

# **2014 Annual Policing Report**

## **Cultivating a Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Community**

November 2015



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# INTRODUCTION

## Purpose of Report

The City of St. Albert Annual Policing Report has been prepared to provide City Council and the Community with a formal report on some key Policing measures and community safety matters.

## Background

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

At the time of this report, City Council is also reviewing the Council Policy C-PS-02 Policing Services which will be a policy that guides the Policing Service levels and standards delivered to the Community.

## 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 Policing 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 can not 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 departments daily operations such as 911/Dispatch, police records management, and property and exhibit control.



## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

### Criminal Activity

Some of the key high level measures on criminal activity in a community include Crime Severity and the Crime Rate. Both measures are governed through a uniform crime reporting process that is administered by Statistics Canada.

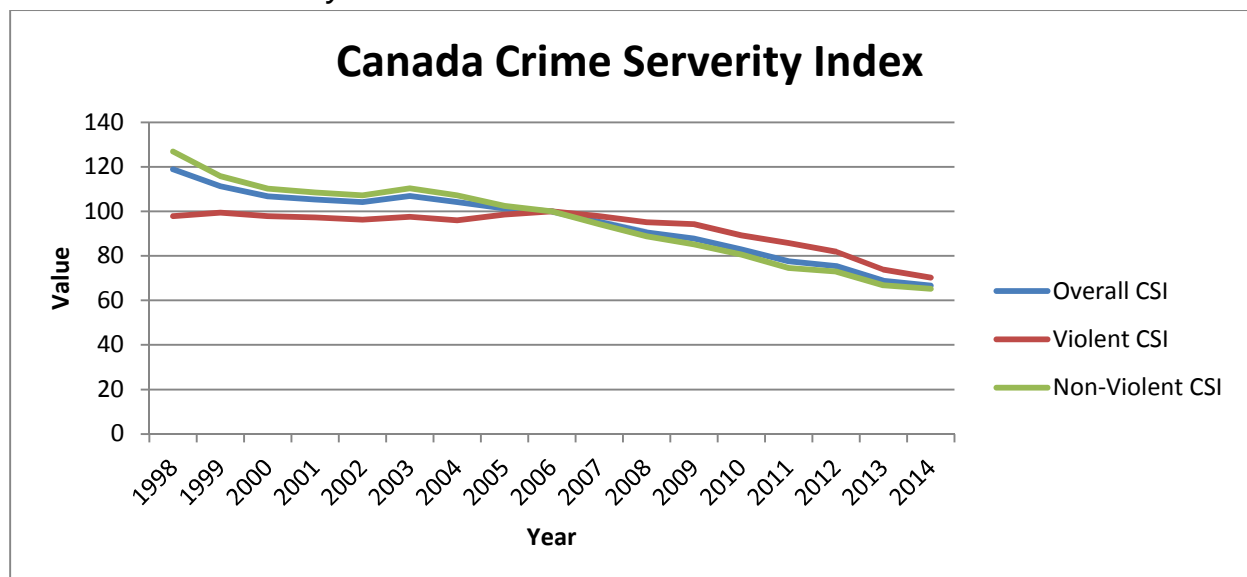
#### ***Crime Severity***

The Crime Severity Index is a measure that is gathered and published by Statistics Canada. It includes all Criminal Code violations including traffic, as well as Drug violations and all Federal Statutes.

The Crime Severity Index measures changes in the level of severity of crime from year to year.

In the index, all crimes are assigned a weight based 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, less serious offences lower weights. As a result, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes in the index.

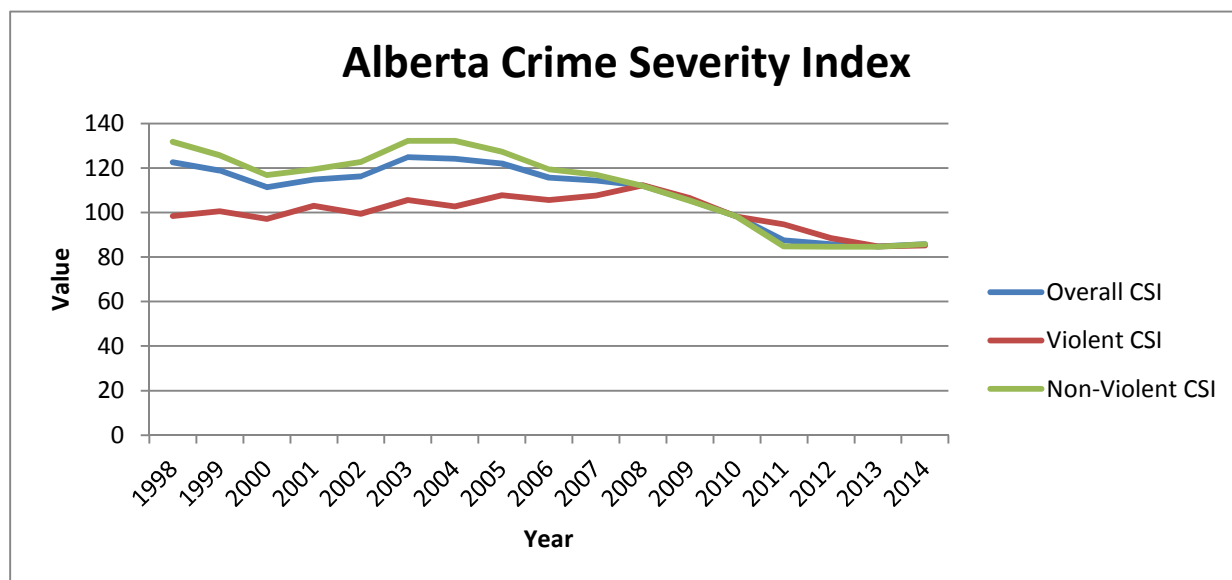
#### *National Crime Severity*



\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Overall Crime Severity in Canada has been on the decline.

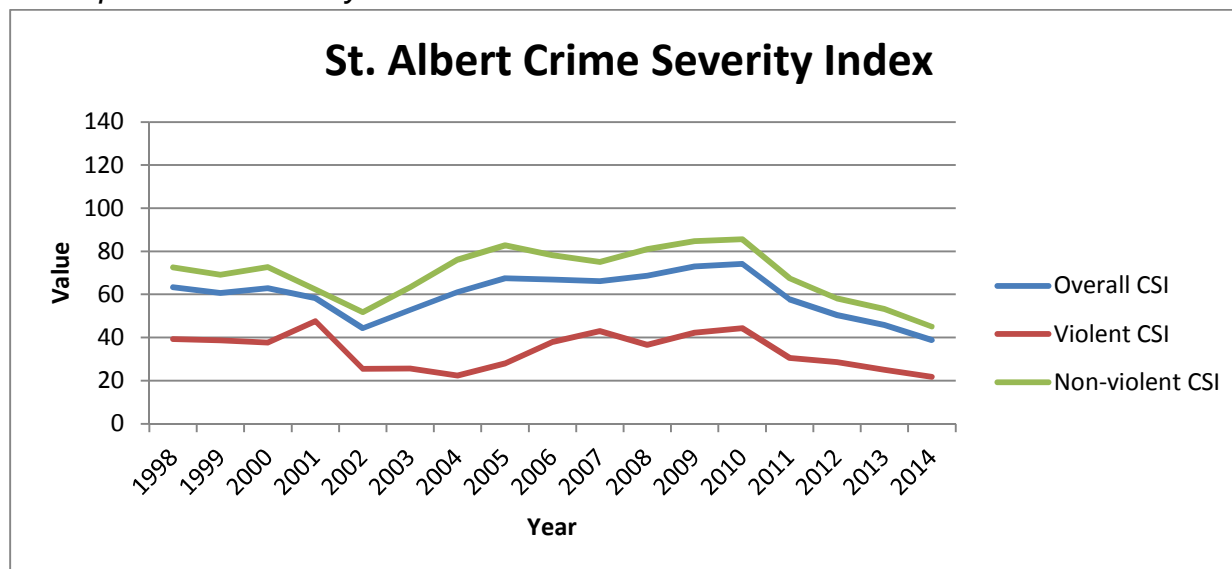
## Provincial Crime Severity



\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

The Province of Alberta has experienced a higher Crime Severity Index than the National average but has also been on the decline.

## Municipal Crime Severity

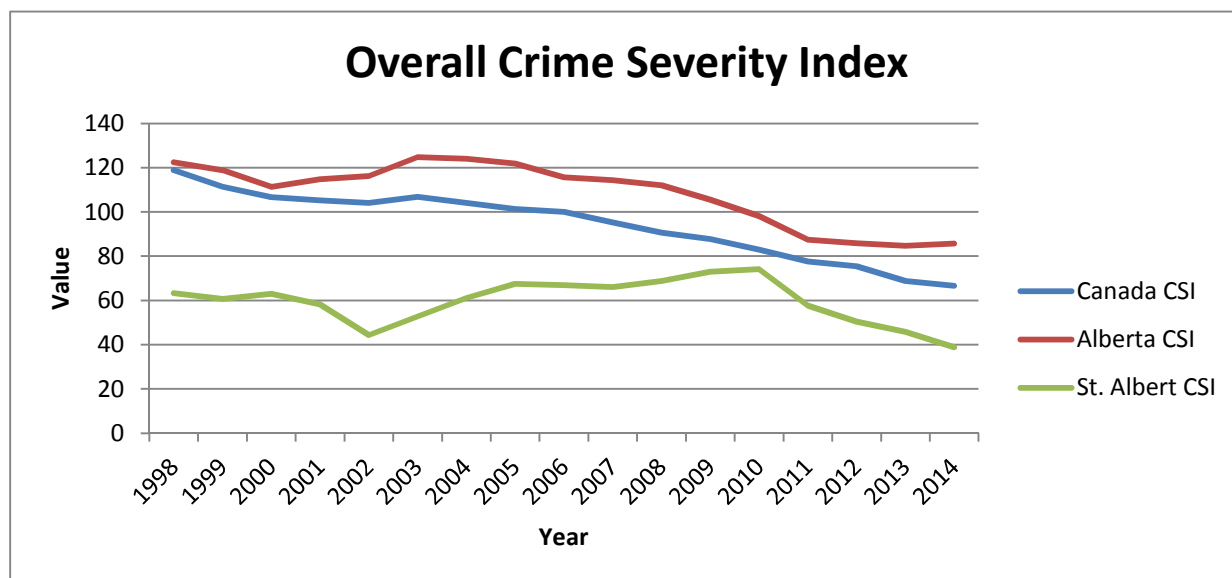


\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Unlike the National and Provincial averages where their Non-Violent and Violent Crime severity are close, St. Albert's Violent Crime Severity is historically much lower than its Non-Violent Crime Severity.



