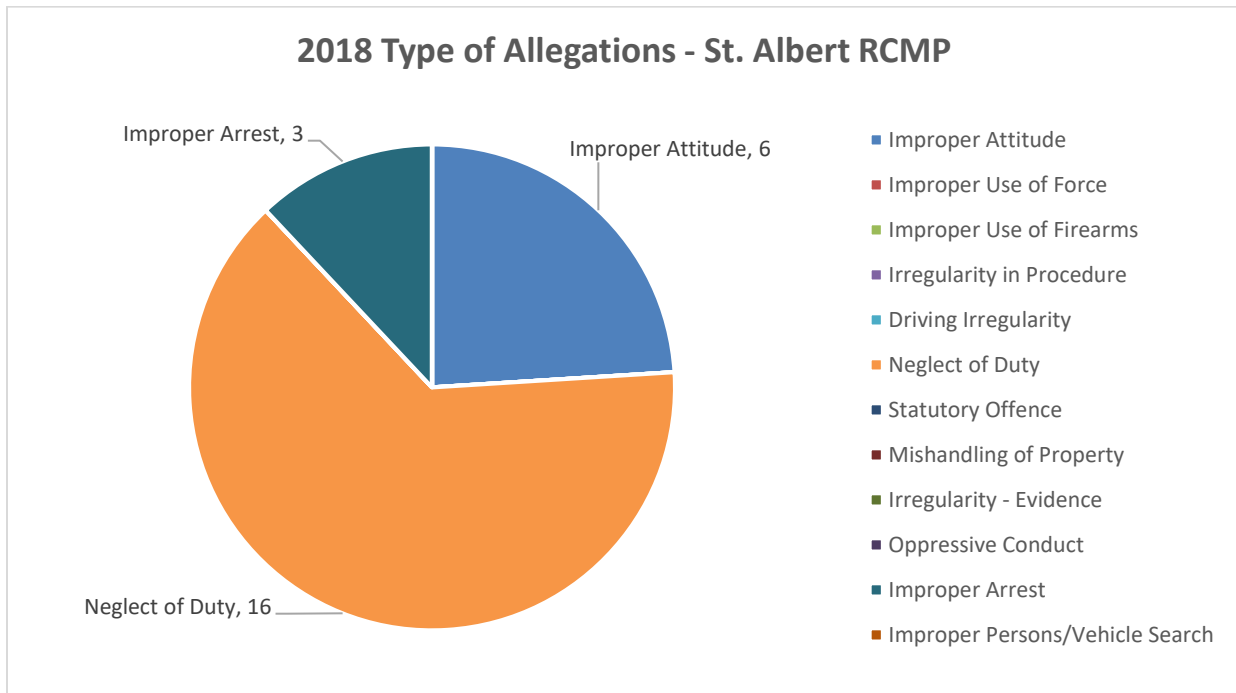
The below graph represents the total number of formal complaints that members of the public have made about a St. Albert RCMP member's conduct.



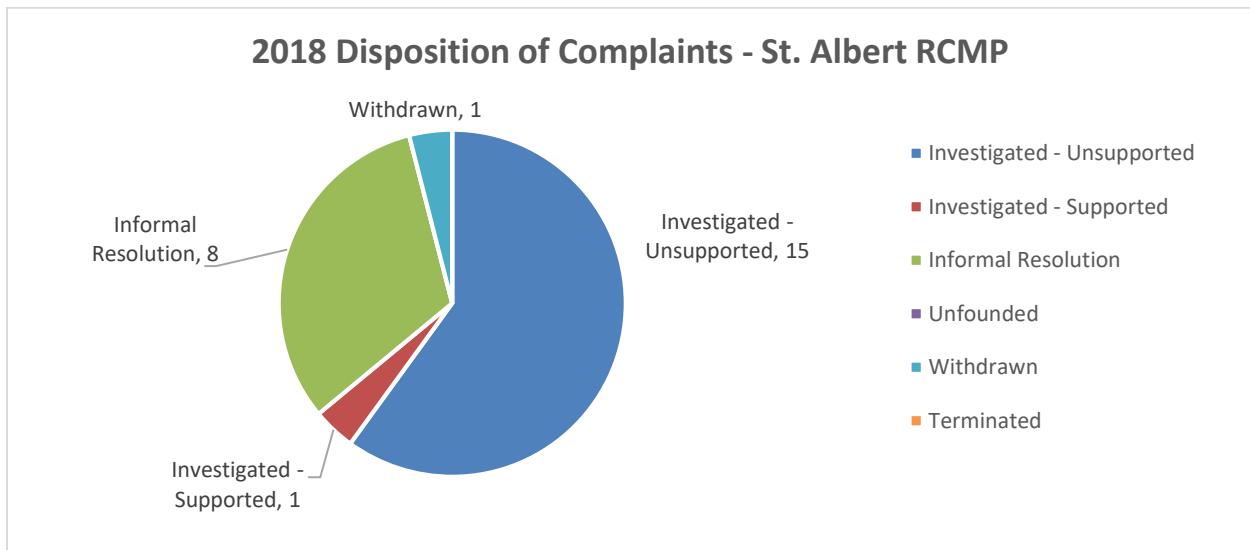
Within each public complaint a number of allegations can be made. The below graph represents the total number of allegations by year.



