

2017 Annual Policing Report

Cultivating a Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Community

December 2018



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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:

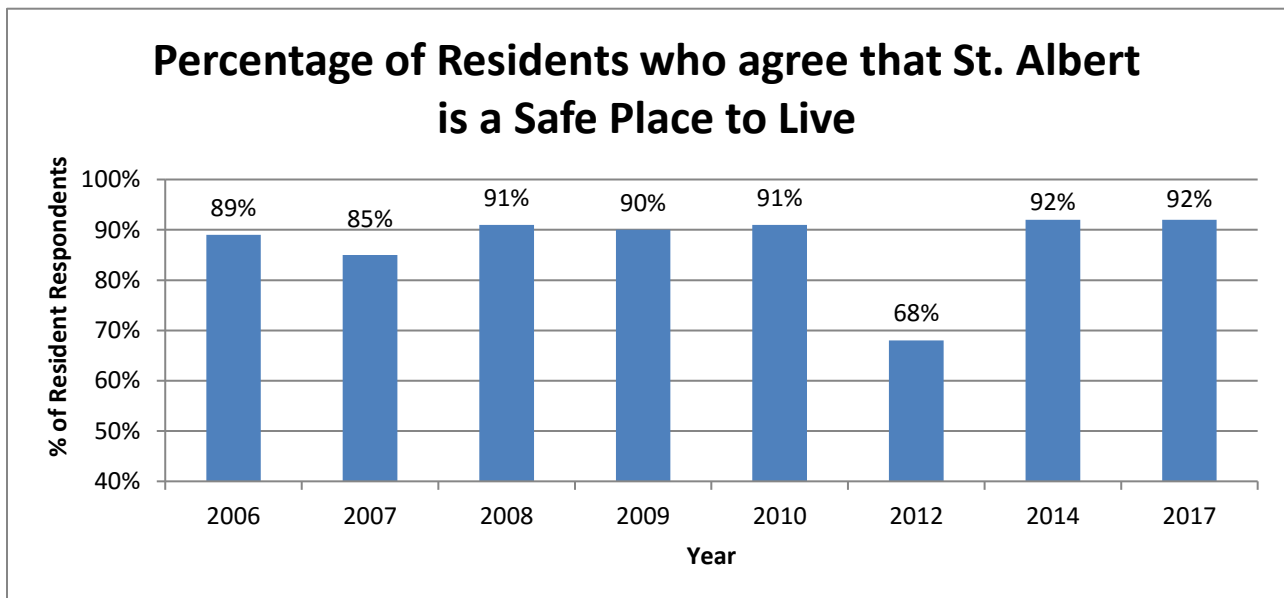
- [Prevention and Education Services](#) – This is a proactive approach to reduce crime and increase community safety.
- [Protective Services](#) – This service is generally described as one designed to reduce victimization through proactive approaches such as park patrols and reactive approaches such 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 departments 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](#)

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.

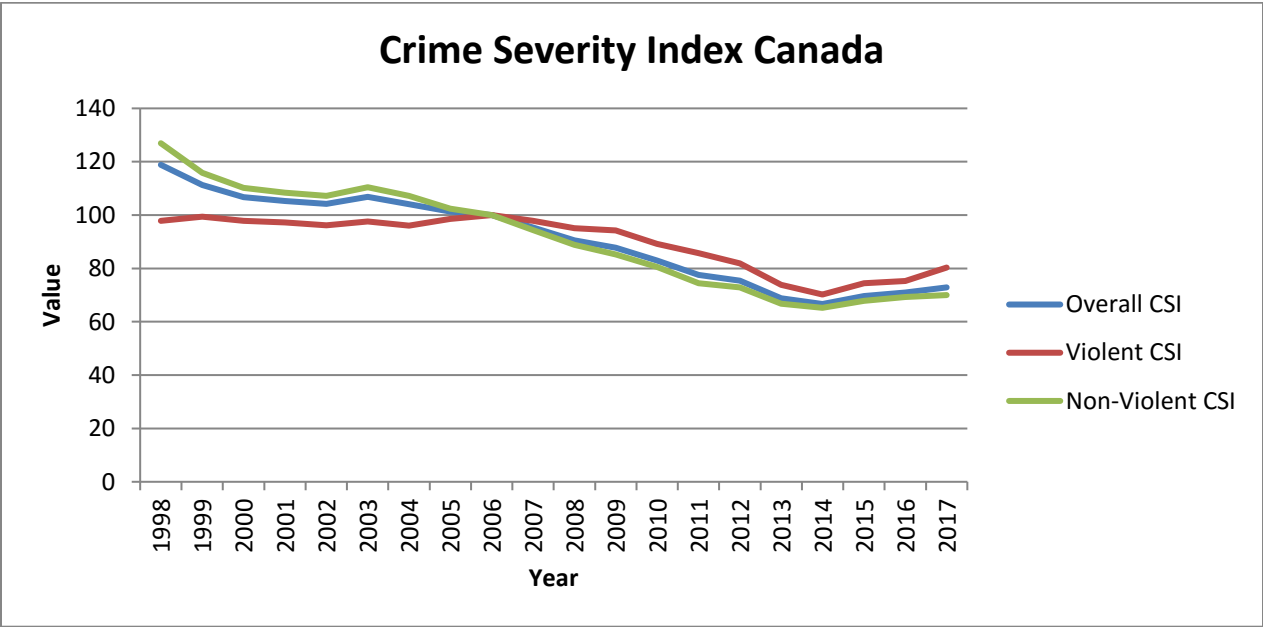
Crime Severity Index

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

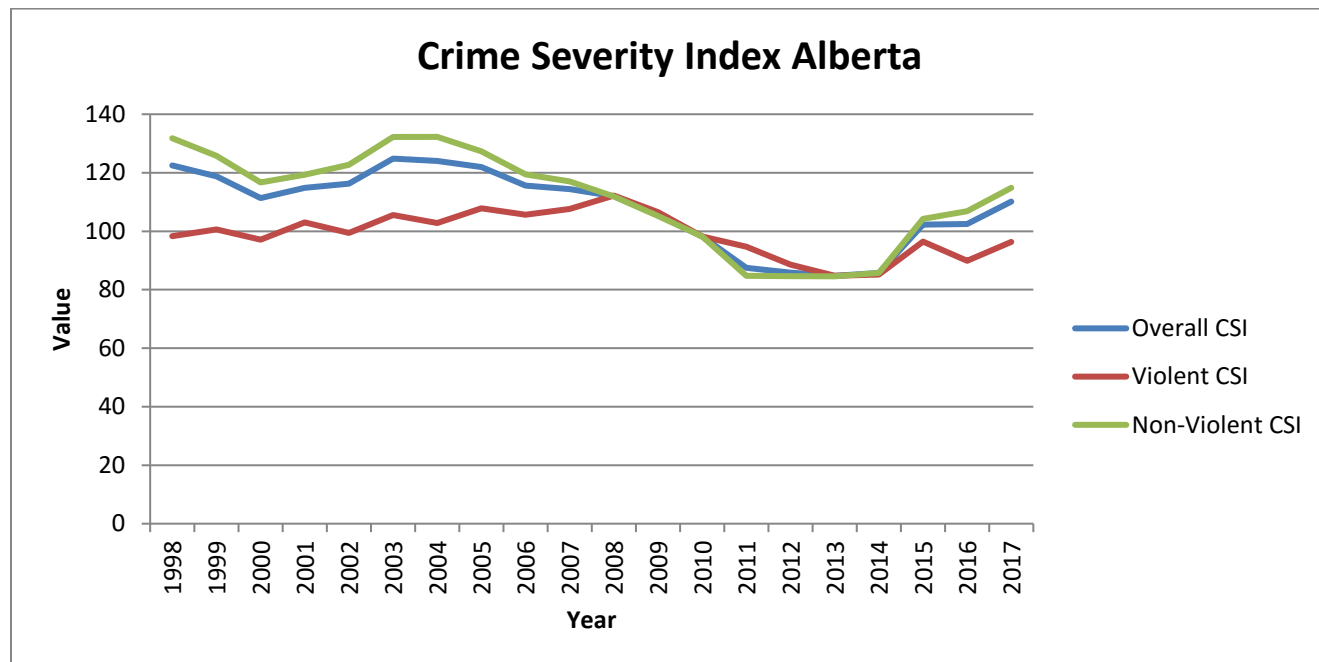
Overall, the national CSI increased for the third year in a row (up about 2.5% from 2016).



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Provincial Crime Severity Index

Alberta's overall CSI also increased in 2017, up about 7.5% compared to 2016.

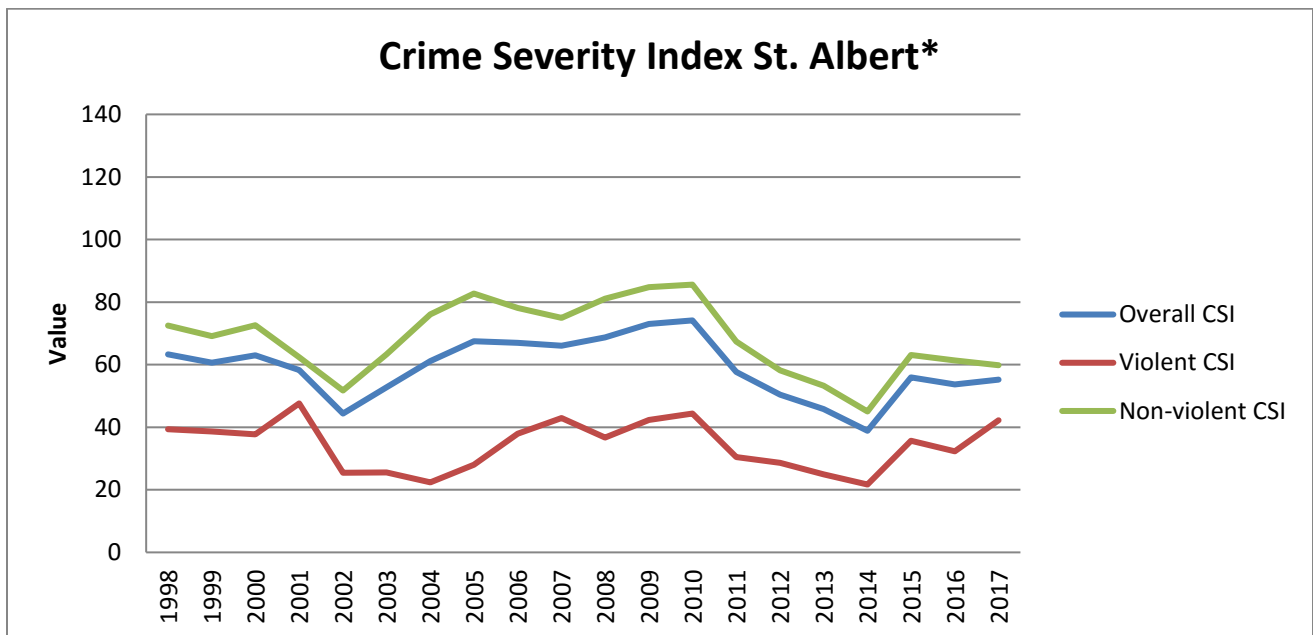


*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada



Municipal Crime Severity Index

St. Albert's overall CSI increased at a rate similar to the national average (up approximately 2.9% from 2016). However, St. Albert saw a significant increase in the Violent Crime Severity Index (up 30%) and a decrease of 2.4% in the Non-violent Crime Severity Index.