## Municipal/Provincial/National Crime Severity



\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

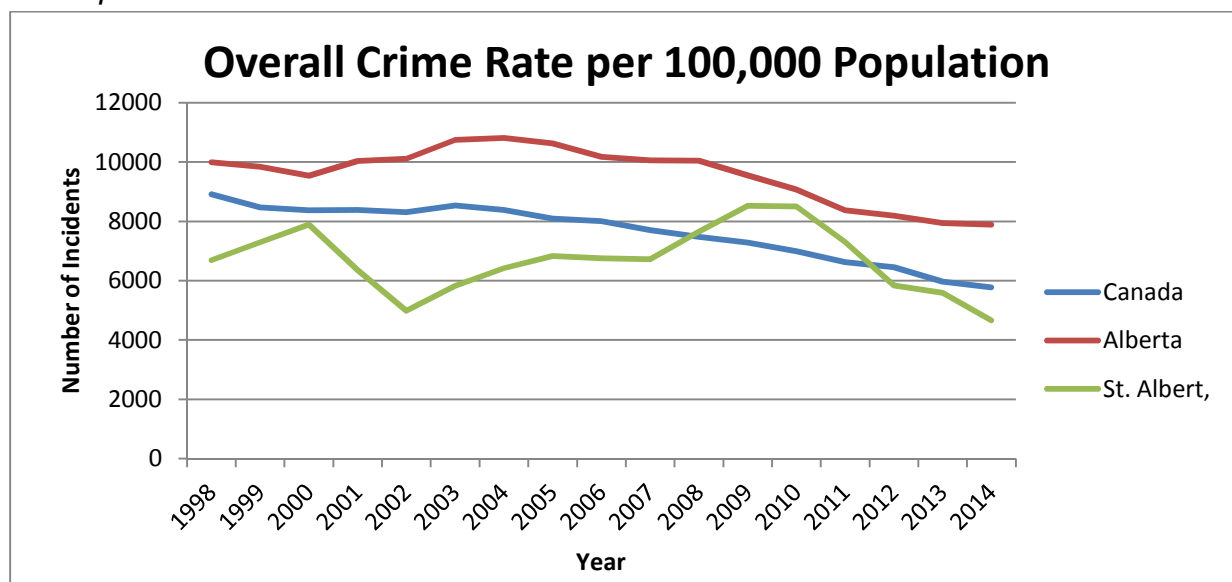
St. Albert's Overall Crime Severity trend line has been historically lower than both the National and Provincial average and on the decline since 2010.

### Crime Rate

The Crime Rate includes all reported Criminal incidents and is simply reported per 100,000 population. All incidents are treated equally regardless of their severity. 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. Victimization data has shown that offences of lower seriousness tend to go unreported to police. In addition 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.

The overall crime rate does however help show police officer and support staff workload.

## Municipal/Provincial/National Crime Rate



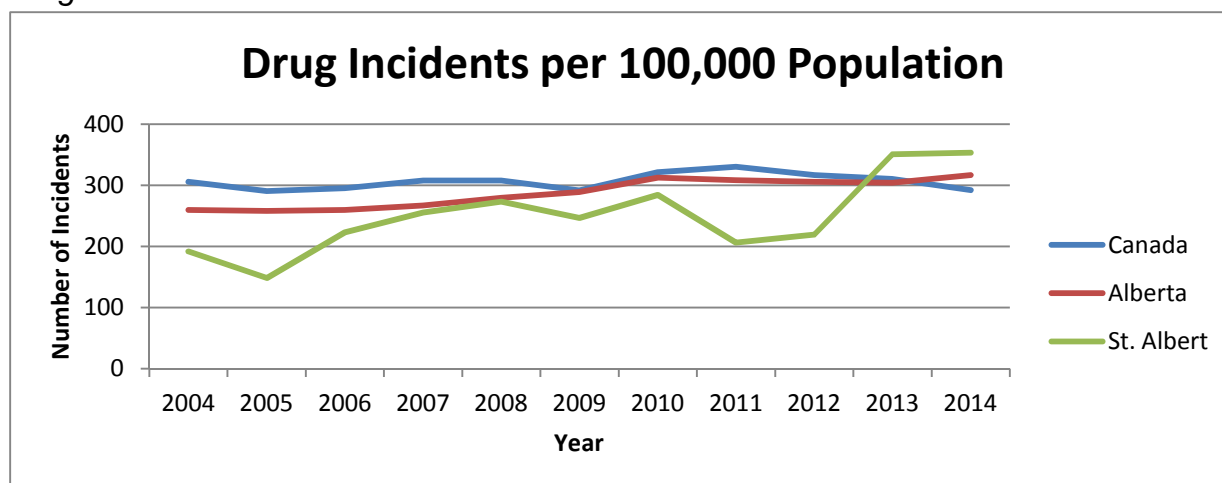
\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Although St. Albert's crime rate has fluctuated more than the National and Provincial average, generally speaking it is still trending lower.

## Drug Activity

Drug statistics are highly susceptible to changes based on the resources that are assigned or dedicated towards them. For example the more officers focused on drug related offences often results in higher incident reporting and a higher number of charges.

## Drug Related Incidents

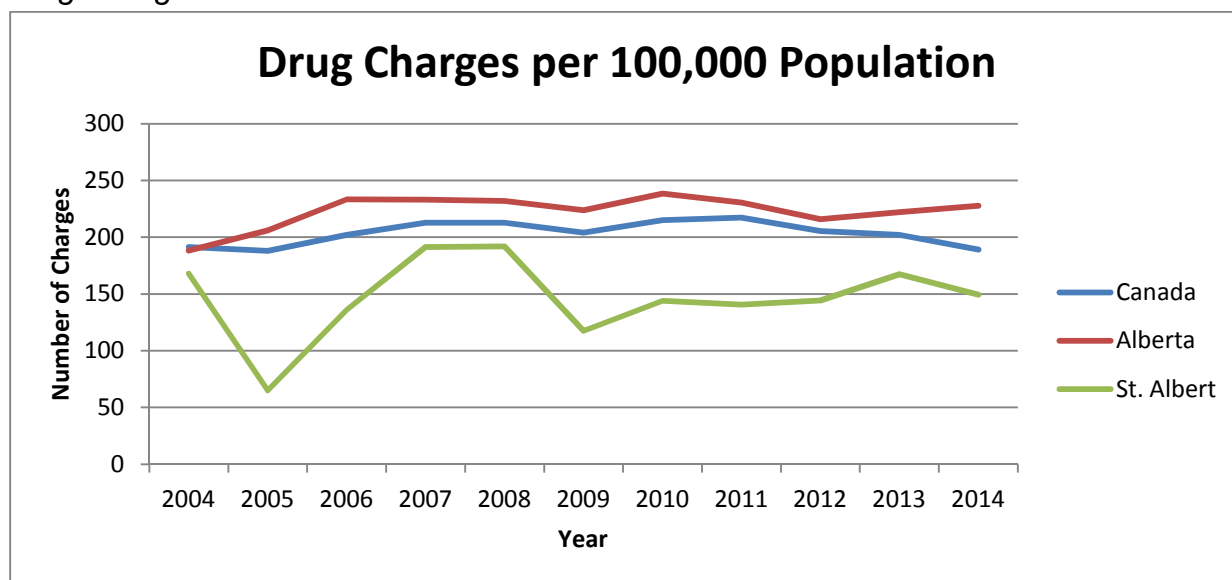


\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada



St Albert has higher incident reporting in 2013 and 2014 than the National and Provincial averages, this may be attributed to the increase in community reporting of suspicious drug activity as well as intelligence reporting from the members within the unit.

### Drug Charges



\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Although the number of incidents reported are higher than the National and Provincial averages, St. Albert has a lower rate of charges issued. This may be attributed to reported incidents that fall under the prosecution threshold for charges. For example, very small amounts of marijuana possession that do not warrant a criminal charge. In addition when multiple charges are laid, often investigators pro-active activity decreases because they have to focus on preparing the case(s) for court.



## Other Criminal Activity

The below data shows some more specific key crime categories.

### Person's Related Crime

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% change 2013 to 2014
Homicide	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Offences Related to Death	1	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	0%
Robbery	22	13	21	23	13	12	6	5	-17%
Assault (Not incl. sexual assault)	370	394	409	406	355	295	333	295	-11%

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

The most notable observation in the above table is the decrease in the number of robbery incidents. This may be linked to the pro-active work the detachment has been doing over the years on robbery prevention as well as the regional/collaborative work amongst policing agencies targeting repeat offenders.

### Property Related Crime

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% change 2013 to 2014
Break and Enter	289	254	249	227	216	185	184	127	-31%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	158	140	144	136	100	93	89	100	+12%
Theft over \$5000	24	38	30	20	22	17	20	13	-35%
Theft under \$5000	1119	1088	1448	1347	974	874	857	792	-8%
Possession of Stolen Property	53	71	66	56	44	34	50	35	-30%
Fraud	186	223	226	192	170	164	125	167	+34%

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

Even though there was a 34% increase in fraud reports from 2013 to 2014, overall the number of property related crime incidents went down by approximately 7%.



## Community Policing Activity

The Detachment has continued to focus on pro-active activities as resources allow. Much of this work is coordinated by and happens within the Community Policing unit.

Below are some key statistics that may be of interest to the community.

- RCMP members made 222 visits to St Albert Elementary and Junior High Schools during the 2014/2015 school year
- Officers were assigned to the High Schools as well as the Junior High Schools as part of the School Resource Officer program. This program helps build positive relationships with youth as well as provides a resource for school administrators.
- 100% of grade 6 students were taught the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Course
- 100% of grade 8 classes within the City were taught the Drug Awareness Program.
- The detachment is preparing to roll out the Crime Free Multi-housing program within the City. Officers will be completing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audits and preparing crime reports for building owners. They will also liaise with building residents to help address any concerns that arise.
- RCMP officer participated in over 20 community events to support and embrace the 40 Developmental assets approach when dealing with youth.
- Proactive Bike and Cart patrols continued in 2014. The detachment continues to receive positive feedback on these methods of interaction with the community.