The RCMP categorizes each allegation into 1 of 16 areas. Allegations categorized as Improper Attitude and/or Neglect of Duty are typically the most common and 2018 was no different.

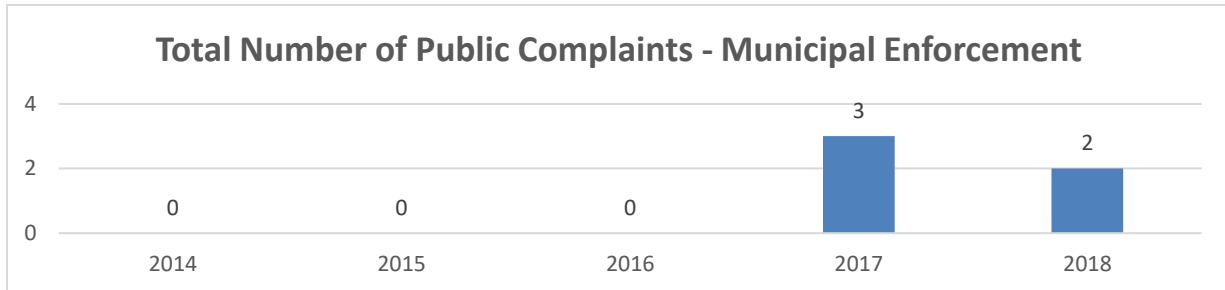


Once a public complaint is received and allegations made, there are 5 ways in which it can be resolved. In 2018, 16 of the 25 allegations were investigated, 8 were resolved through informal resolution and 1 was withdrawn by the complainant. Of the investigated complaints 15 were not supported and 1 was supported.