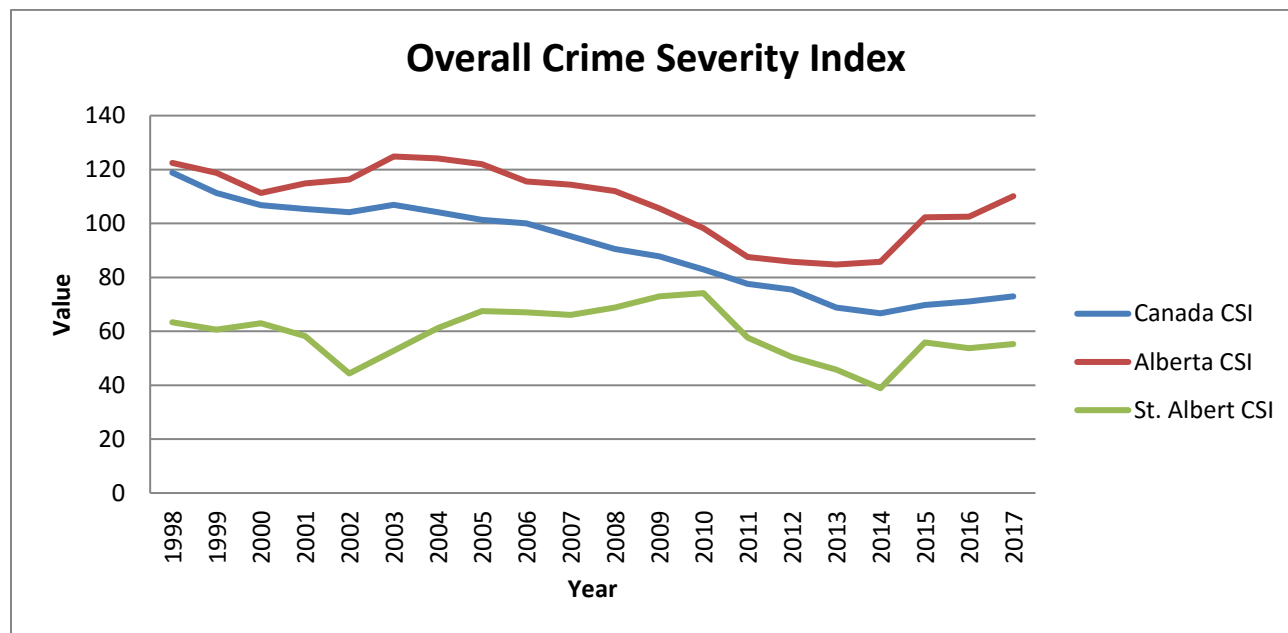


*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada



Municipal/Provincial/National Crime Severity

Despite St. Albert's substantial increase in the Violent Crime Severity Index, we still have a significantly lower overall index when compared to the Alberta and national averages. Furthermore, in 2017, St. Albert continued to have the lowest overall Crime Severity Index compared to all cities in Alberta.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada



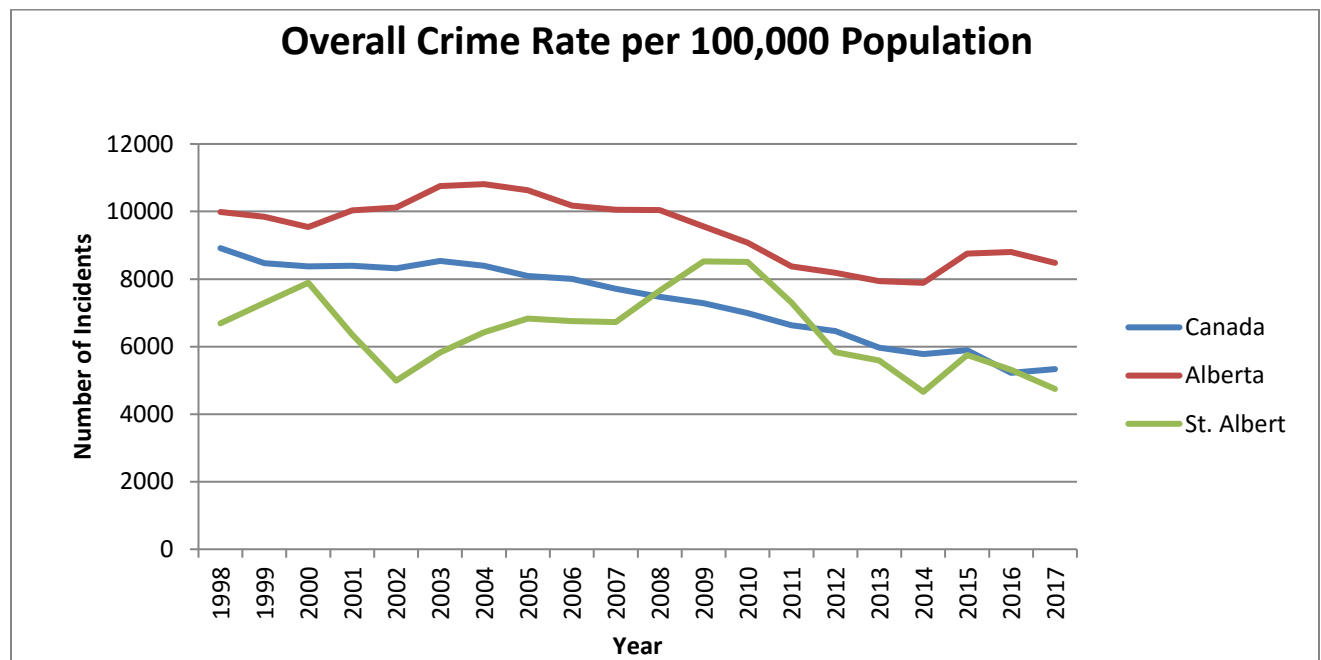
Crime Rate

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

For a second year in a row, St. Albert’s overall Crime Rate per 100,000 population saw a decrease in 2017.



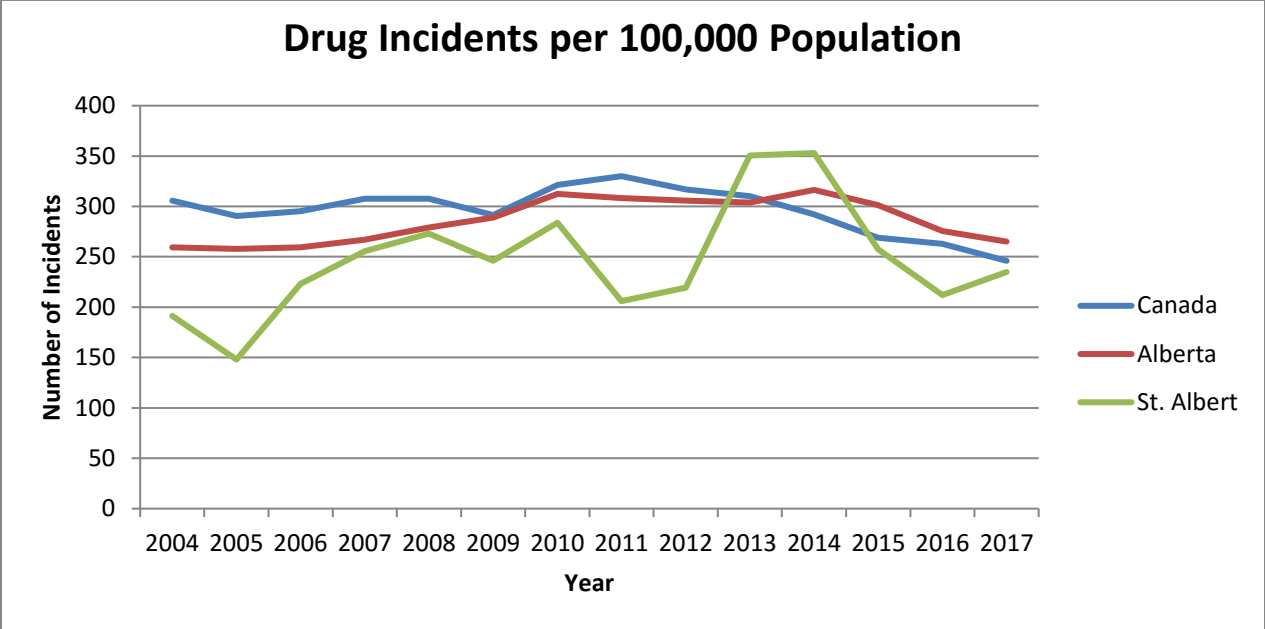
*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

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

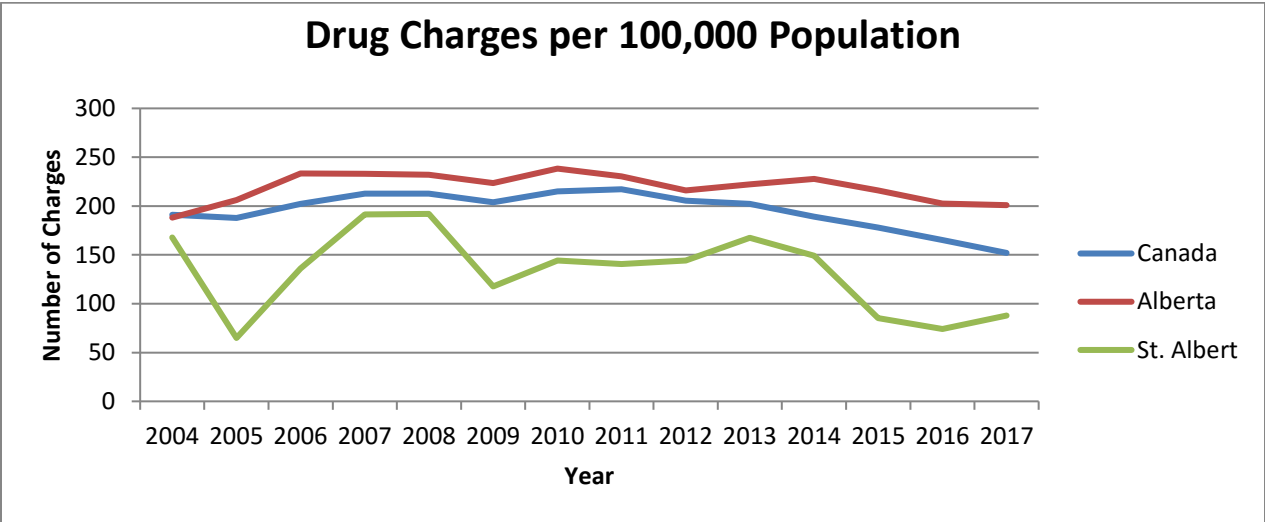
From 2016 to 2017, the number of drug incidents per 100,000 population increased by 10% in St. Albert. Yet, both the National and Provincial averages decreased slightly.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Drug Charges

In 2017, St. Albert saw an increase in drug charges per 100,000 population (up approximately 18%). However, compared to the National or Provincial averages, St. Albert continues to see less drug charges per 100,000 population.



*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, it is clear that there was a small increase from 2016 to 2017 (approximately 8%).

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% change 2016 to 2017
Homicide & Offences Related to Death	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	4	+~%
Robbery	13	21	23	13	12	6	5	13	10	20	+100%
Assault (Not incl. sexual assault)	394	409	406	355	295	333	295	313	371	367	-1%

*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 remained relatively stable when comparing the numbers in 2016 to the numbers in 2017. In 2016, there were 2830 property related offences and in 2017 there were 2824 offences.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% change 2016 to 2017
Break and Enter	254	249	227	216	185	184	127	239	245	245	0%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	140	144	136	100	93	89	100	126	160	144	-10%
Theft over \$5000	38	30	20	22	17	20	13	29	26	31	+19%
Theft under \$5000	1088	1448	1347	974	874	857	792	1242	1256	1294	+3%
Possession of Stolen Property	71	66	56	44	34	50	35	55	67	75	+12%
Fraud	223	226	192	170	164	125	167	218	263	293	+11%

*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 2017-18 report, please click on the below link.