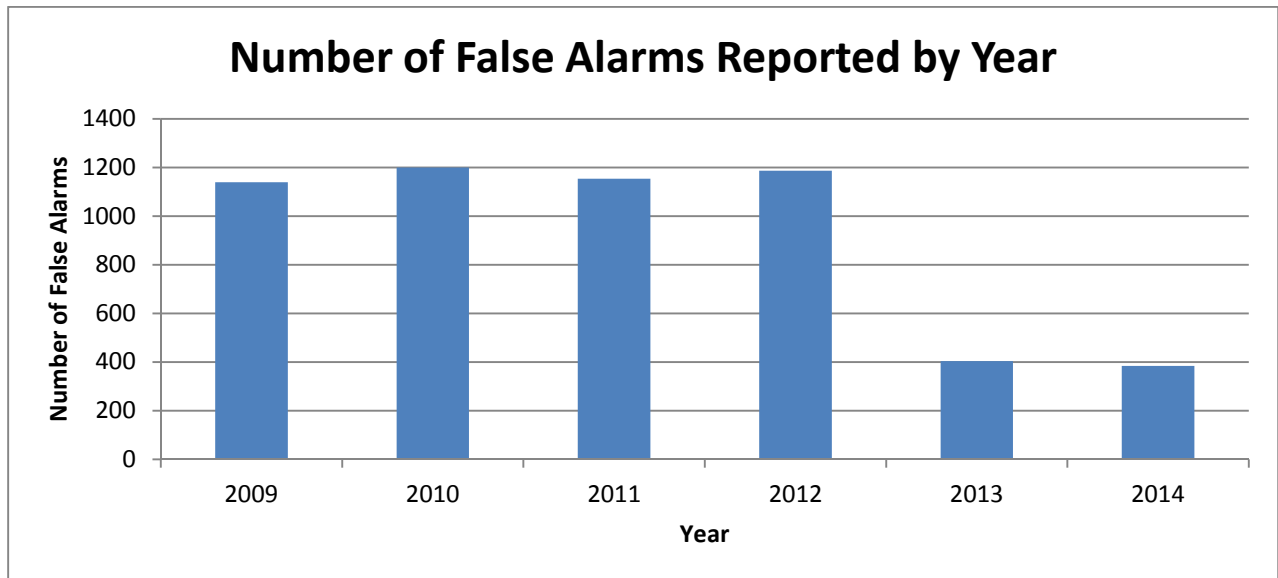


## Other Policing Activities

Policing Services is involved in a number of other activities that do not relate directly to Criminal Activity. Below are a few key areas.

### *Other Policing Activity*

#### *False Alarm Incidents*



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

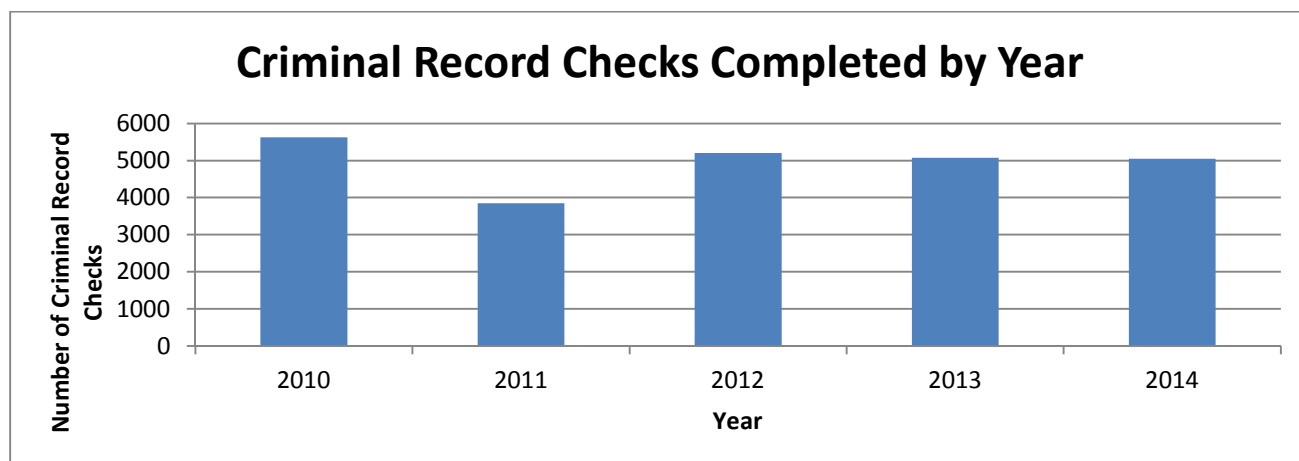
In 2012 City Council passed a new Alarm Bylaw that took effect in 2013. Since the implementation of that Bylaw calls for service in this area have dramatically decreased (approximately 75%). The significant policy change in the Bylaw was that the police

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.





### *Criminal Record Checks Processed*

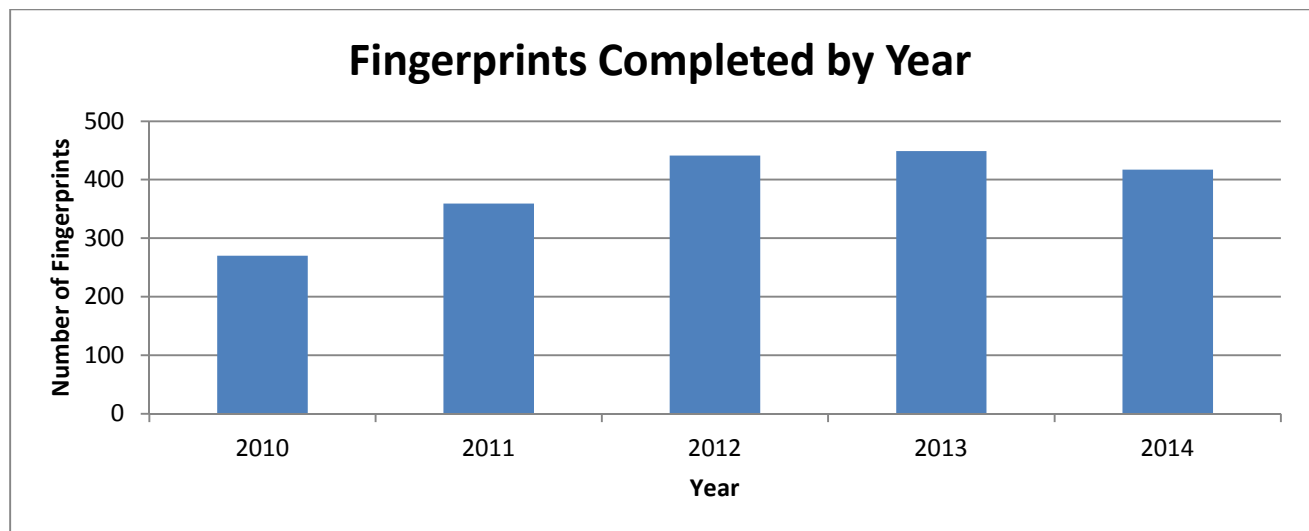


\* Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally at the St. Albert Detachment

Criminal Record Checks continue to be a very desirable service for the community. 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. We are aware that there are Federal Government plans that are moving criminal record check applications solely to a fingerprint based system. This would require every person to have their fingerprints taken in order for a criminal record check to be completed. This is being implemented to address risks related to the current name-based checks where a criminal can evade detection through false identification. The plan also outlines that these services will be shifted to private industry. It is believed that there will be future government and stakeholder engagement on this plan in the near future.



### *Civilian Fingerprints Processed*



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

The Detachment processes between 400-500 fingerprints requests per year. These are mainly required as part of a vulnerable sector criminal record check application where fingerprints are required to confirm that an individual does not have a record. With the addition of our “livescan” machine results are coming back to residents within 3 days vs what used to take upwards of 3 months. The Detachment is also in the process of obtaining a second “livescan” fingerprint machine so that in the near future volunteers and residents will not have to be taken back into the cell block area for fingerprint scanning.



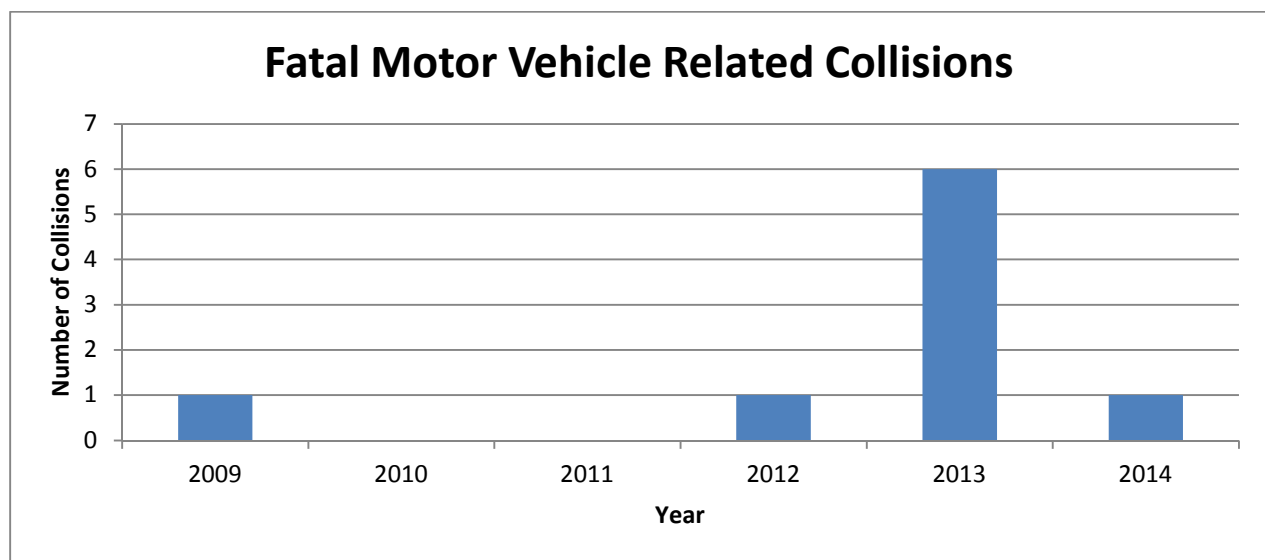


## Traffic Safety

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 2014 Policing assisted in setting up and formalizing 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).

### Collisions

#### Fatal Collisions

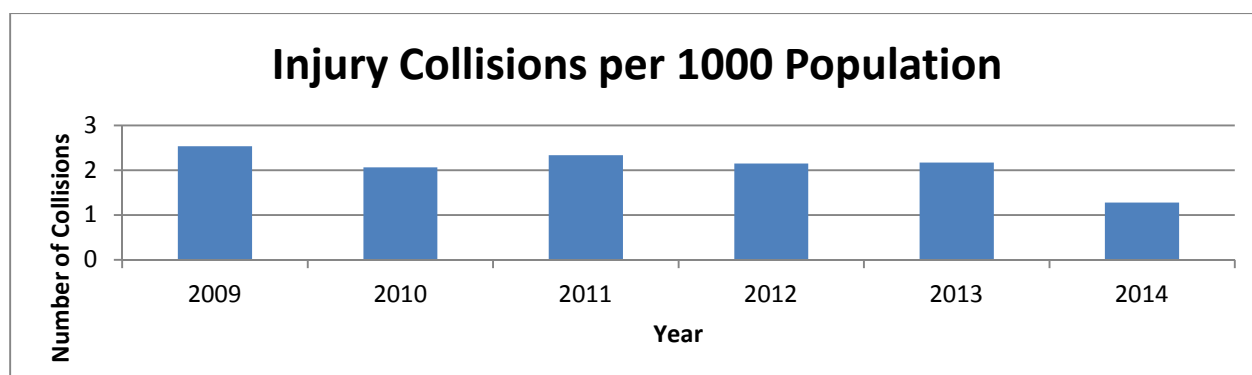


\* Numbers in the above graph were obtained from the RCMP K Division Operations Strategy Branch

2013 was a very abnormal year as it related to traffic fatalities. Historically St. Albert has had very few motor vehicle related deaths.