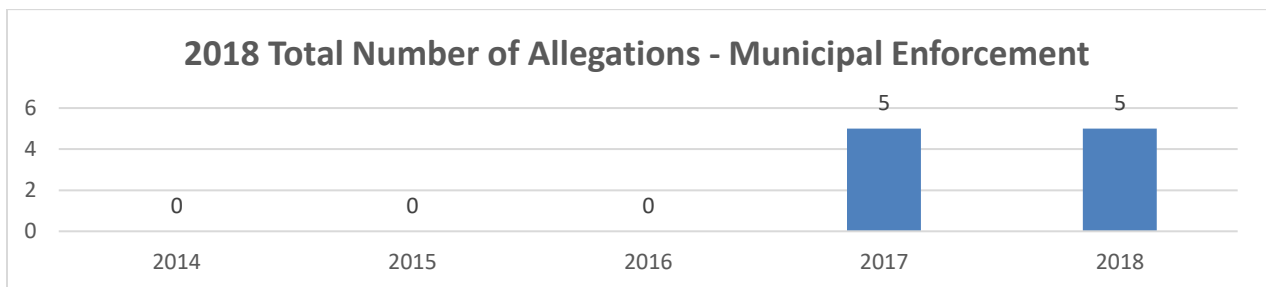


MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

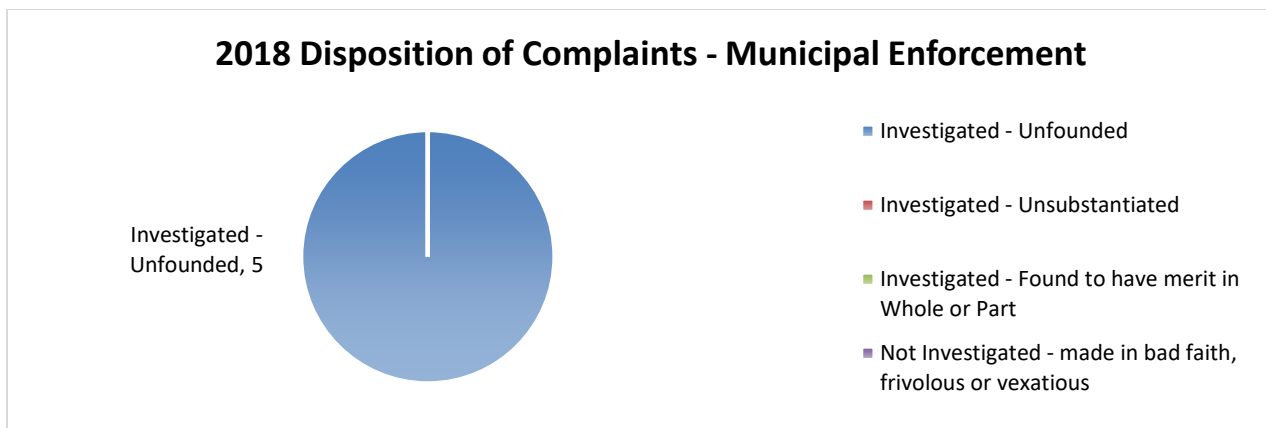
The below graph represents the total number of formal public complaints made against the Municipal Enforcement Officer/Community Peace Officers over the last 5 years.



The City of St. Albert does not currently categorize the allegations that are made in a formal public complaint. However, similar to other law enforcement agencies, it is not uncommon to see numerous allegations made for each complaint. In 2018, there were 5 allegations within the 2 public complaints.



Once a public complaint is received and allegations made, there 5 ways in which it can be resolved in accordance with the Alberta Peace Officer Act. In 2018, all allegations were investigated and unfounded.



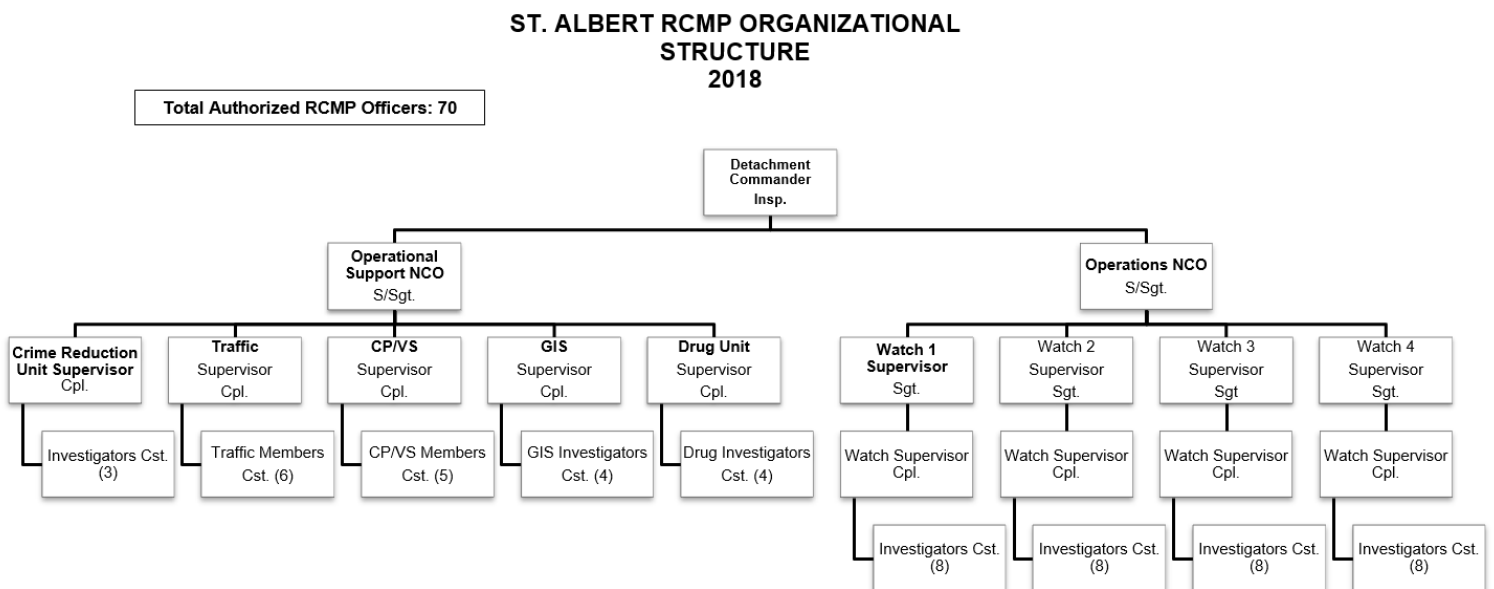
HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION

RCMP

Organizational Structure

In 2018, Council added 1 Authorized RCMP Officer to St. Albert. This moved the total complement from 69 to 70 RCMP members. The RCMP Officer in Charge placed that new position in the General Investigation Section (GIS).

An Organizational structure illustrating the RCMP units and service lines for 2018 is below.



RCMP Budgeted and Actual Strength

Due to the nature of the Policing Agreement with Public Safety Canada, the RCMP is unable to meet their authorized strength. This is due to the realities of member transfers, maternity and paternity leave along with short and long-term illnesses. In these cases, Public Safety Canada does not bill the Municipality for these vacancies. Therefore, the City’s year end invoice is often for less members than what is authorized.

The City, in consultation with local and divisional RCMP management, has a RCMP human resource strategy where the City “over asks” for RCMP members in order to be billed at a rate that is desirable for City Council. The 2018 budgeted member number was 64. This was an increase from 63 in 2017.

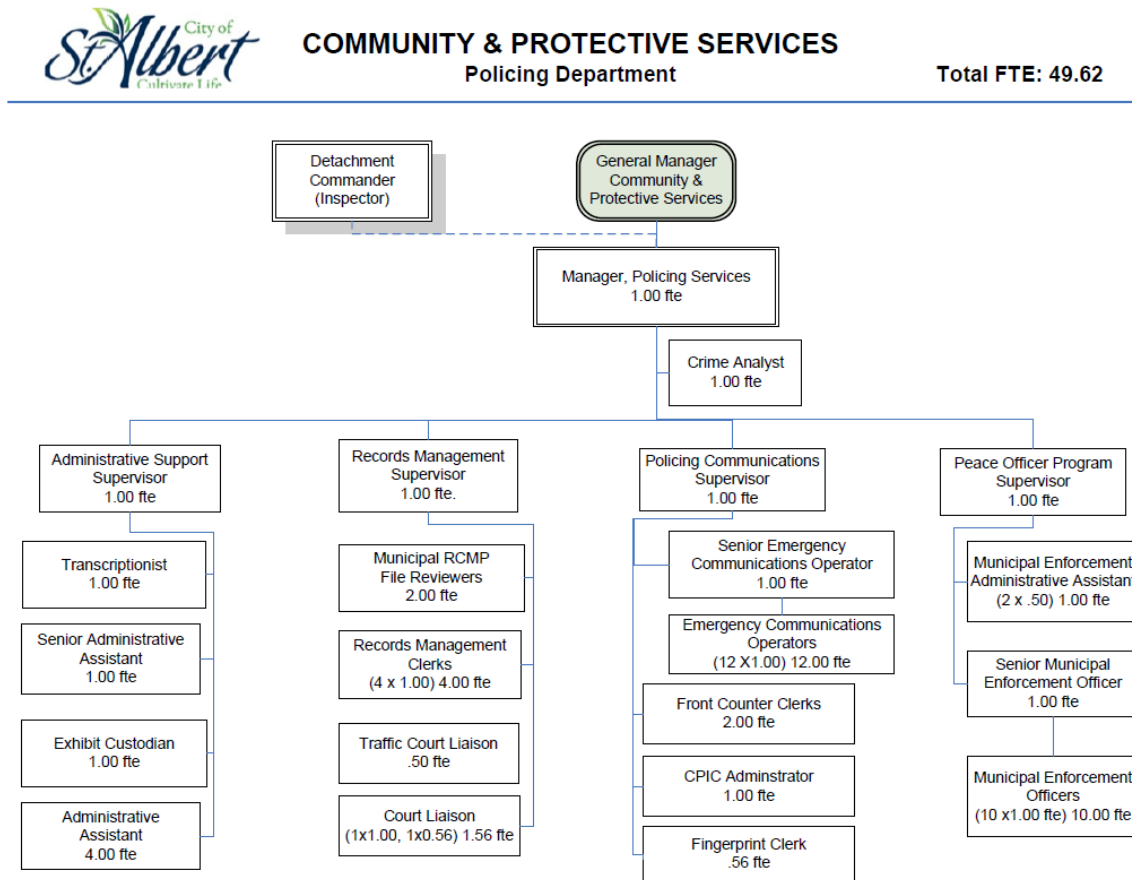
The RCMP operates on a fiscal year end calendar (April 1 – March 31). The RCMP 2018/19 fiscal year end actual bill to the Municipality was for 58.76 members. This was a decrease of 5.65 members from the previous 2017/18 fiscal year end.