[2017/18 School Resource Officer/Community Policing Program Report](#)

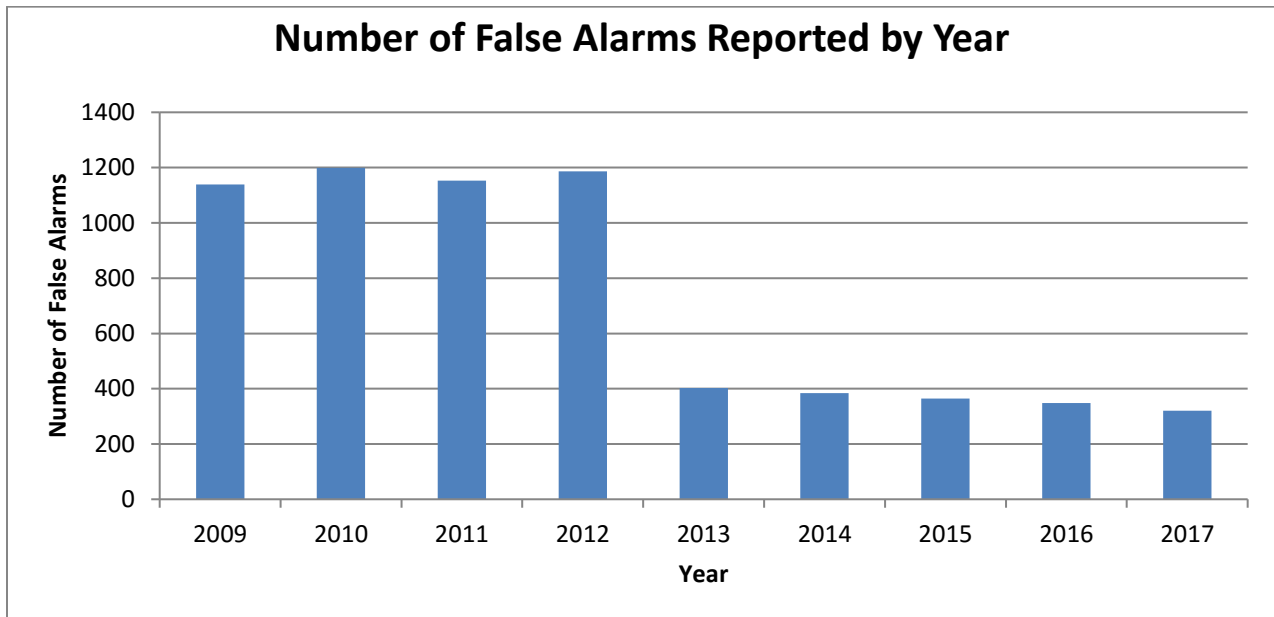


Other Policing Activities

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 2017, we saw a decrease in the number of false alarm reports for a 5th straight year.¹



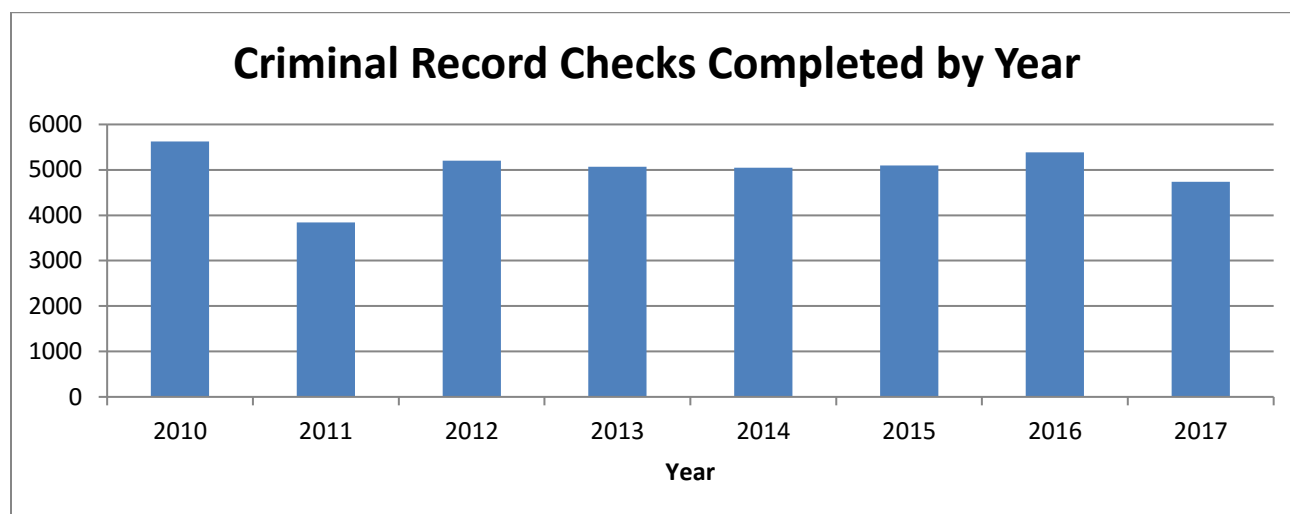
* Numbers in the above graph were obtained from the RCMP K Division Operations Strategy Branch



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

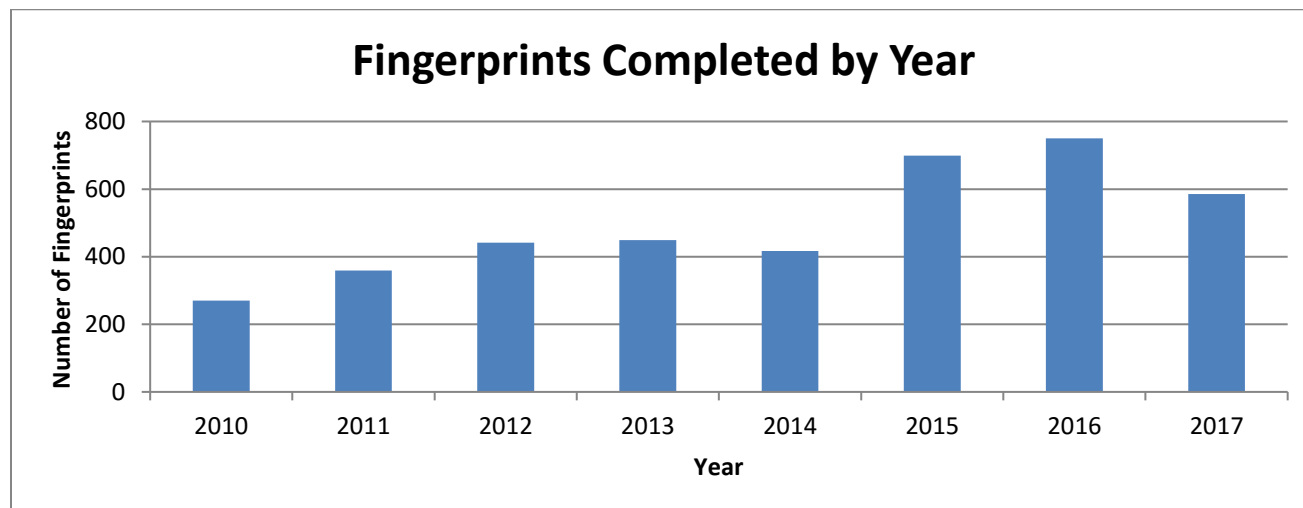
Many organizations, both for and not for profit, have processes in place to have potential employees and volunteers complete a criminal record check as part of their screening processes. With approximately 5000 Criminal Record Checks processed per year, this continues to be one of the main service areas for our front counter. There was a small decrease in the total number of criminal record checks completed 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 slight decrease in the demand for this service in 2017.



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

Traffic Safety

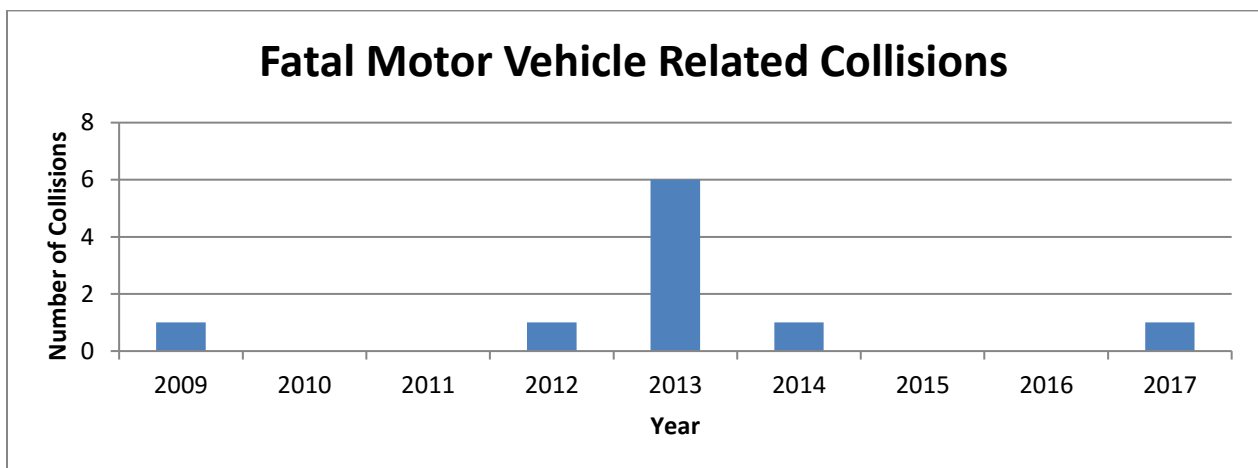
Traffic safety continues to be top of mind for Policing Services with dedicated RCMP and Municipal Enforcement Officers assigned specifically to traffic enforcement duties. In 2017, Policing resources continued to participate in the internal Traffic Safety Committee where representatives from Engineering, 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 for the community, please click on the below link that will bring you to a report completed by St. Albert Engineering Services – Transportation Branch.

[2017 Traffic Collision Statistics](#)

Collisions

Fatal Collisions

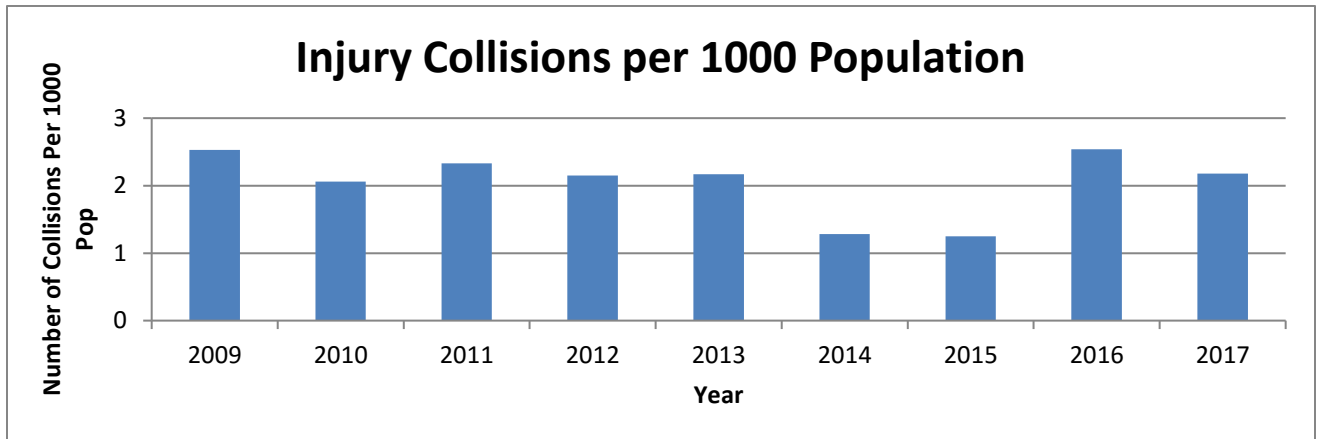
In 2017, there was 1 fatal motor vehicle collision in St. Albert.



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

Injury Collisions

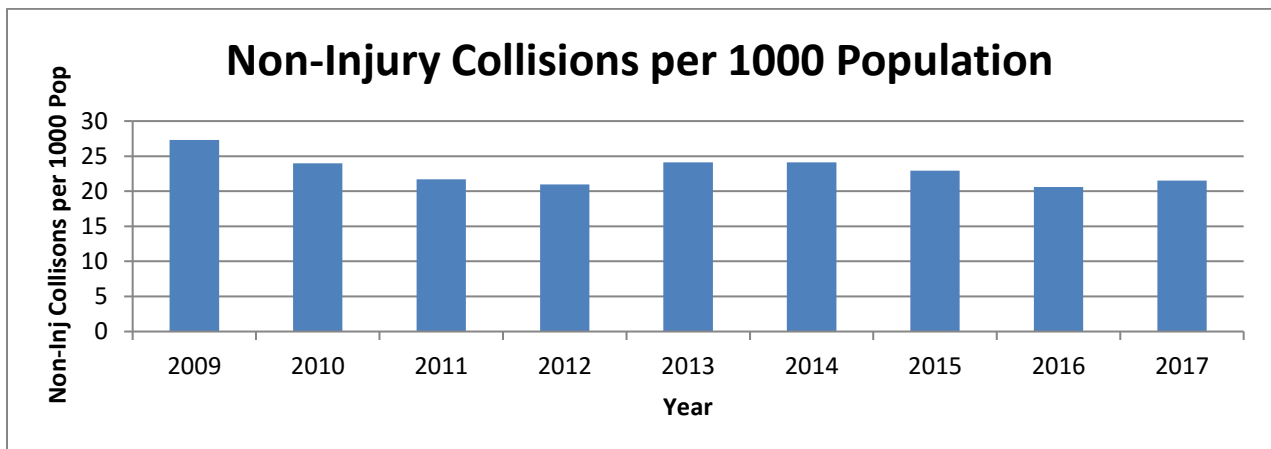
In 2017, injury collisions per population decreased slightly.