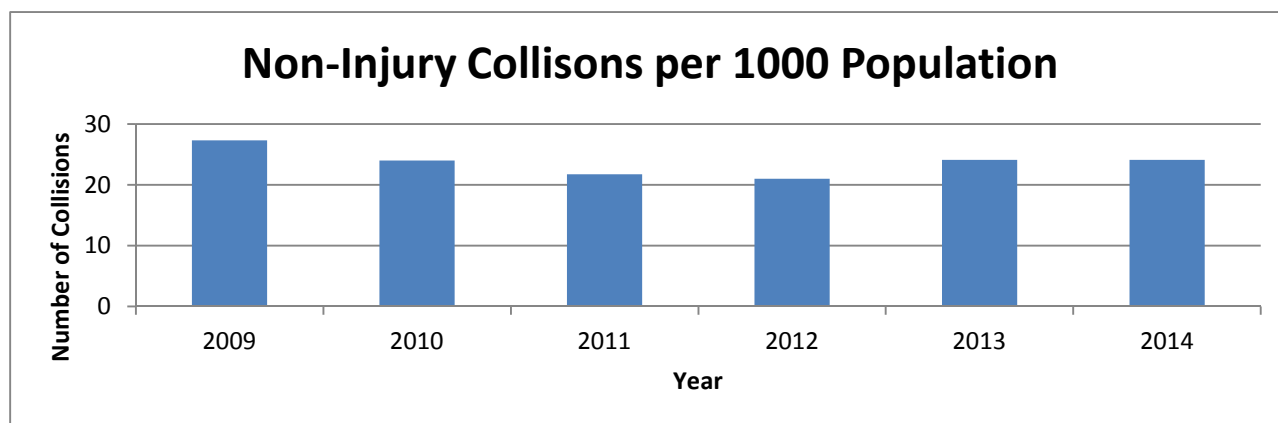
## *Injury Collisions*



\* 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.

Injury Collisions per population took a significant (50%) decrease in 2014 and it is believed that Engineering changes to light signalling (implementation of protected left hand turns) was a key factor in this decrease. The continued coordinated enforcement approach amongst RCMP, Municipal Enforcement and Automated Enforcement may also be playing a role as pro-active ticket issuance has increased.

## *Non-Injury Collisions*



\* 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.

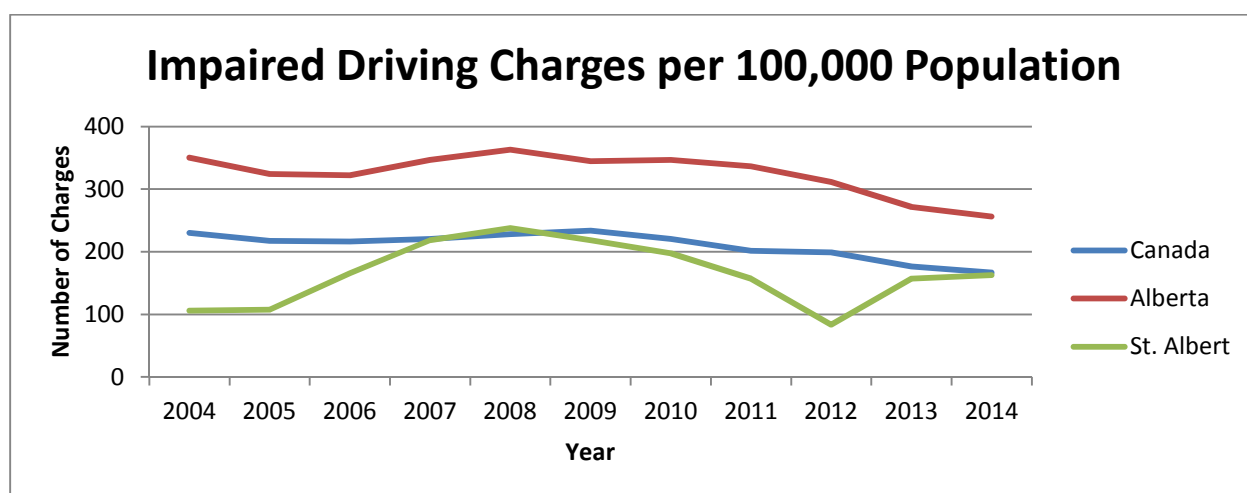
Although policing enforcement focuses most of their efforts on the causal factors for injury collisions such as speeding and seatbelts, Non-Injury collisions are still monitored both from a safety and workload perspective. The per population collisions have remained relatively steady over the last 2 years with approximately 1500 reports per year.

## Impaired Driving

Impaired driving continues to have devastating impacts on society. In 2010 MADD Canada estimated that impaired driving deaths, injuries and property damage crashes in Canada could be estimated to have costs over \$20 billion. The St Albert RCMP continues to actively enforce impaired driving legislation.



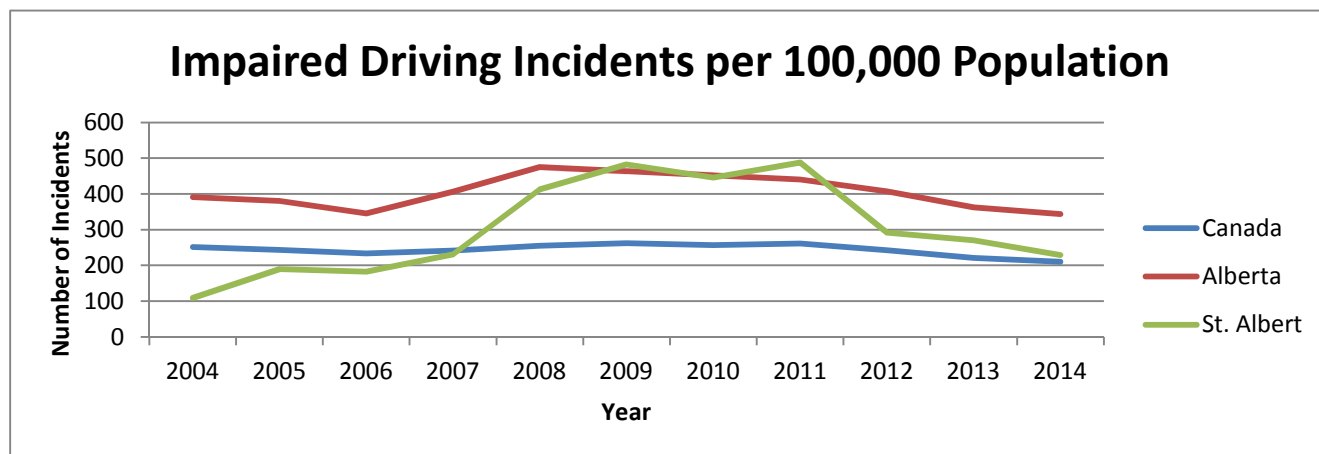
## Impaired Driving Charges



\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

There was a slight increase in the number of charges laid per population from 2013 to 2014.

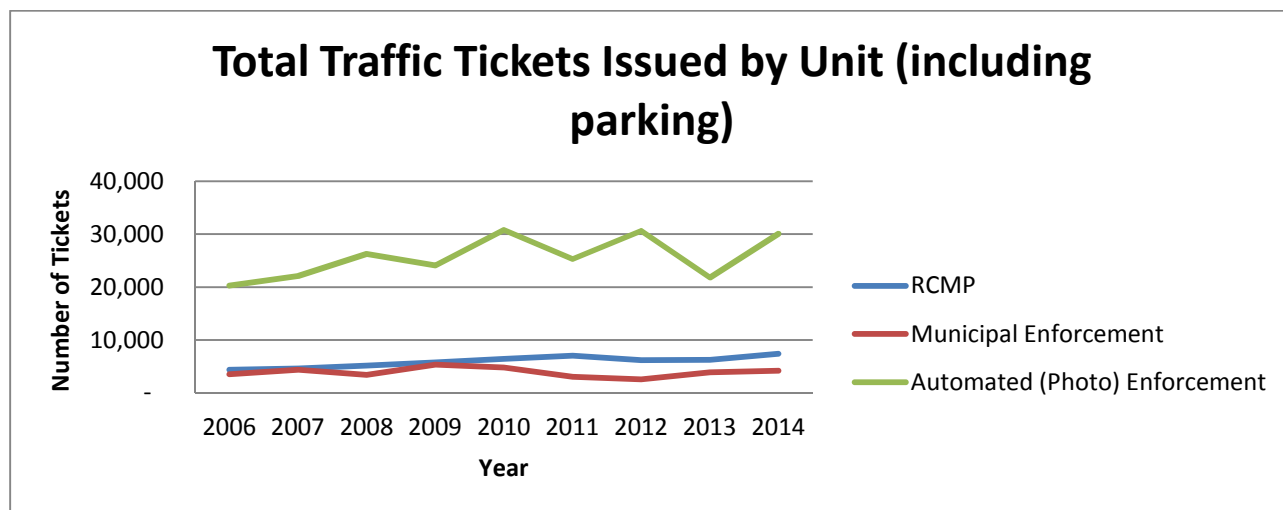
## Impaired Driving Incidents



\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

The number of reported incidents per population in St Albert is below the Provincial average but slightly higher than the National average.

## Traffic Tickets Issued



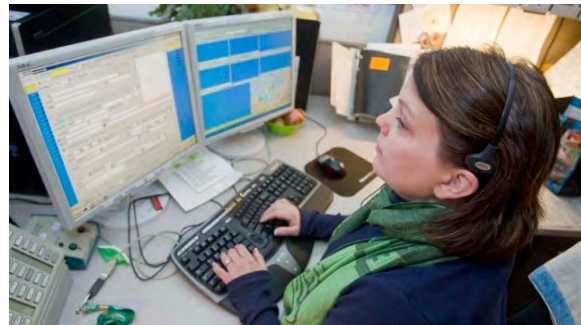
\*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally at the St. Albert Detachment

Our Traffic Safety Program continues to utilize both traditional officer enforcement as well as automated enforcement. In 2014 there were approximately 41,000 tickets issued up about 9,000 from 2013. In 2014 a new automated enforcement company was awarded the contract. The new company, Global Traffic Group, utilizes different technology that has proven to be more effective at detecting speed violators. This was the main reason for the increase.