Municipal Employees

Organizational Structure

In 2018, the year end total of authorized permanent Municipal Employees assigned to Policing Services was 49.62. This is an increase of 3.44 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees from 2017 (Council approved). An organizational structure has been added below that illustrates the units and service lines in 2018. The 3.44 added positions were all related to the Policing Communications/911 dispatch area. This increase in permanent staff also had a corresponding decrease in casual and overtime hours.

**In November 2018 St Albert corporate restructuring took place and the Municipal Employees within Policing Services became a branch of a new Emergency Services Department. This new structure will be reflected in the 2019 Annual Policing Report.*



Municipal Employee Budgeted and Actual Strength

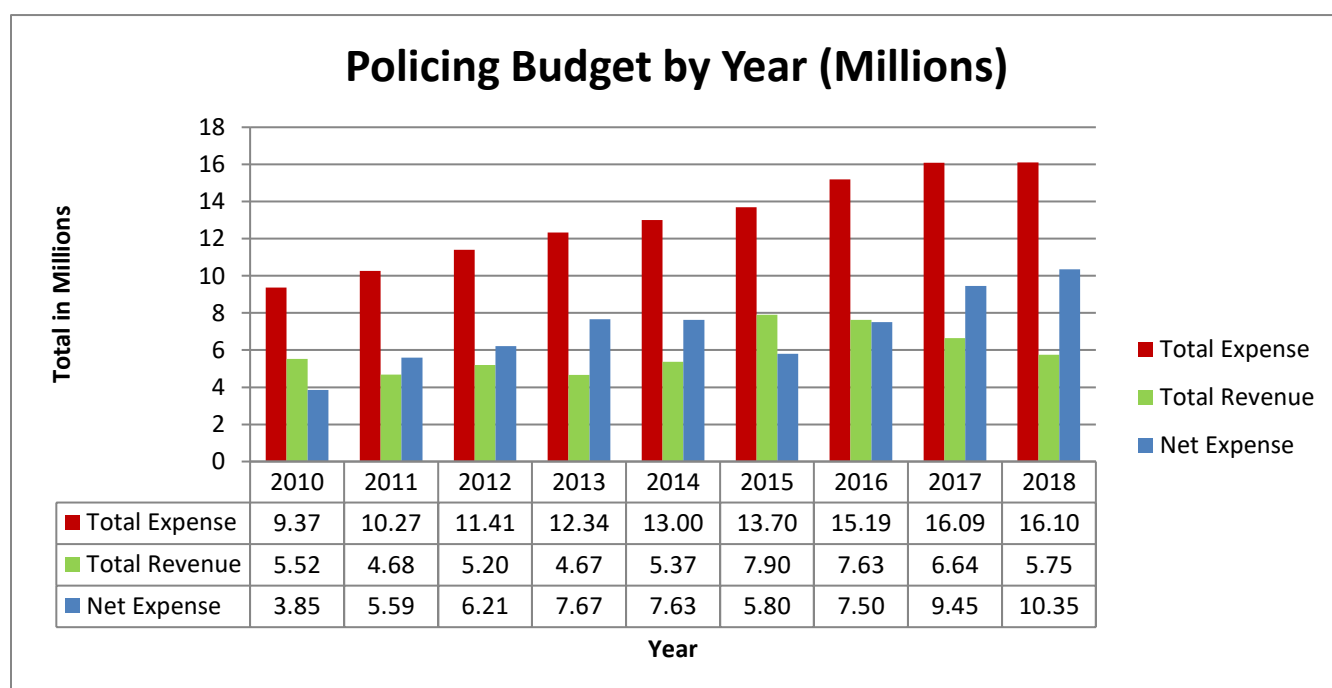
In 2018, all authorized positions as indicated in the organizational structure had the appropriate budget approval.