* 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 2016 to 2017, there was a small increase in the non-injury collisions per 1000 population rate.

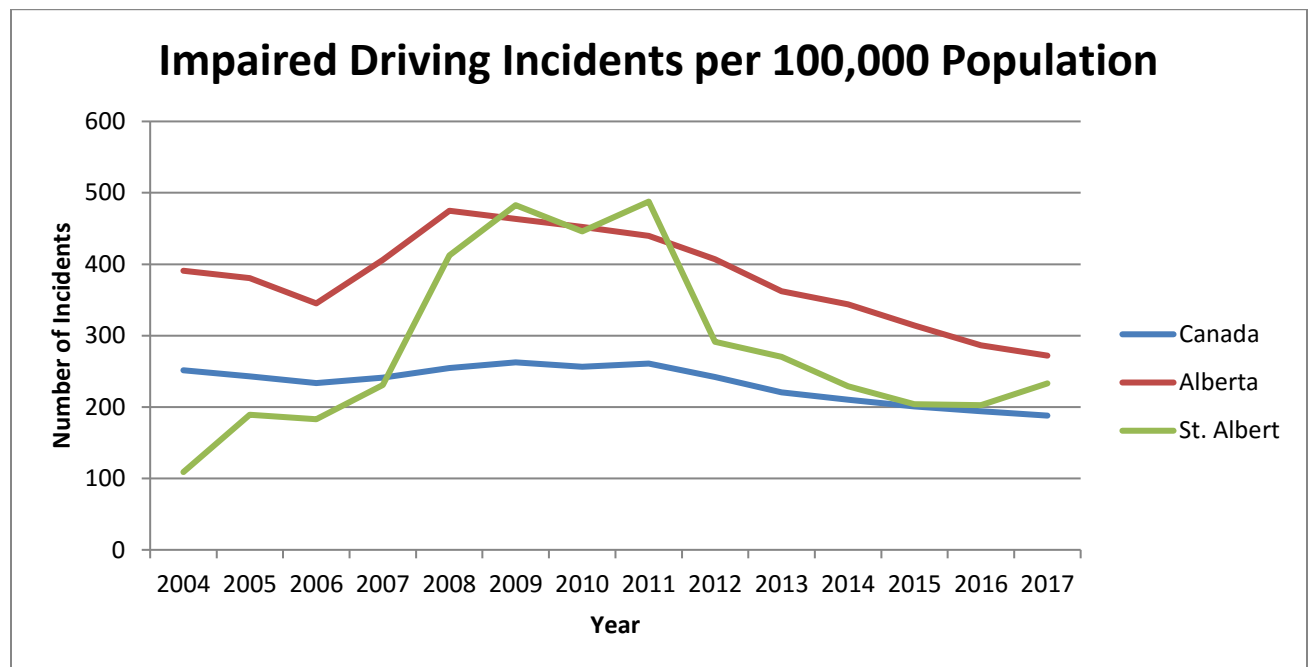


* The numbers of collisions used to make the above graph were obtained from the RCMP K Division Operations Strategy Branch. Population is based on the latest census data. Where updated census data is not available a 1.5% population increase is assumed.

Impaired Driving

Impaired Driving Incidents

In 2017, the total reported number of impaired driving incidents per 100,000 population in St. Albert increased slightly from 2016. However, the National and Provincial averages decreased. Although St. Albert's rate increased, it is still lower than the Provincial average.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

“BUT IT’S JUST WEED”

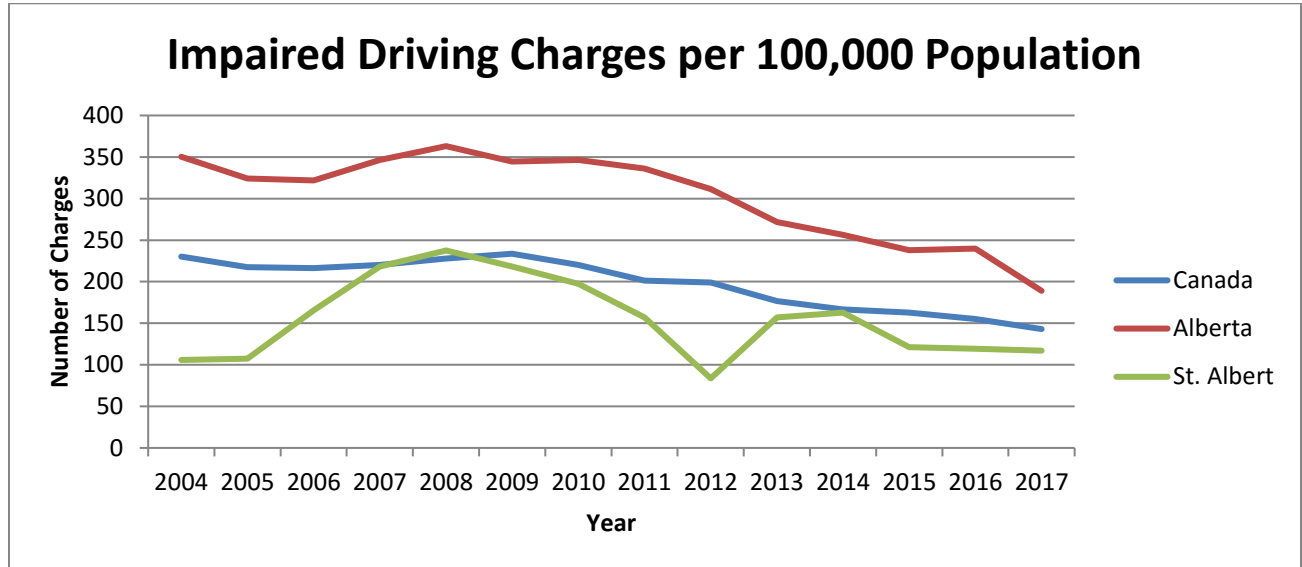
DRUGGED driving is IMPAIRED DRIVING.
Driving after consuming cannabis is ILLEGAL.
Make changes, not excuses.

stalbert.ca/traffic-safety

City of St. Albert
Cultivate Life

Impaired Driving Charges

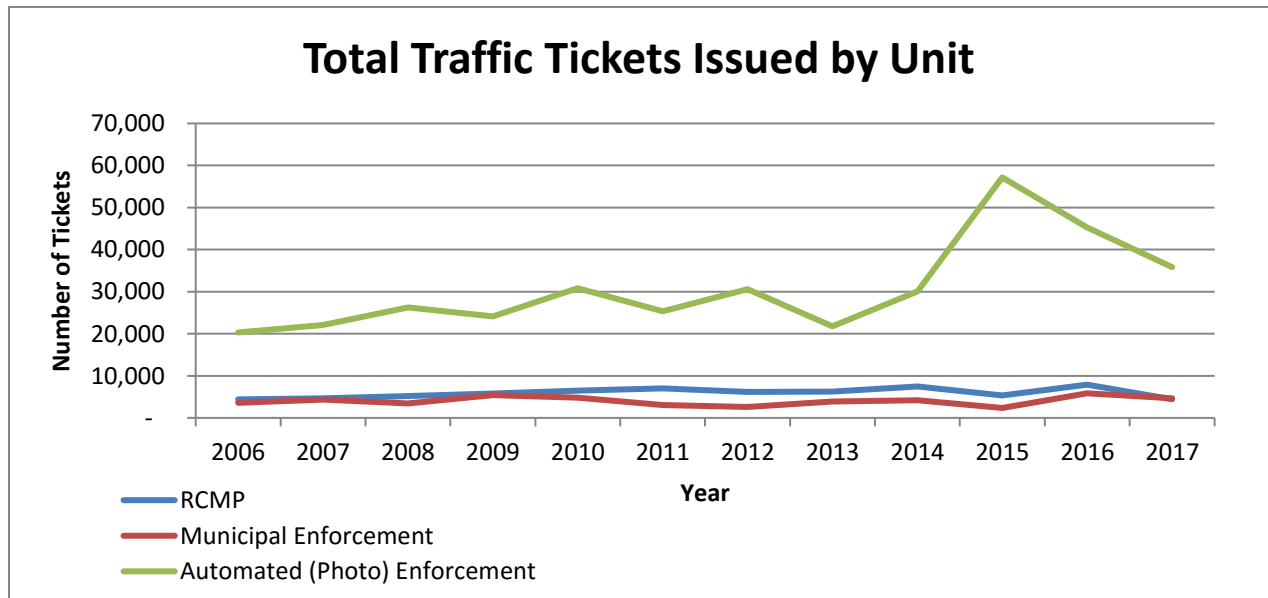
Since 2015, the total number of impaired driving charges per 100,000 population has remained relatively steady.



*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Statistics Canada

Traffic Tickets Issued (Including Parking tickets)

In 2017, 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 almost 10,000 tickets from 2016.



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

911/Communications/Dispatch

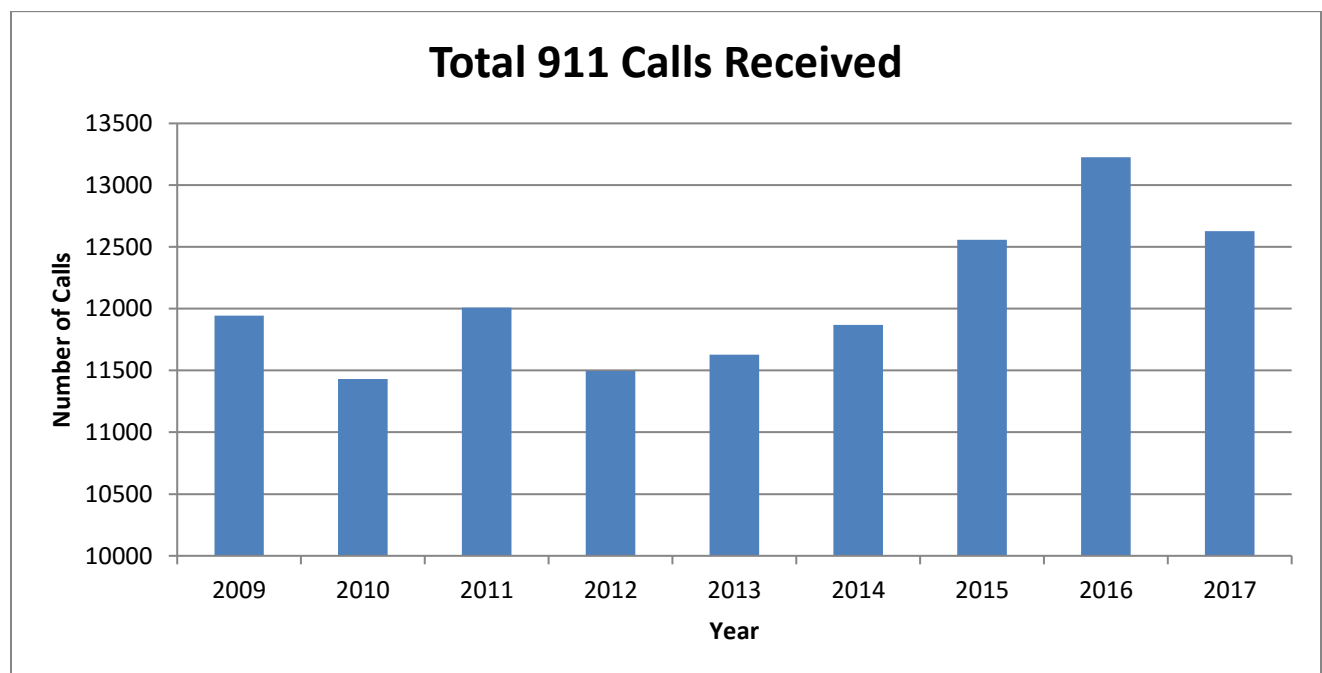
Policing Services runs the primary 911 public safety answering point (PSAP) for the community. All initial 911 calls made in the community go directly to the Policing Services communication centre at Maloney Place, where operators record and dispatch police related calls and transfer out fire and ambulance 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 2017, there was a decrease in the total number of 911 calls received. In fact, there were about 600 calls less (or 2 calls per day) compared to 2016.