## 911/Communications/Dispatch

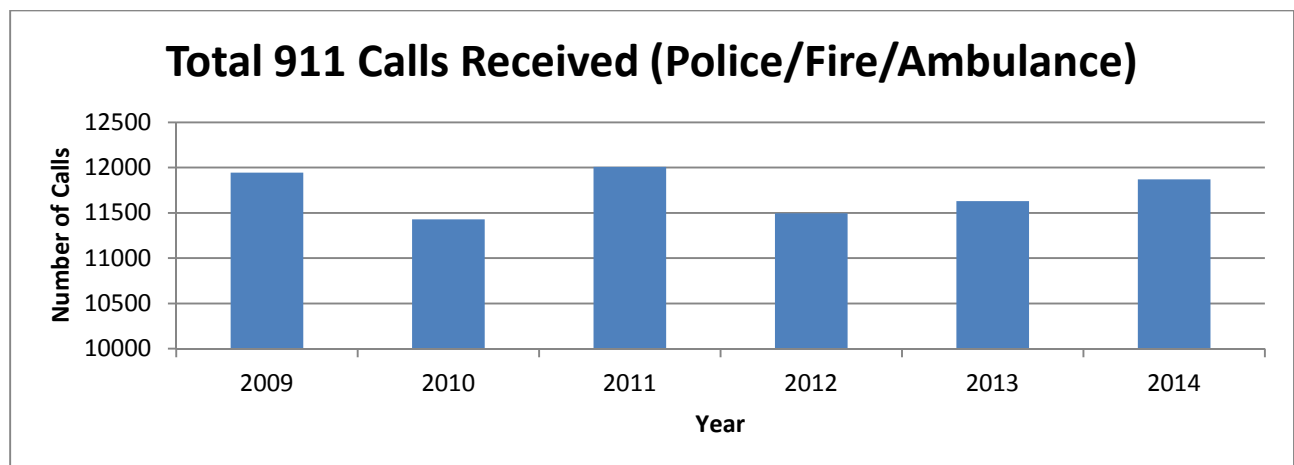
As indicated previously in the department overview, Policing Services runs the primary 911 public safety answering point (PSAP) for the community. All initial 911 calls made in the community go directly to the Policing Services communication centre at Maloney Place, where operators record and dispatch out 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. These standards and reporting requirements are being worked on in 2015 with implementation targeted for 2016.



### 911

#### *Total 911 Calls*

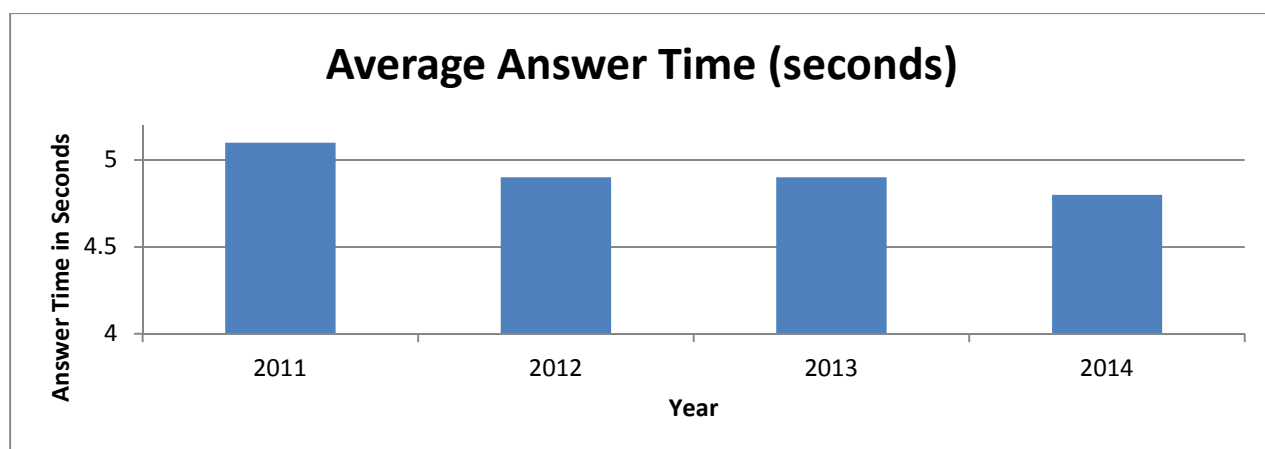


\*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally at the St. Albert Detachment from data received from Telus.

The total number of 911 calls received has increased slightly since 2012. However when population increases are factored in the per population rate of calls has remained relatively the same.

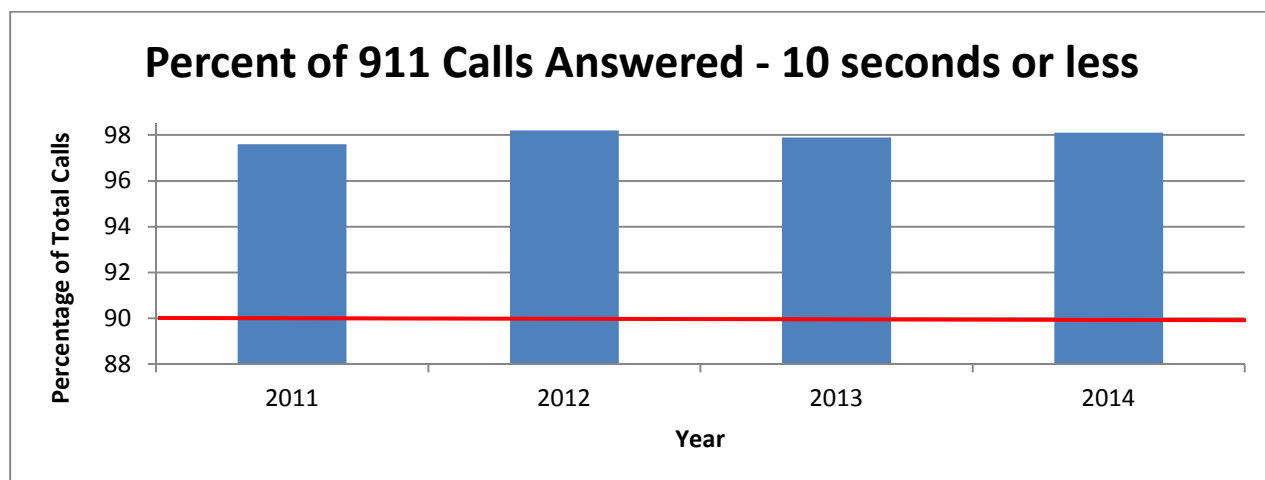


## 911 Speed of Answer



\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Telus

The average answer time of all 911 calls received has remained steady around 5 seconds over the last 4 years.



\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Telus

Approximately 98% of all 911 calls received have been answered within 10 seconds or



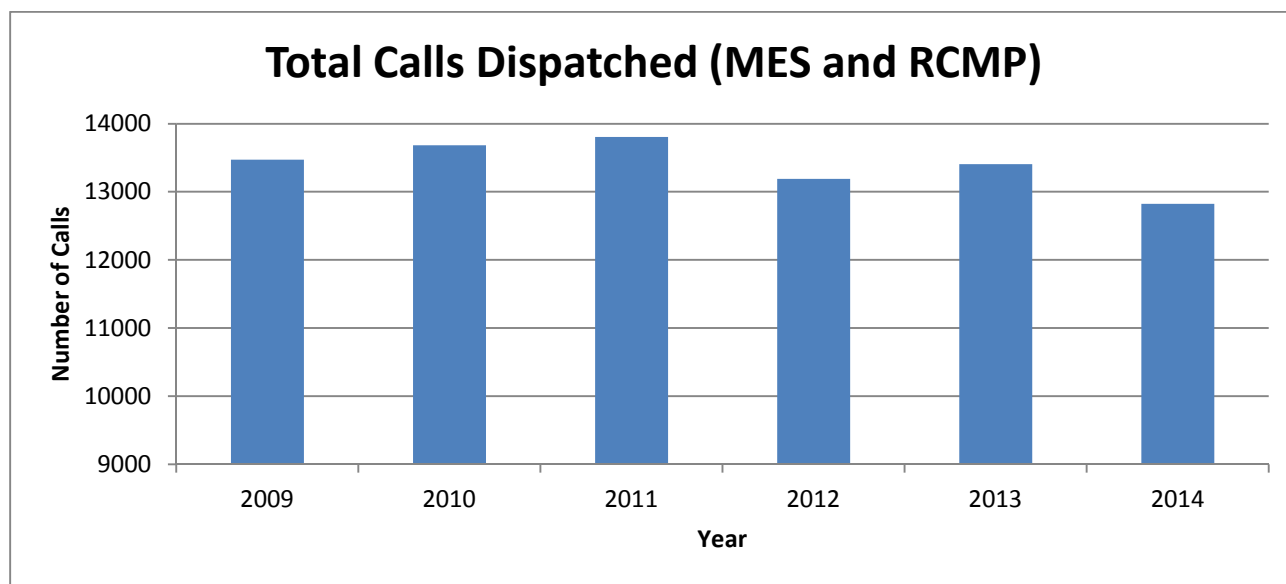
less. The National Emergency Number Association (a recognized 911 industry association) sets an Industry Standard of answering 90% of calls within 10 seconds and 95% of all calls should be answered within 20 seconds. St. Albert is exceeding these standards currently. The Province of Alberta will soon be setting Provincial Standards and it is anticipated that they will be set similar to the NENA ones.



## Communications/Dispatch

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

### *Total Calls Dispatched*



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

The total calls for service that are dispatched out to officers have, on average, been around 13,000 files per year (approximately 35 files per day). There has been a drop in 2014 which can be attributed to a small drop in RCMP files generated from 2013 to 2014 as well as a number of Municipal enforcement files that are being generated through other means such as the Spruce It Up reporting app.

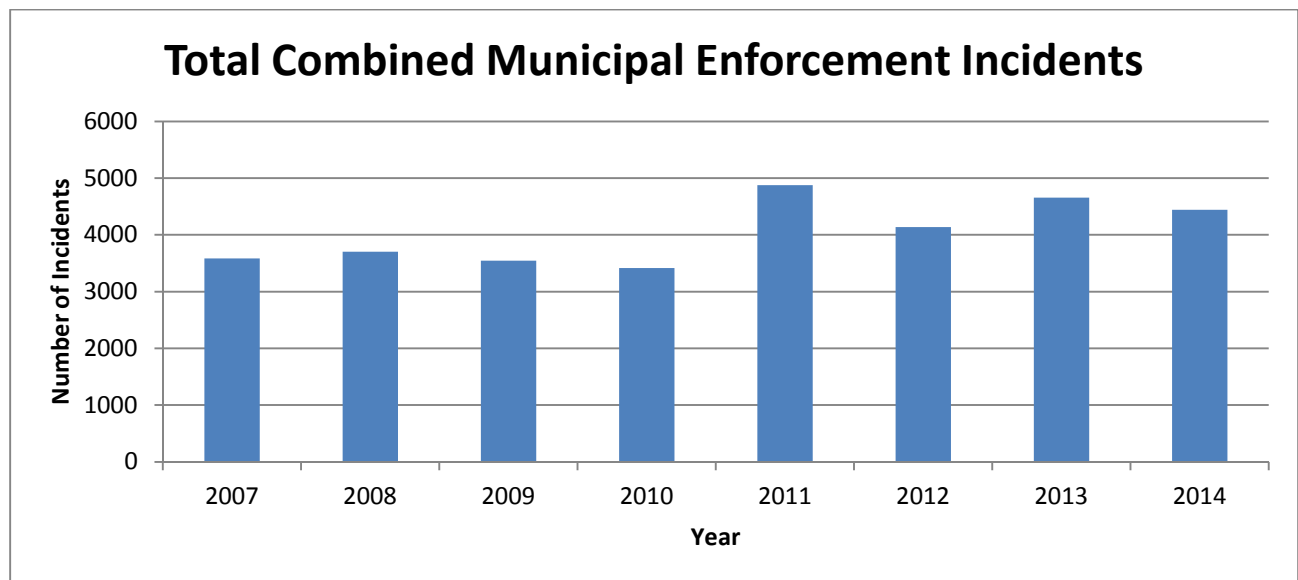
## Municipal Enforcement Services

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. There are two officers that have been assigned a primary role of pro-active traffic safety duty.