The Municipal Enforcement Officer uniformed vacancy rate increased slightly to 5.8% in 2018 from 4% in 2017. This amounted to approximately 7 months in 2018 where Municipal Enforcement was not at full complement.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Net Budget

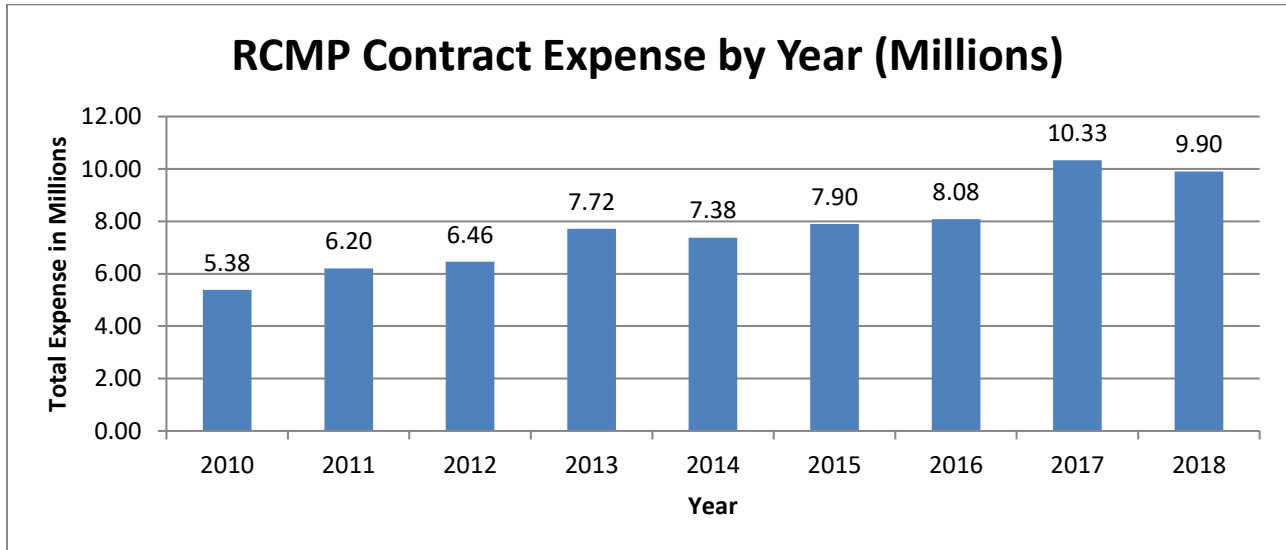
The graph below represents the total expenses, revenue and net operating costs for Policing Services in St. Albert as a whole. This includes things such as the RCMP contract, the Municipal employee salaries, and revenue from fines. The net expense for policing increased in 2018 by approximately \$900,000. This increase in net expenses was mainly as a result of decreases in fine revenue vs an increase in expenses.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from internal annual Budget reports.