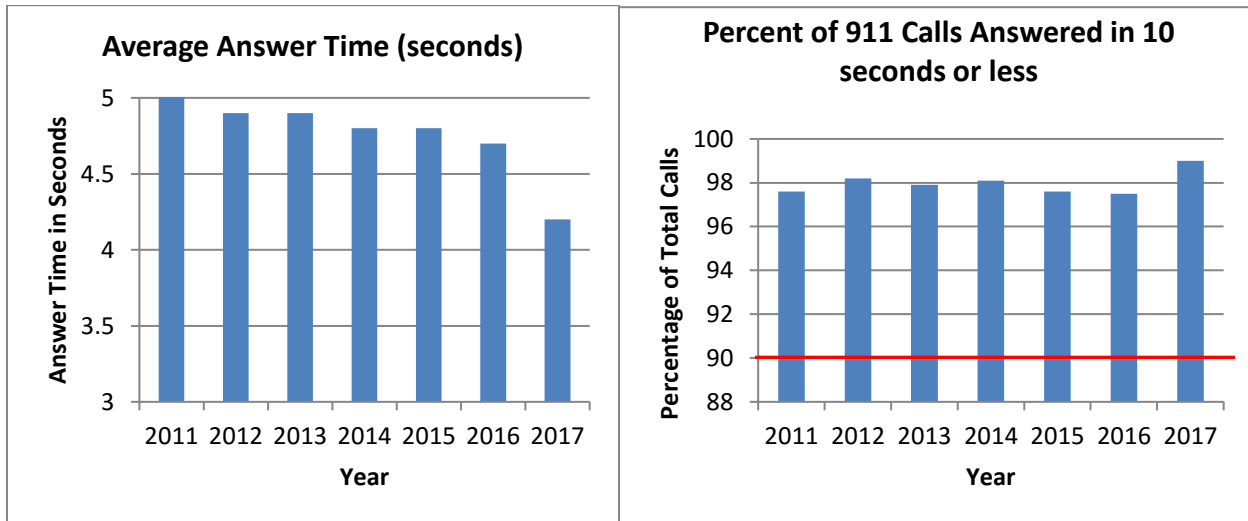


*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally at the St. Albert Detachment from data received from Telus.

911 Speed of Answer

The average answer time of all 911 calls received has remained steady – between 4 and 5 seconds over the last 6 years. However, there was a small decrease from 2016 to 2017 (0.5 seconds).

In 2017, 99% 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.



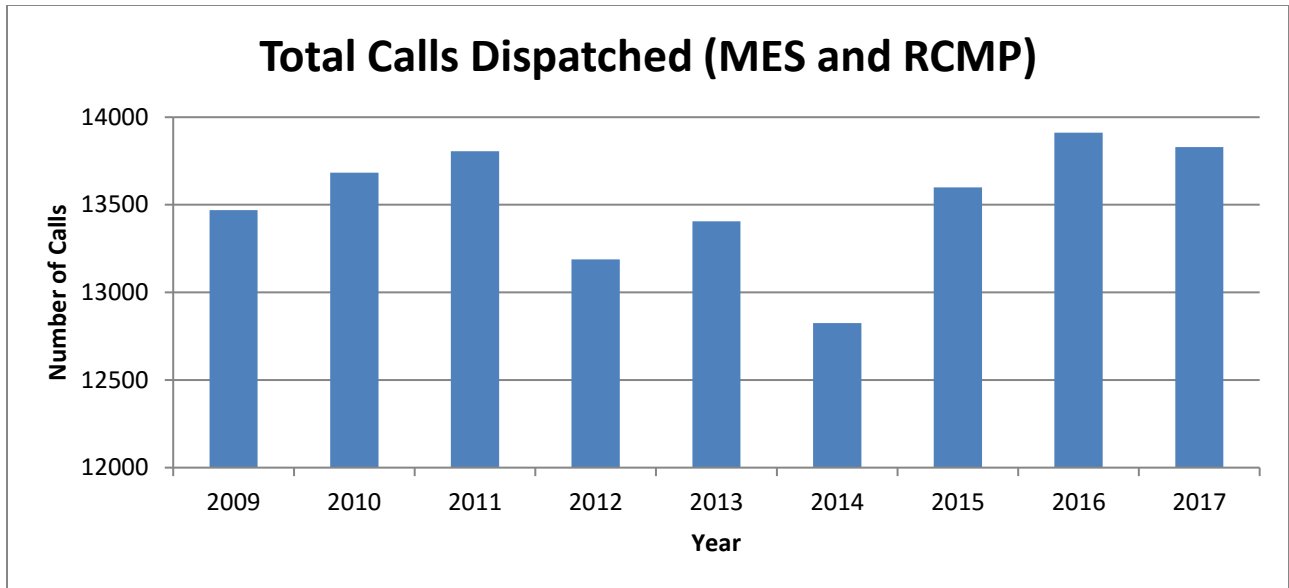
*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from Telus

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 2016 to 2017, there was a small decrease in total calls (approximately 100).



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

Municipal Enforcement Services

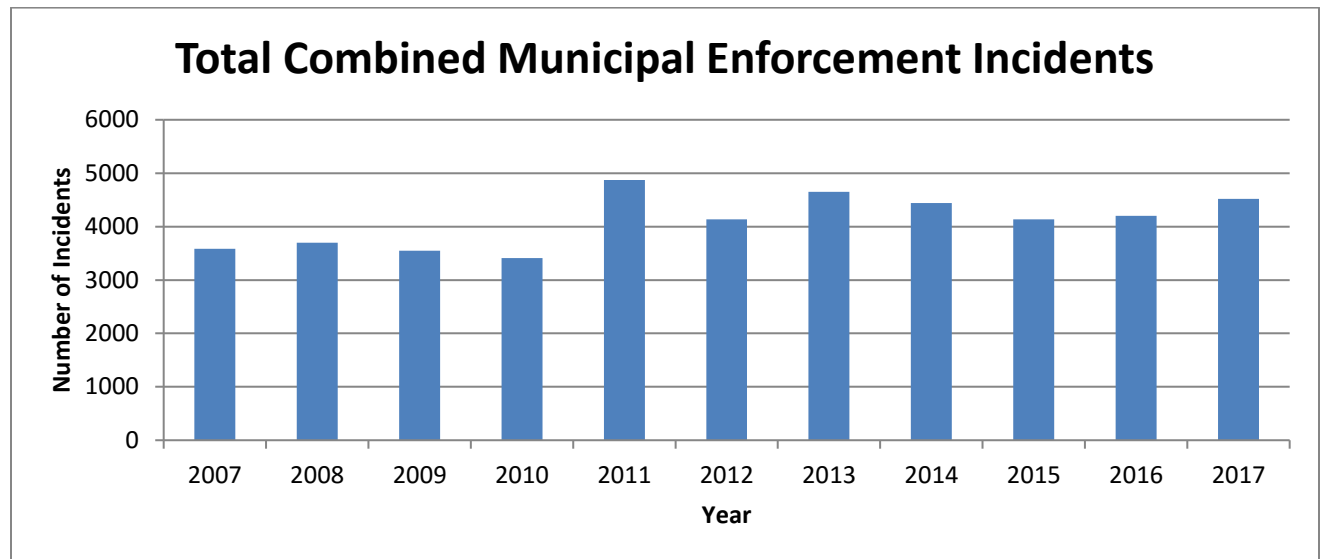
The Municipal Enforcement Service has a primary duty to answer and investigate Municipal Bylaw complaints such as parking, animal control and property related offences such as unkempt land. In addition to this, there are two officers that have been assigned a primary role of pro-active traffic safety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



Incident Reporting

Total Incidents

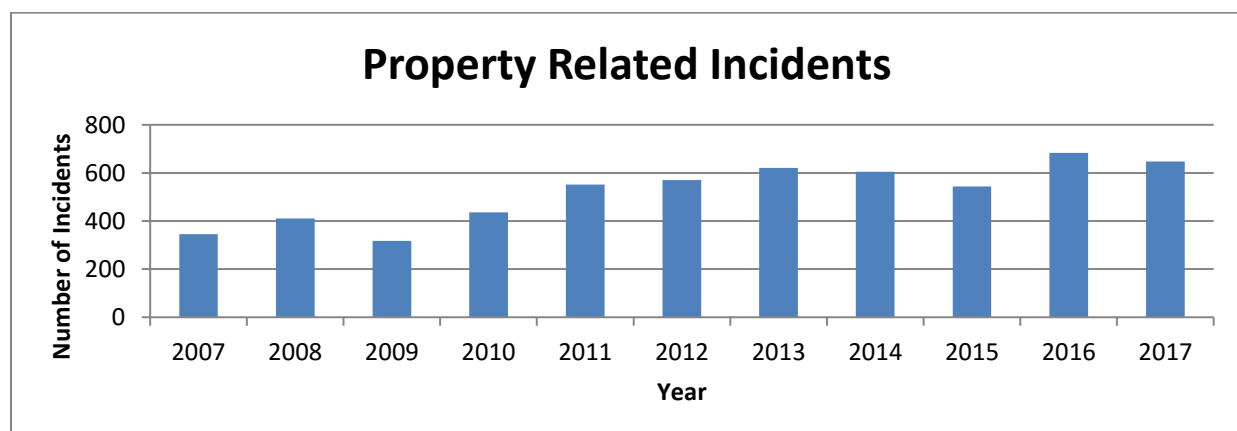
There were a number of consecutive years where Municipal Enforcement experienced a decrease in incidents. However, in the past two years (2016 and 2017), this has changed with Municipal Enforcement seeing an increase in incidents.



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

Property Related Incidents

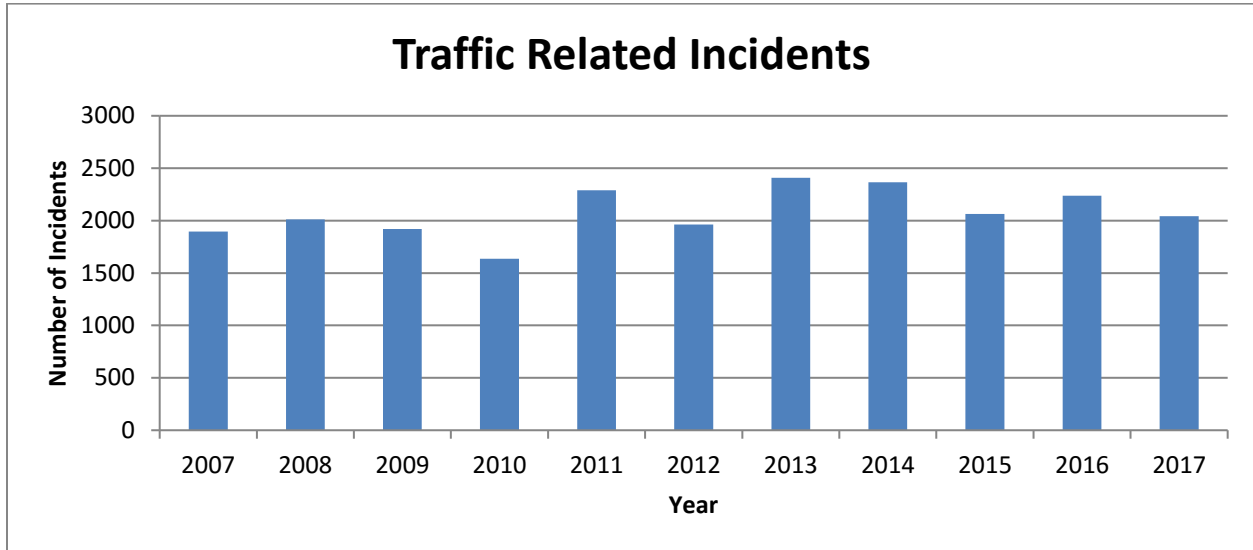
In general, property related complaints, such as being unsightly, having excessive waste, uncut weeds/grass or icy sidewalks, have been on the rise since 2009. In 2017, there was a small decrease in the category compared to 2016.