### *Incident Reporting*

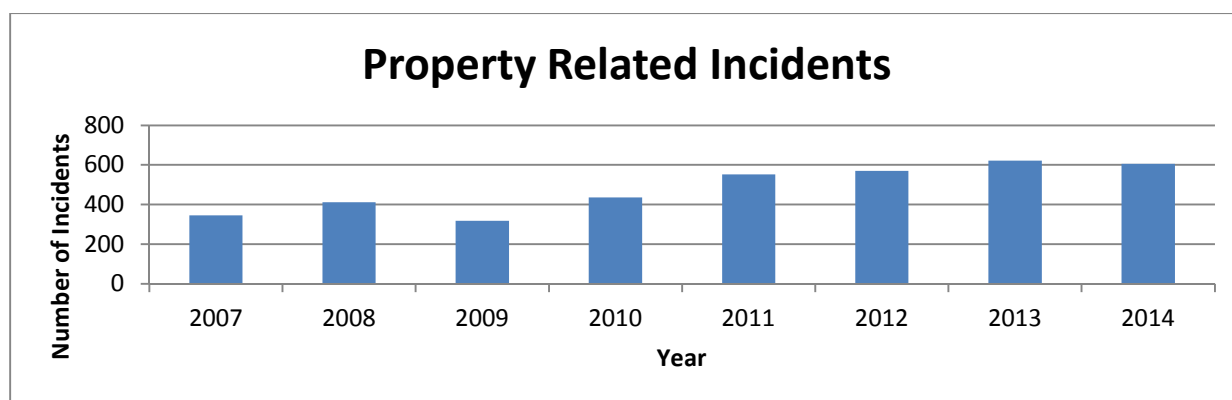
#### *Total Incidents*



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

Although there was a slight decrease in reported incidents in 2014, since 2007 there has been an overall increasing trend in incidents being reported.

## Property Related Incidents

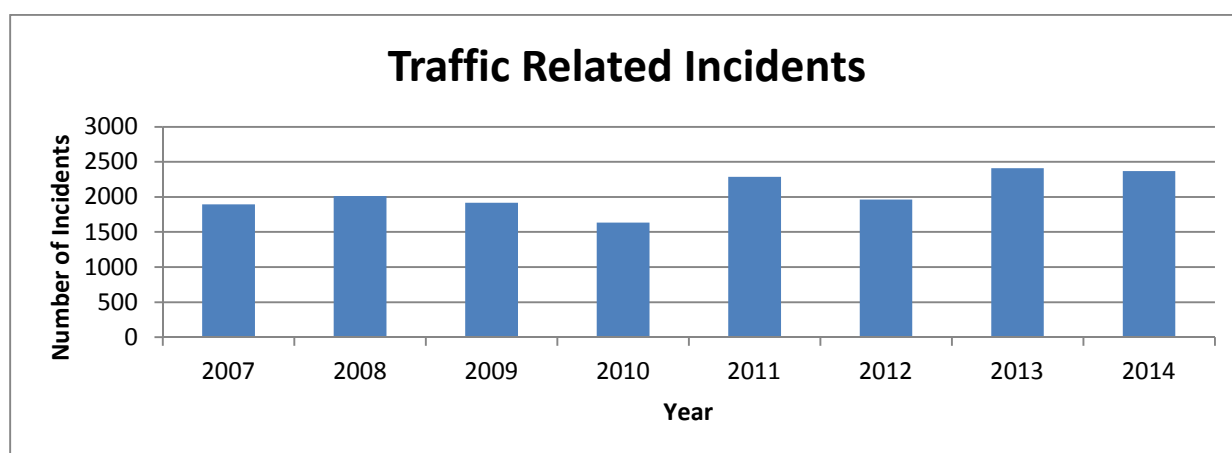


\*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally by Municipal Enforcement.



Property related complaints such as being unsightly, having excessive waste, or uncut weeds/grass have seen the largest percentage increases. In 2010, St. Albert passed a new Community Standards Bylaw which increased the officers' authority and ability to investigate and give orders related to these types of complaints. This has had a positive impact on Administration's ability to address these types of community concerns, however it has also increased the units workload as these types of complaints can often be very time consuming to follow up on and ensure compliance.

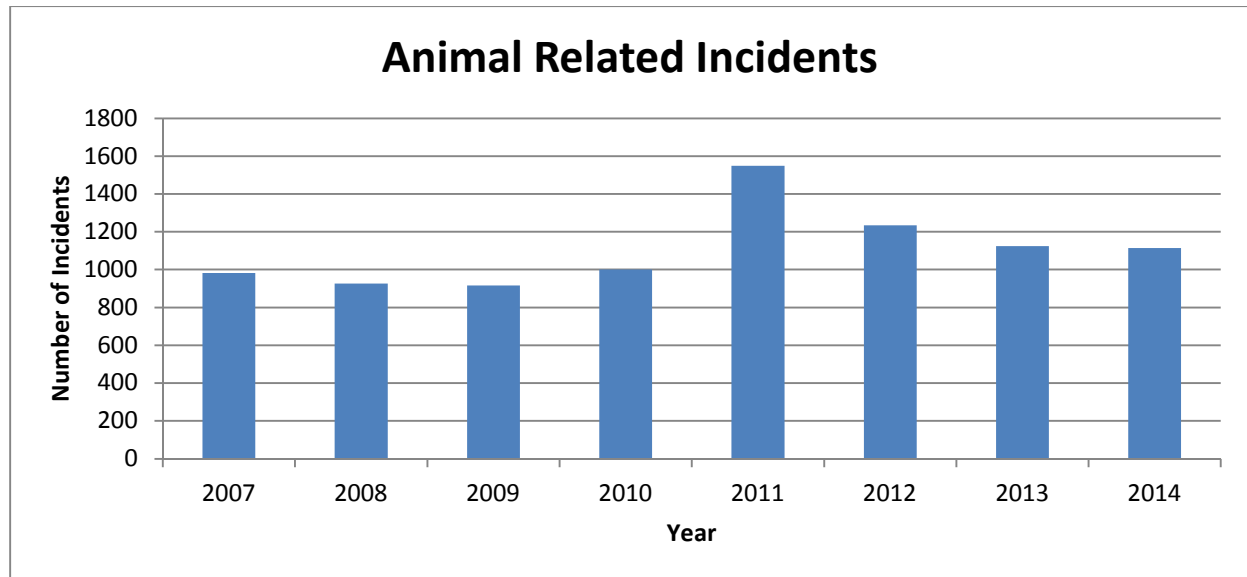
## Traffic Related Incidents



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

There has also been an increase in the number of traffic related incidents. These incidents relate mainly to parking and obstructed roadway offences.

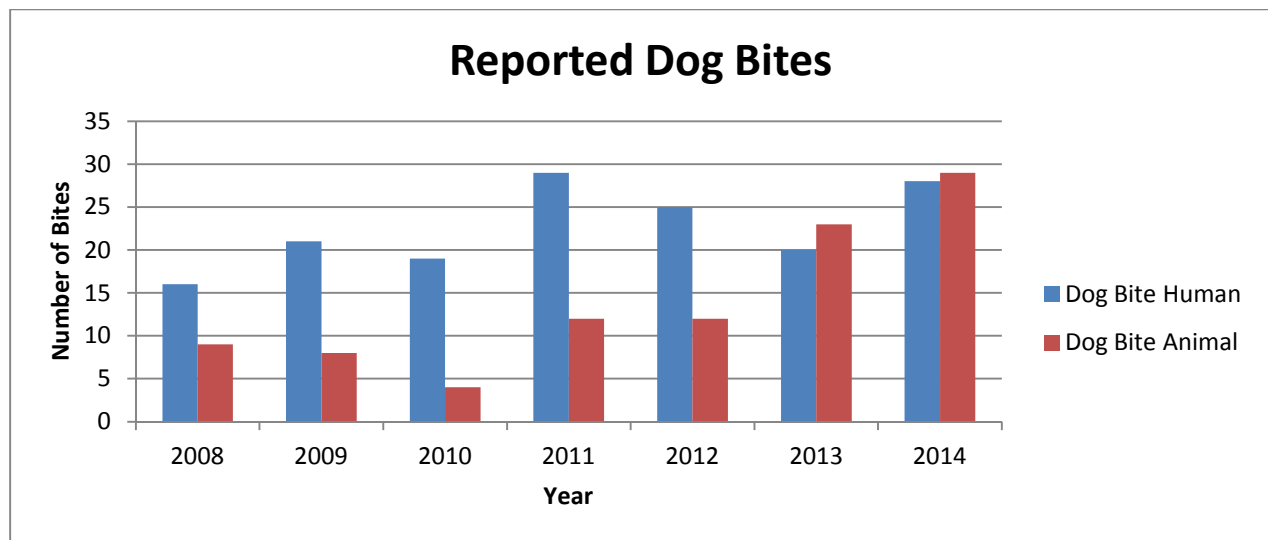
## Animal Control Related Incidents



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

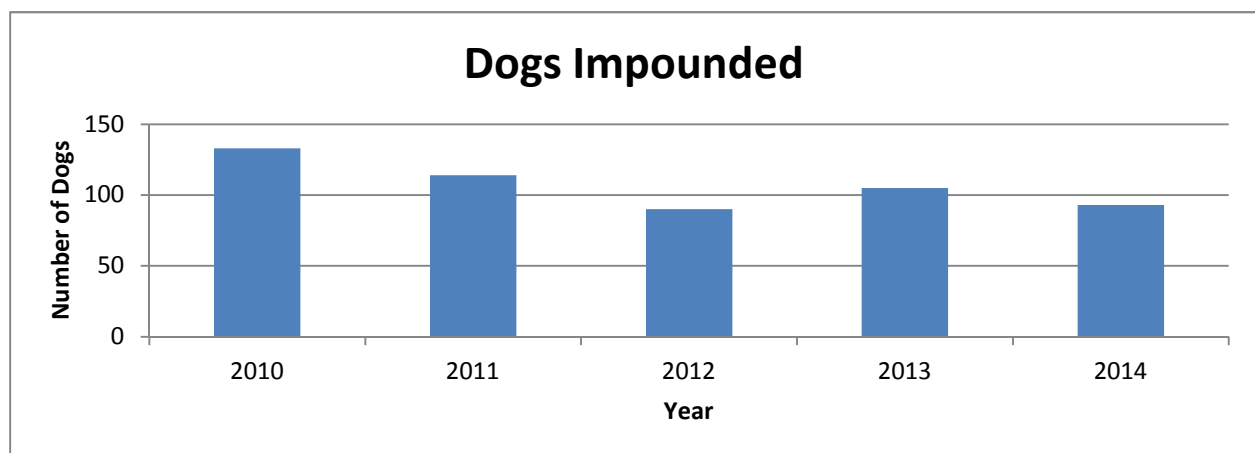
There was a spike in 2011 as it relates to animal control incidents and ever since there has been a decreasing trend. In September of 2014 a new Animal Bylaw took effect which has reversed the on-leash off-leash rules for the community as well as increased Administrations ability to effectively handle some common community concerns.