RCMP Contract Expenses

The total contract expenses billed by the RCMP is on a slightly increasing trend line, which is expected, due to RCMP officer increases as well as regular cost of living and salary increases. In 2018 there was a slight decrease in overall expense of the RCMP contract when compared to 2017 (approximately \$400,000 less).



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from internal annual Budget reports.

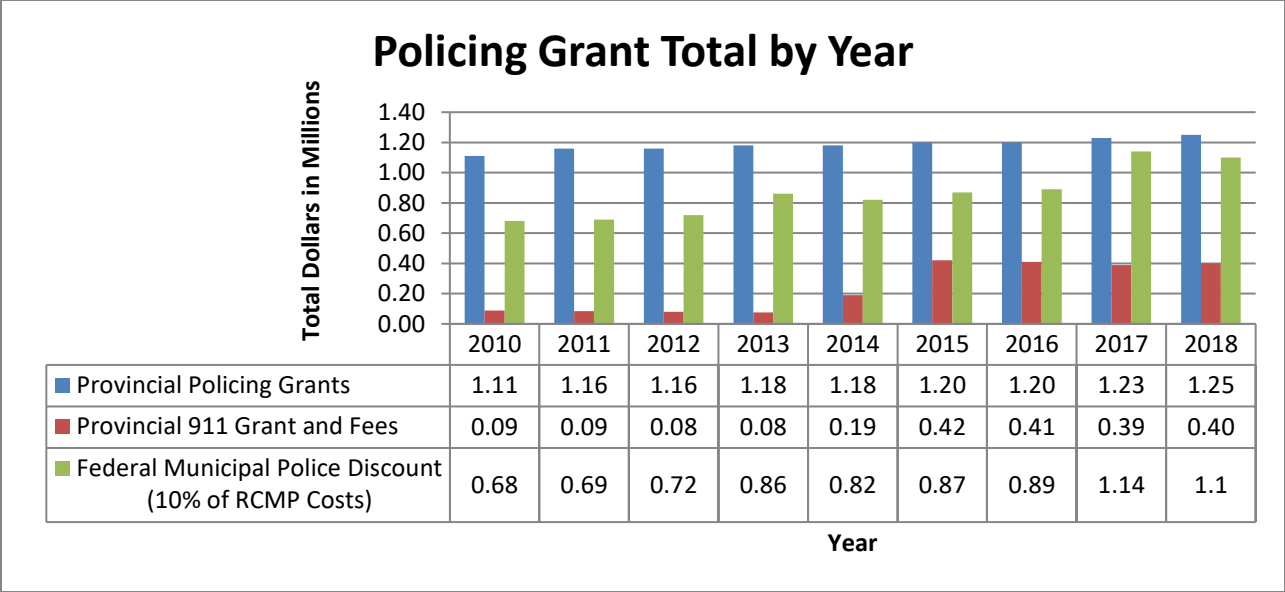
Policing Grants

The graph below represents the total grants received from the Province of Alberta, the 10% Federal discount that the Municipality receives by contracting out the RCMP, as well as the 911 fees collected from telecommunication companies (Telus and Shaw).

The Provincial Policing Grant has increased slightly over the years as predicted since this grant is based on the Municipal population. The grant is currently set at \$16 per resident.

The Provincial 911 Grant and fees collected increased slightly in 2018 compared to 2017.