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

Traffic Related Incidents

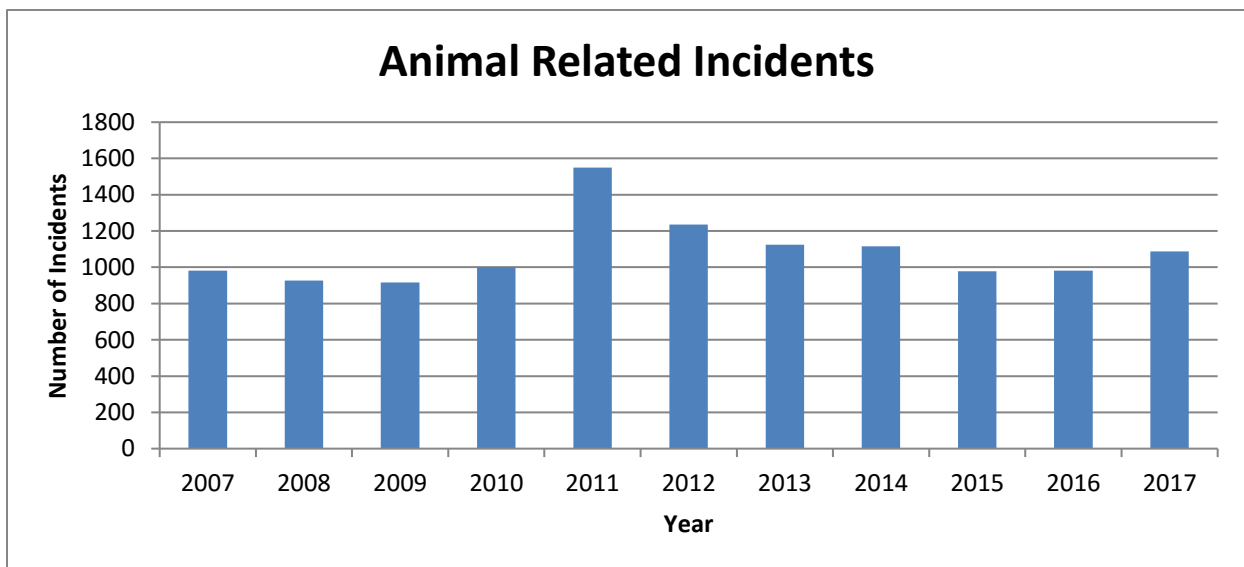
Traffic related incidents include prohibited parking and roadway obstructions, among other categories. Compared to 2016, there was a small decrease in 2017 with approximately 16 less incidents per month.



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

Animal Control Related Incidents

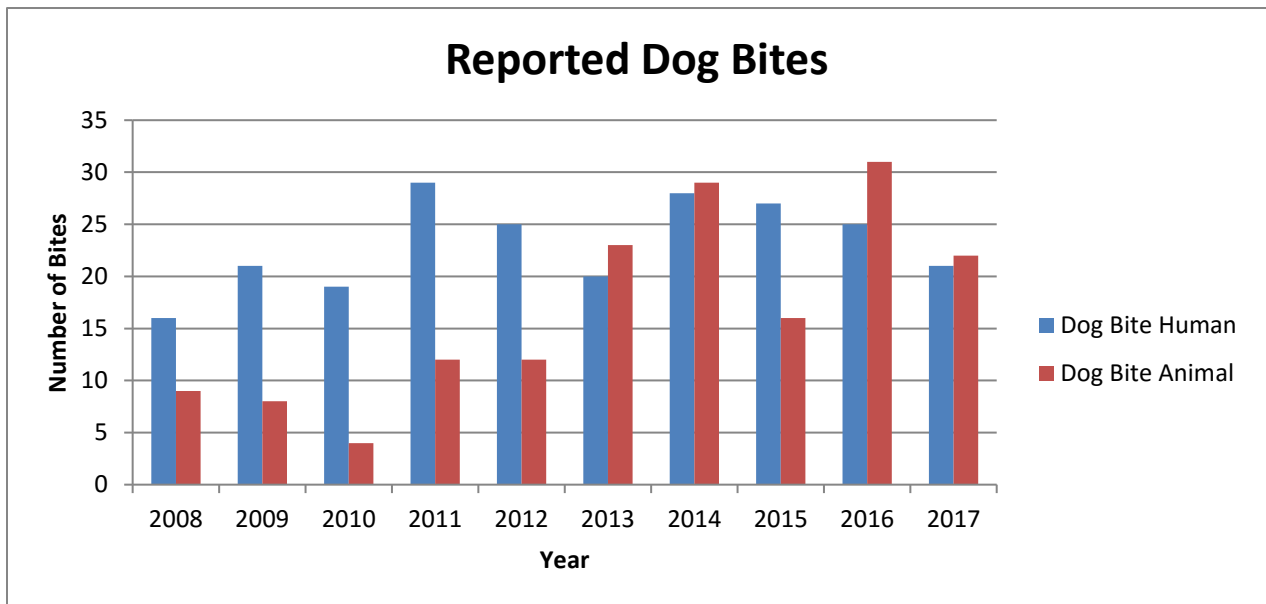
Animal related incidents increased between 2016 and 2017. This increase represents just over 100 more incidents per year or about 8 more per month.



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

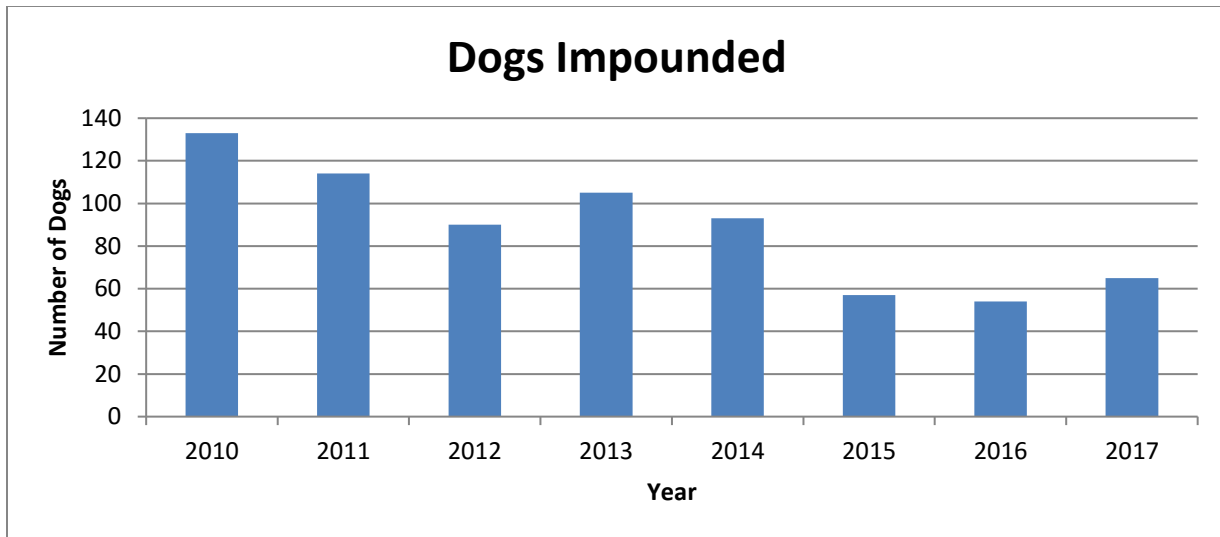


In 2017, the total number of reported dog bites declined in comparison with the number of reports in 2016. In addition to this decrease, and for the third year in a row, the number of reports of dogs biting humans continues to reduce.



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

There was a small increase in the total number of dogs impounded in 2017 (54 to 65).

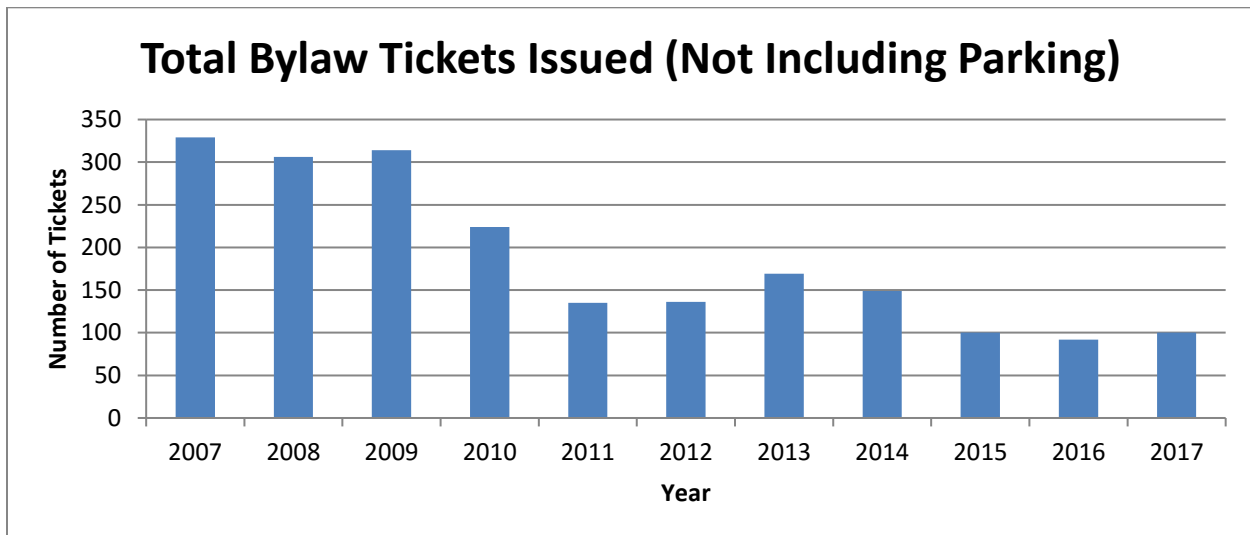


*Numbers in the above graph are recorded locally by Municipal Enforcement.

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.



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

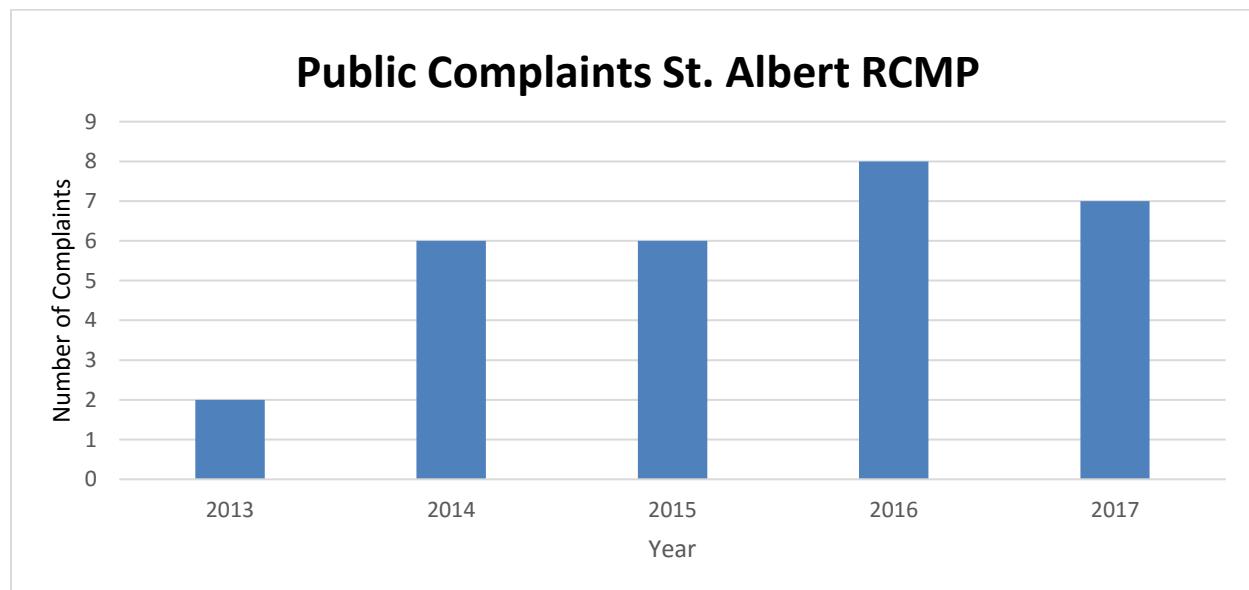
PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AGAINST OFFICERS

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.