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

The total number of dog bites that have been reported to Municipal Enforcement have been on an increasing trend line. It is believed that not every dog bite is reported to the City. The increase seen in 2014 may be attributed to all the media and community attention/awareness related to animal control that could have prompted residents to make reports where otherwise they may not have.

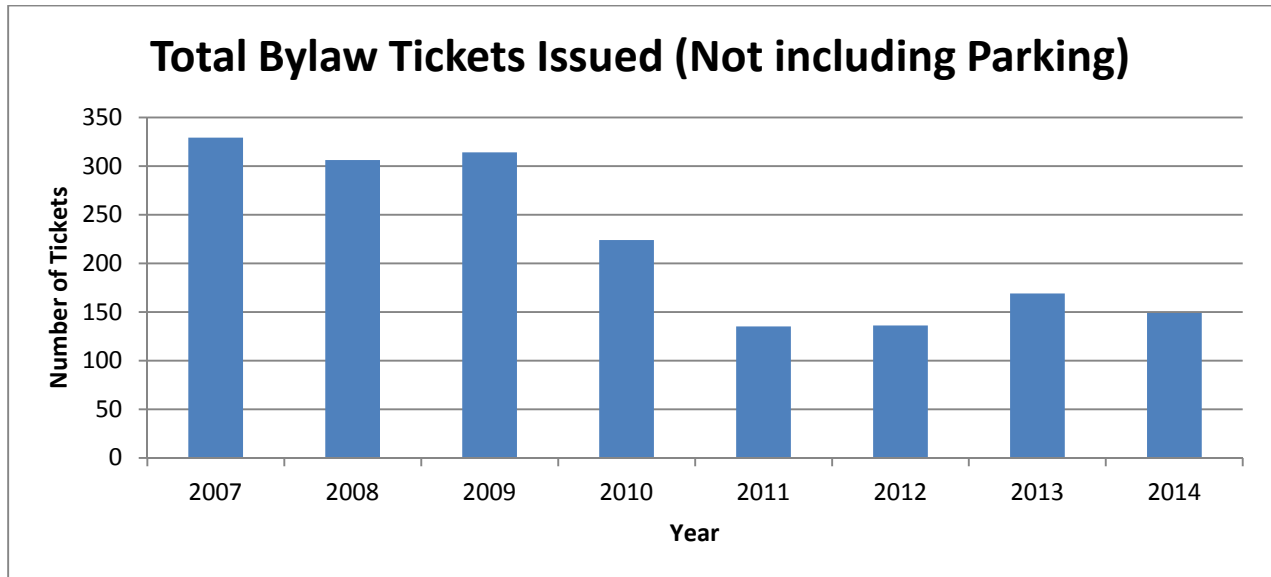


\*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally by Municipal Enforcement.

The total number of dogs being impounded have decreased from 2010. This can be attributed to a lower number of loose dog reports that has been received as well as an increase in our internal practice of trying to return dogs to their owners prior to bringing them to the kennel facility. It is also believed that with the increase in social media many dogs are being returned to their owners prior to the City getting involved.

## ***Tickets Issued***

### ***Bylaw Tickets Issued***



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

The numbers above represent the total tickets issued related to all Bylaw matters such as animal control, unsightly properties, noise complaints etc. These do not include Parking violations. Over the last few years there have been fewer Bylaw related tickets issued and much of this can be attributed to officer vacancies and increased workload.

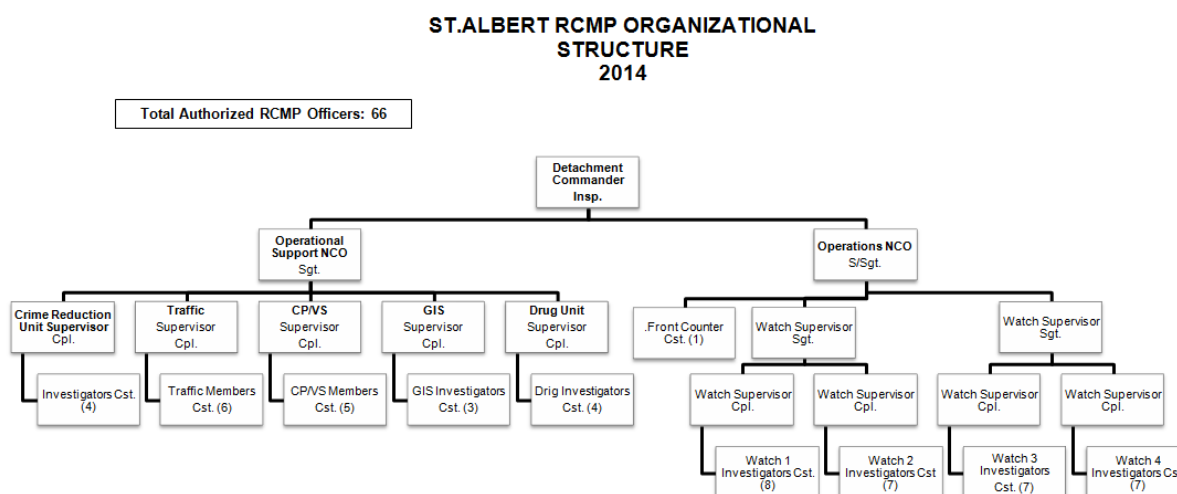


## HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION

### RCMP

#### *Organizational Structure*

In 2014 the year end total authorized strength for the RCMP was 66 members. An organizational structure illustrating the RCMP units and service lines 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 10% 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 rate that is desirable for City Council. The 2014 budgeted member number was 56.

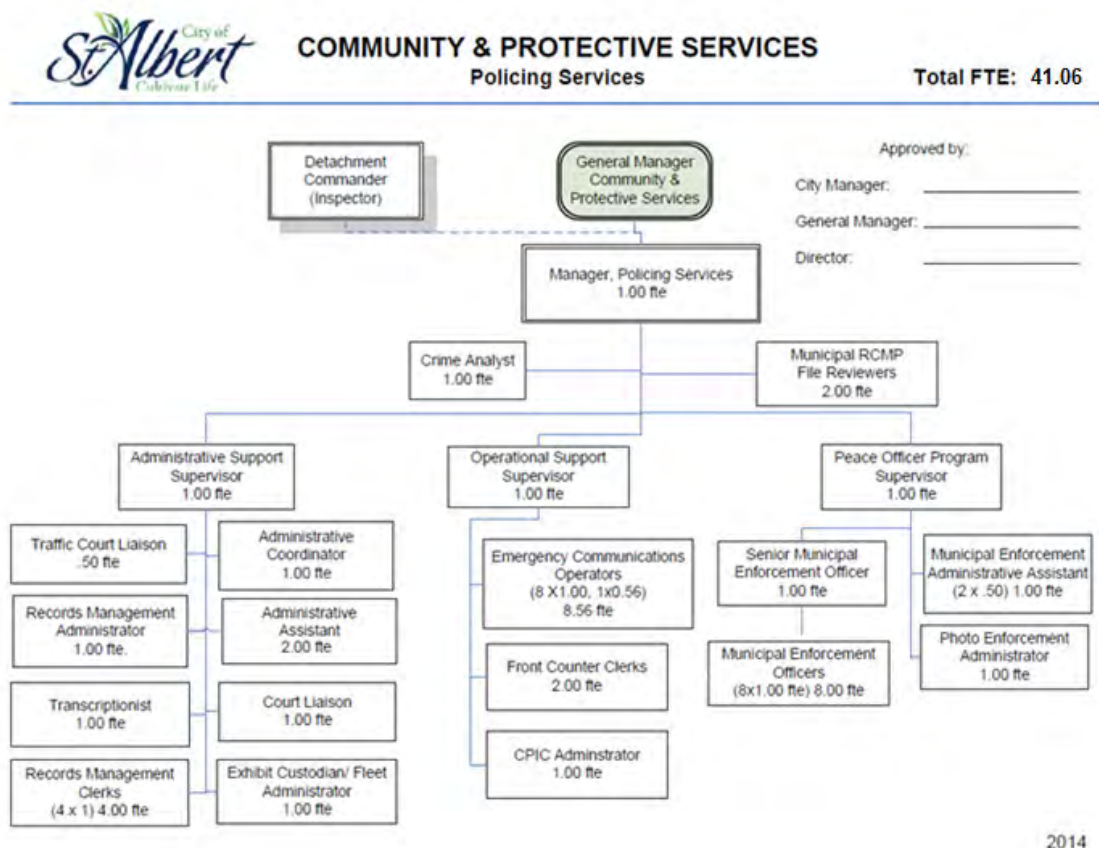
The RCMP operates on a fiscal year end calendar (April 1 – March 31). The RCMP 2014/15 fiscal year end actual bill to the Municipality was for 52.63 RCMP members. This works out to 1 actual RCMP officer for 1202 residents. The long Term Department plan has a target of 1 actual RCMP officer for every 1000 residents.



## Municipal Employees

### Organizational Structure

In 2014, the year end total of authorized Municipal Employees assigned to Policing Services was 41.06. An organizational structure has been added below that illustrates the units and service lines.