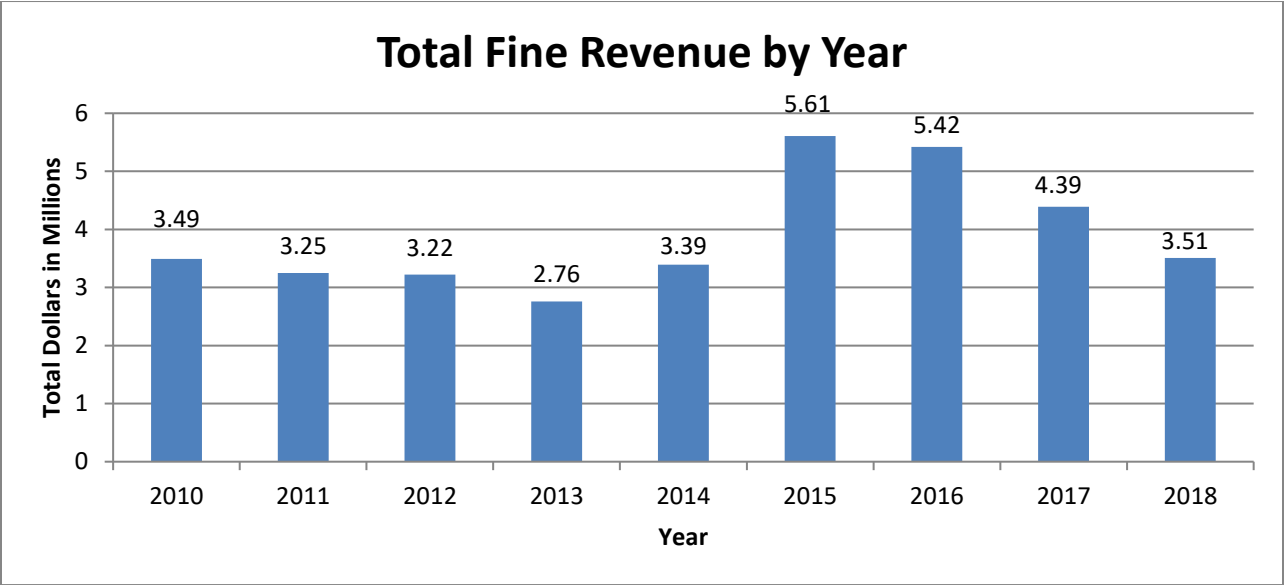
The contract that the municipality has with Public Safety Canada calls for a 90/10 cost share split. The municipality pays 90% of the actual costs and the federal government will pay 10%. This discount only applies to RCMP costs so if the RCMP contract costs increase or decrease, then the total amount covered by the federal government will also increase or decrease.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from internal annual Budget reports.

Fine Revenue

The fine revenue received from the Province of Alberta is mainly attributed to Provincial traffic violations such as speeding but the graph below also includes revenue from all Provincial and Municipal Bylaw violations. There was another fairly significant decrease in overall fine revenue from 2017 to 2018. This was mainly attributed to continued reduced automated enforcement revenue.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from internal annual Budget reports.

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

In 2018, St. Albert RCMP has continued to flex and bend to address the emerging crime trends facing the City of St. Albert. With a philosophy to “work smarter, not harder” we have continued to collaborate with our partner agencies and community to build relationships to identify and address root causes of criminal behaviours before they become crimes.

Our proactive measures included working collaboratively with our partnering agencies to develop a Violent Threat Risk Analysis protocol to address concerning behaviours at onset, found most often in our vulnerable population. We completed training and participated in city educational sessions to educate our public on legislation surrounding the legalization of marihuana and mandatory alcohol screening.

In response to an increase in occurrences associated to domestic violence, we created a domestic violence unit, that supports victims, creating connections with social agencies and support throughout judicial proceedings. The detachment supported Habitual Offender Management protocol, to manage high risk offenders with assistance from social agencies and the justice system to address the root cause of their behaviours, often associated to mental health and addiction. The St. Albert Crime Map, was introduced to create awareness in the community and opportunity for neighbourly engagement, and proactive crime prevention strategies. This tool resulted in a collaborative response to crime, our partnering agencies assisted in spreading crime prevention messaging, our residents assisted by reporting more property crimes and the police used the data for “hot spot” enforcement. Our collective efforts led to the apprehension of offenders, a reduction in property crimes and a proactive response to a community safety issue.

A safe community is the responsibility of all citizens. The St. Albert detachment will continue its commitment to working closely with all community residents to identify and address the policing needs and the priorities of its citizens, ensuring an accountable and transparent policing service.

I would like to express my thanks to the RCMP members, Municipal Enforcement, Municipal employees that have supported our community safety initiatives. Your actions contributed to St. Albert maintaining its low crime severity index.

Respectfully,

Pam Robinson, Insp.