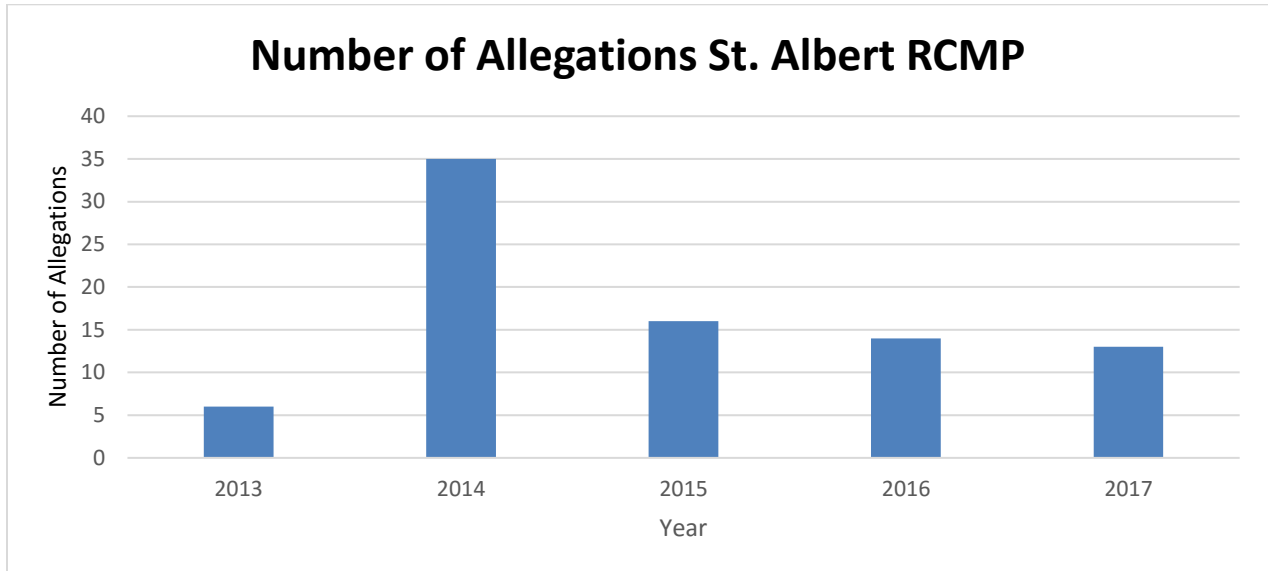
In our continuing effort to increase public trust through service excellence and transparency, Policing Services is providing the below statistical information related to the public complaints received by both the RCMP and Municipal Enforcement.

RCMP MEMBERS

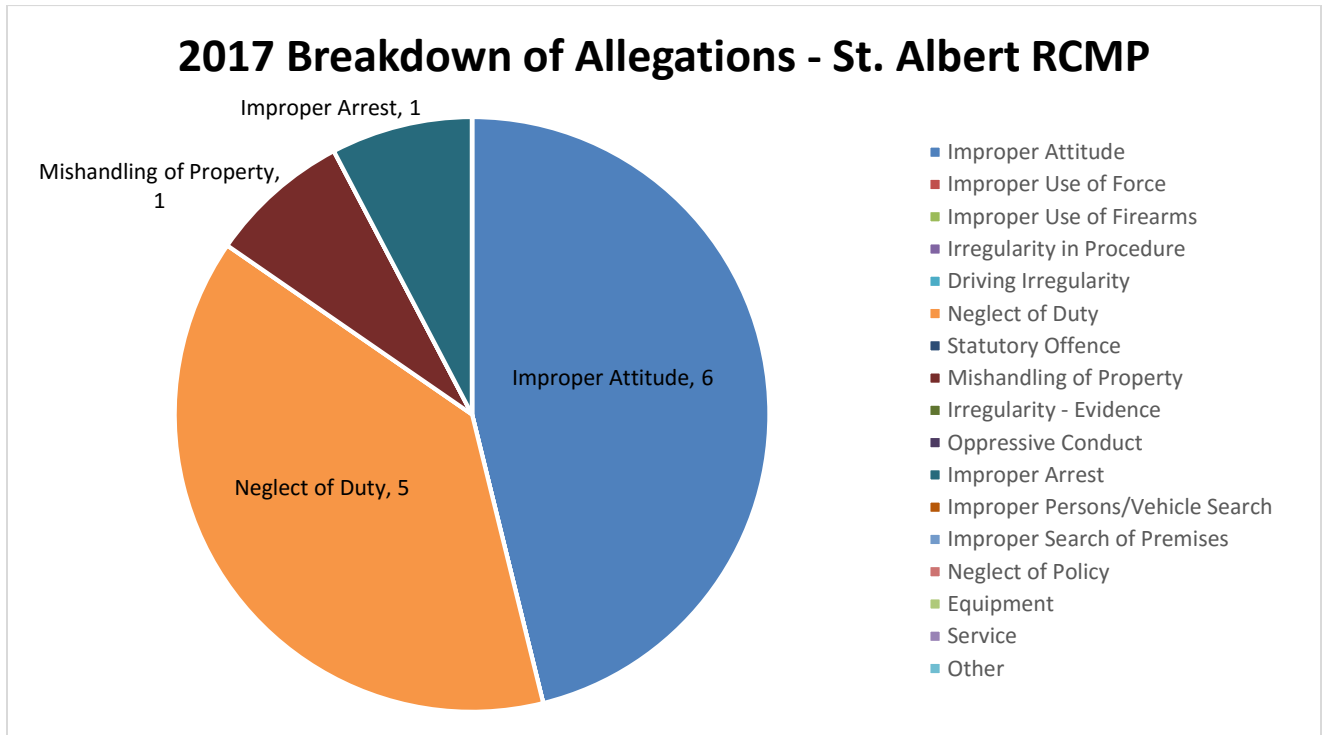
The below graph represents the total number of formal complaints that members of the public have made about a St. Albert RCMP member's conduct.



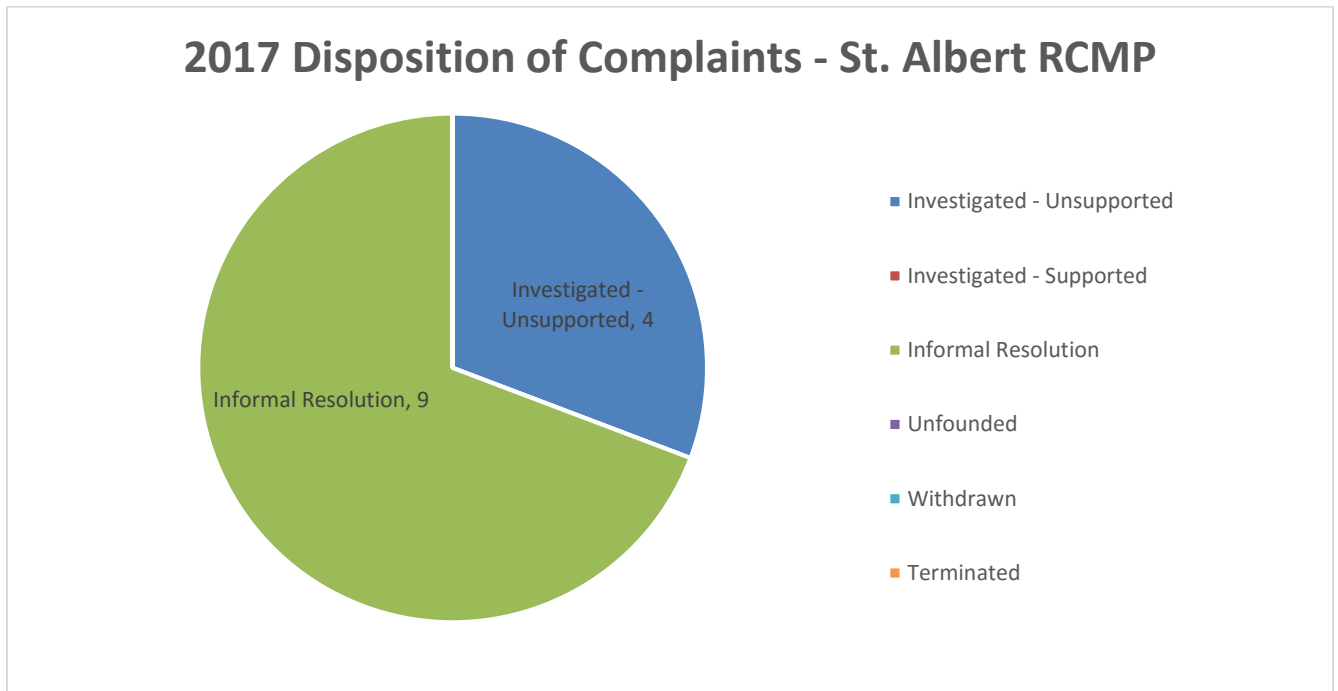
Within each public complaint a number of allegations can be made. The below graph represents the total number of allegations by year.



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 2017 was no different.

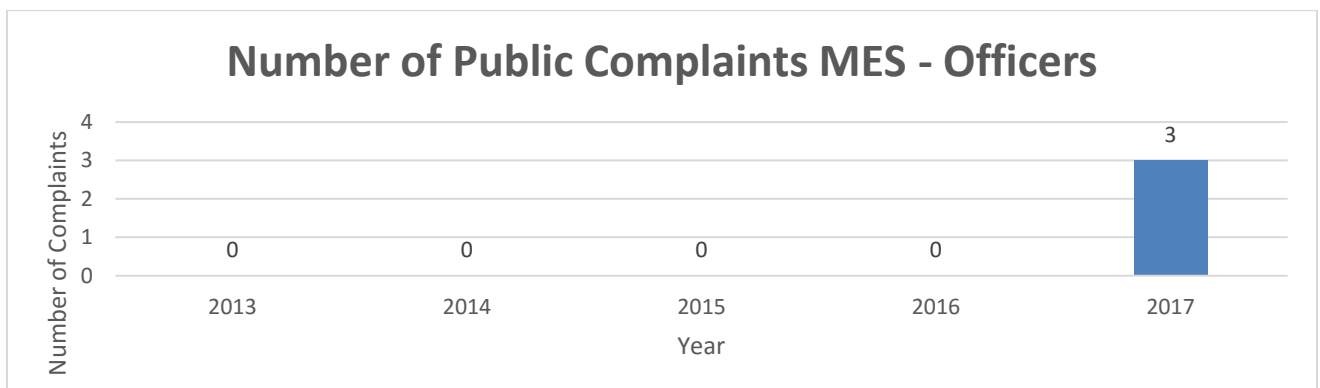


Once a public complaint is received and allegations made, there are 5 ways in which it can be resolved. In 2017, 4 of the 13 allegations were investigated and 9 were resolved through informal resolution.