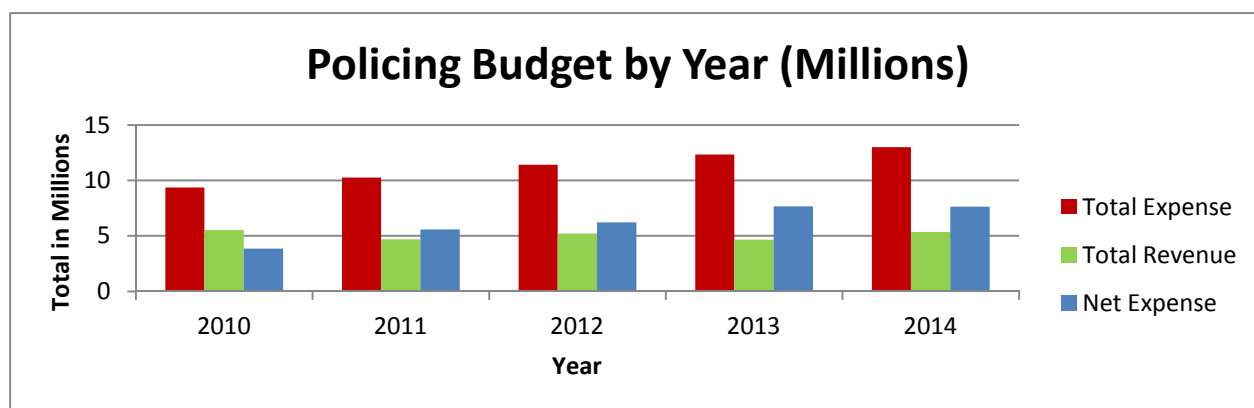
### ***Municipal Employee Budgeted and Actual Strength***

In 2014, all authorized positions as indicated in the organizational structure had the appropriate budget approval. A notable mention for Municipal resourcing was that the Municipal Enforcement Officer resources were down on average 29.4% for the year. There was a total of 9.75 Officer fte approved and the actual was only 7.25. This was due to recruitment challenges and the lengthy RCMP security clearance process. The actual worked out to 1 Municipal Enforcement Officer for every 8700 residents. The target ratio in the long term department plan is 1 officer for every 5000 residents.



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

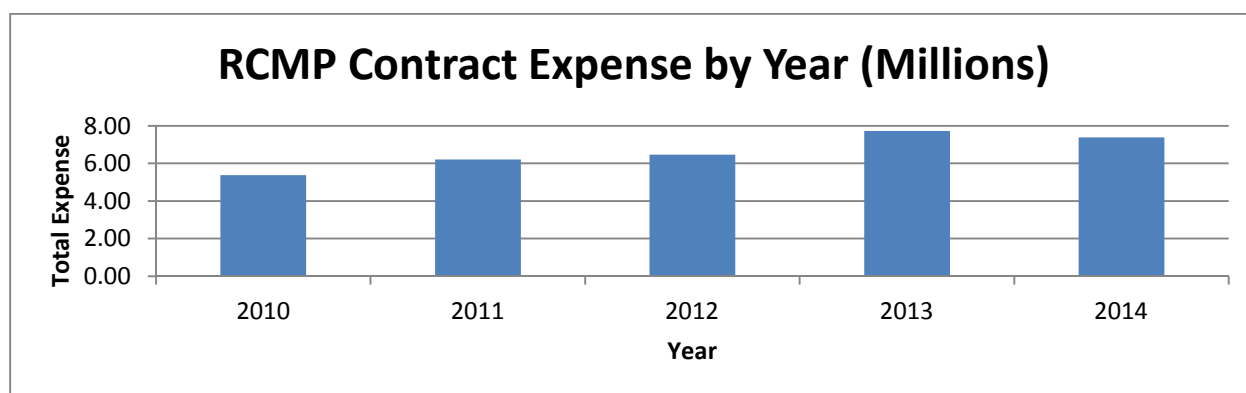
### Net Budget



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

The graph above represents the total expenses, revenue and net operating costs for Policing Services as a whole. This includes things such as the RCMP contract, the Municipal employee salaries, and fine revenue. The net expense for policing as a whole decreased from 2013 to 2014. This was due to new 911 grant funding that was received as well as a lower RCMP contract expense than what was budgeted for.

### RCMP Contract Expenses

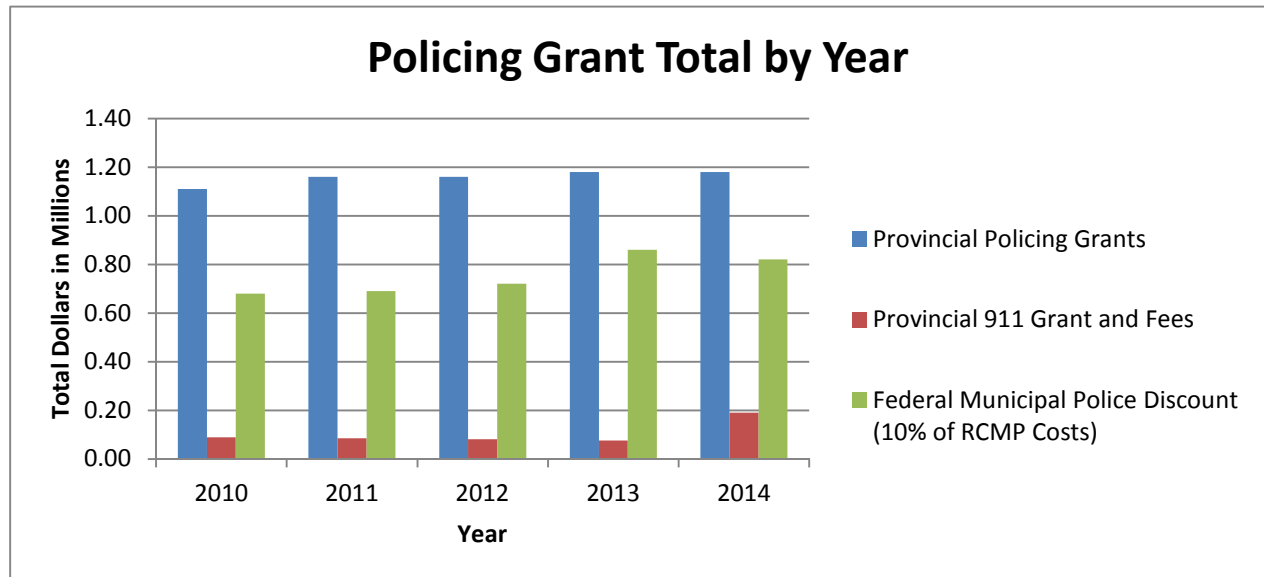


\*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from internal annual Budget reports.

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. However the 2014 total expenses were less than 2013 and this can be attributed to a number of member vacancies in 2014 which resulted in a reduced bill to the municipality.



## Policing Grants



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

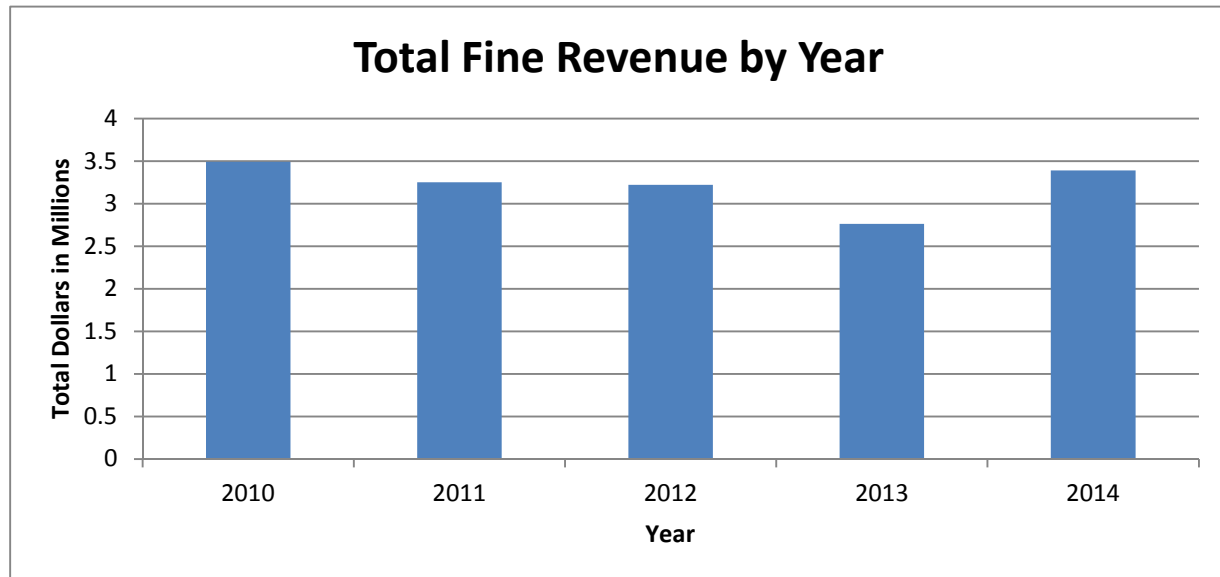
The graph above represents the total grants received from the Province of Alberta, the 10% Federal discount that the Municipality receives by contracting out the RCMP as well the 911 fees collected from telecommunication companies (Telus and Shaw).

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

There was an increase in the 911 revenue due to the implementation of a new 911 grant that the Province brought in. The Province now collects 911 fees from the cellular phone providers and in turn redistributes most of the revenue to 911 centers on a population basis. This is a conditional grant and the Municipality can only use these funds for certain expenses. Currently the City is putting this funding towards 911 staff salary expenses, therefore reducing the over all net expense to residents.

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.

## Fine Revenue



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

The fine revenue received from the Province of Alberta to the City is mainly attributed to Provincial traffic violations such as speeding but the above graph also includes revenue from all Provincial and Municipal Bylaw violations. It must be noted that fine revenue can be unpredictable. The Provincial courts and Crown prosecutor's office manage this process. Often fines can go unpaid and uncollected, fines can be worked off through community service, or fines can be voided if violators choose to spend time incarcerated. In addition, people can be found not guilty and fine amounts are often reduced upon agreed guilty pleas. All of these factors combined make it difficult to predict fine revenue received from year to year despite how many tickets are actually issued. Having said this, the less tickets that are written, generally results in less revenue received.



## COMMENTS FROM THE OFFICER IN CHARGE



As the officer in Charge of St. Albert Detachment, I'm proud to lead our team of professional dedicated employees, all of whom are committed to keeping St. Albert among the most safest and desired places in Canada to live and raise a family. Statistics Canada in their 2014 annual report on Crime in Canadian municipalities, reported that St. Albert had the lowest crime severity index score in Alberta for the 43 municipalities that contract RCMP services, which represented a 15% decrease from the previous year. This is an enviable record that we remain committed to preserving through on-going community engagement and consultation, while continuing to deliver effective, efficient and innovative quality police service to the citizens. Law enforcement is a fluid and dynamic environment that requires exceptional leadership, public education, and advanced technology. St. Albert Detachment personnel exude those qualities, whether it is our general duty/traffic members, municipal enforcement officers, investigators from our plain-clothes unit or our valued municipal employee support personnel. Through the support and many partnerships we've forged with our community leaders and citizens we are well positioned to meet the future challenges while maintaining a high level of public confidence.