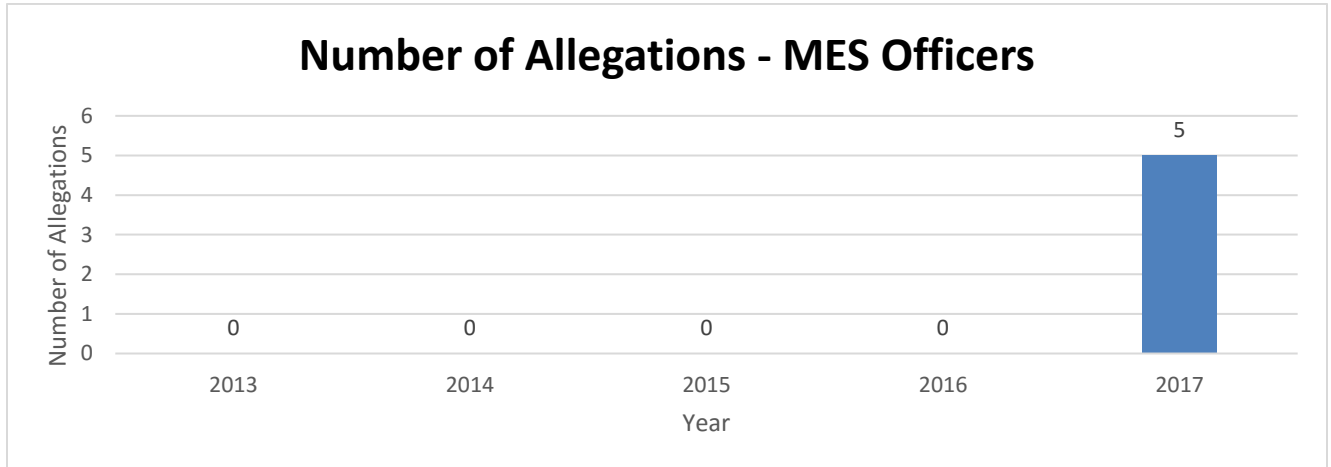


MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

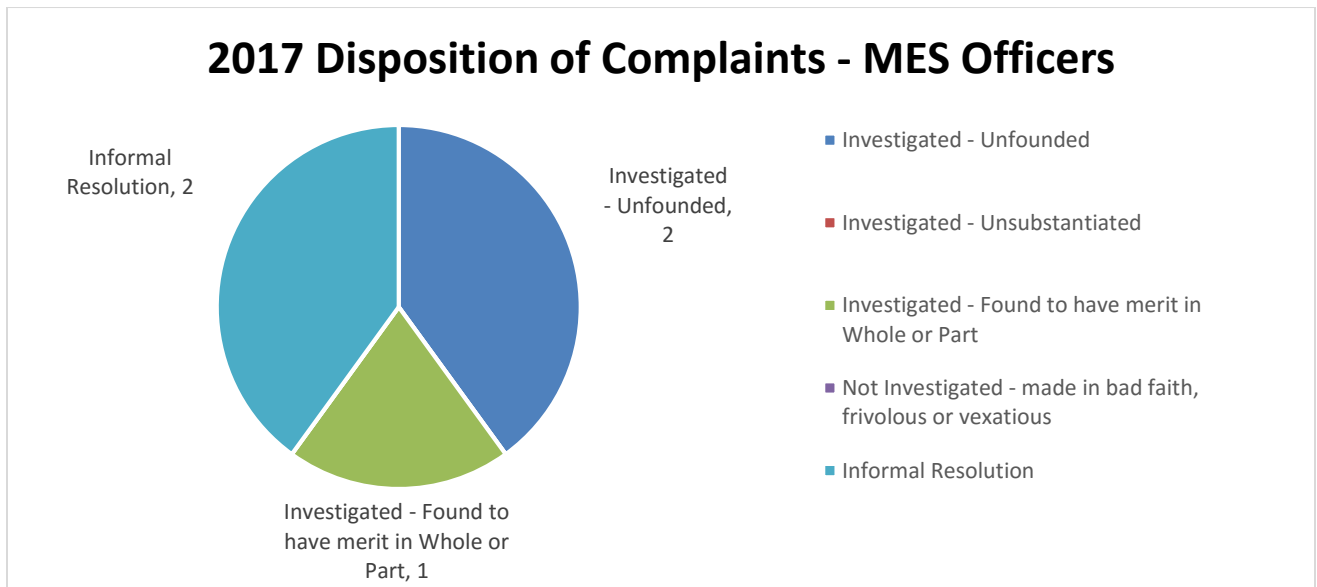
The below graph represents the total number of formal public complaints made against the Municipal Enforcement Officer/Community Peace Officers over the last 5 years.



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 2017, there were 5 allegations within the 3 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 2017, 2 allegations were resolved informally, 2 were investigated and unfounded, and 1 allegation was investigated and found to have merit in whole or part.



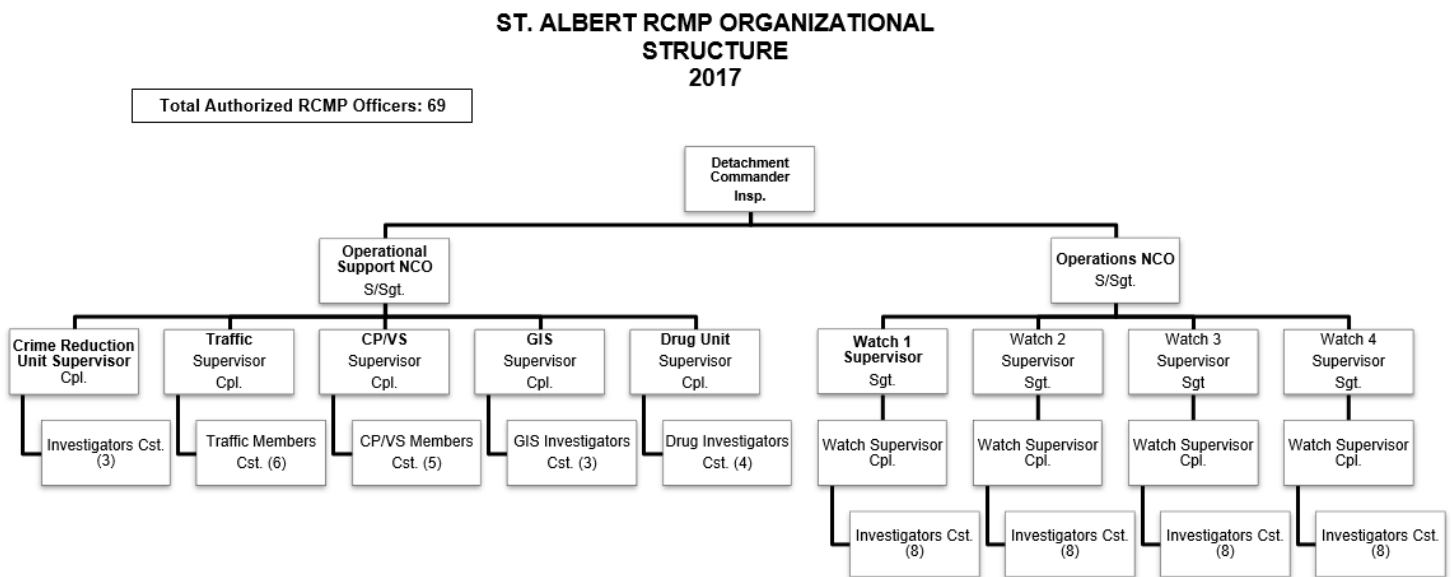
HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION

RCMP

Organizational Structure

In 2017, Council added 3 Authorized RCMP Officers to St. Albert. This moved the total complement from 66 to 69 RCMP members. The RCMP Officer in Charge placed 2 of the positions in Sergeant rank Watch Supervisor roles and 1 in a Constable rank General Duty investigator role. 1 Constable position was also moved from the Crime Reduction Unit and placed into a General Duty investigator role. These changes balanced out all the General Duty watch teams.

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 a rate that is desirable for City Council. The 2017 budgeted member number was 63. An increase of 3 members from the previous year.

The RCMP operates on a fiscal year end calendar (April 1 – March 31). The RCMP 2017/18 fiscal year end actual bill to the Municipality was for 64.41 members. This was an increase of 4.52 members from the previous 2016/17 fiscal year end.

Municipal Employees

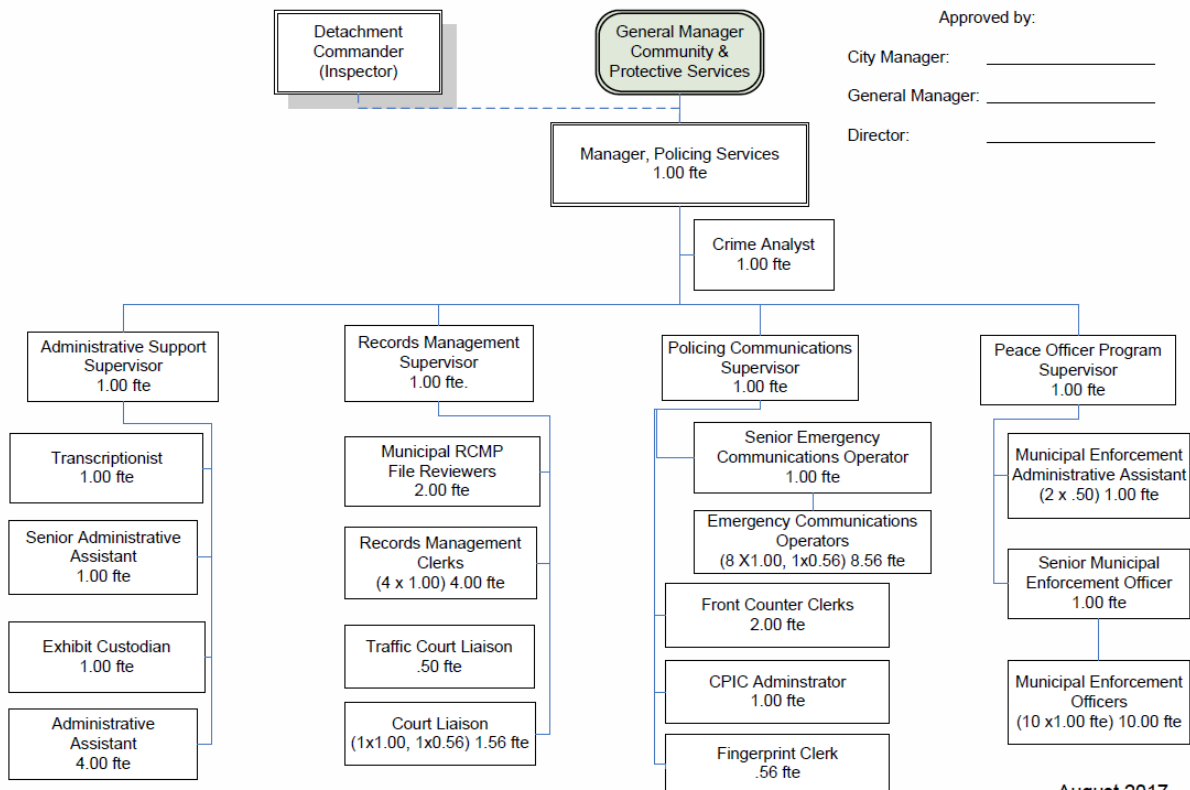
Organizational Structure

In 2017, the year end total of authorized permanent Municipal Employees assigned to Policing Services was 46.18. This is an increase of 3 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees from 2016 (Council approved). An organizational structure has been added below that illustrates the units and service lines in 2017. Two of the three positions were Administrative Assistant roles (1/2 of one position related to the new Policing Committee work) and one position was for a uniformed front-line Municipal Enforcement Officer.



COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES Policing Department

Total FTE: 46.18



Approved by:

City Manager: _____

General Manager: _____

Director: _____

August 2017

Municipal Employee Budgeted and Actual Strength

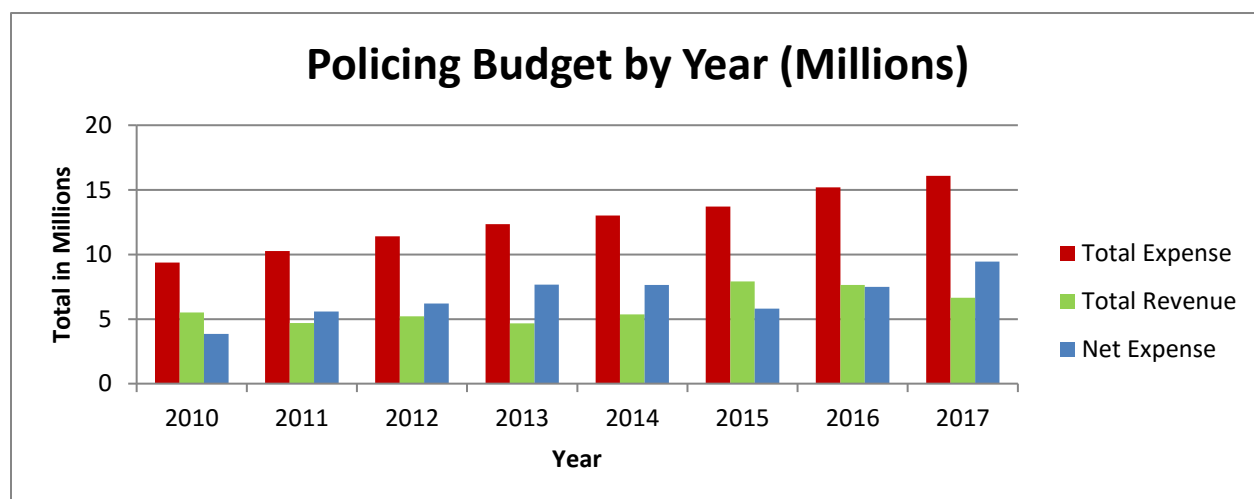
In 2017, all authorized positions as indicated in the organizational structure had the appropriate budget approval.

The Municipal Enforcement Officer uniformed vacancy improved again in 2017 to having only a 4% vacancy rate. Down from 13% in 2016.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Net Budget

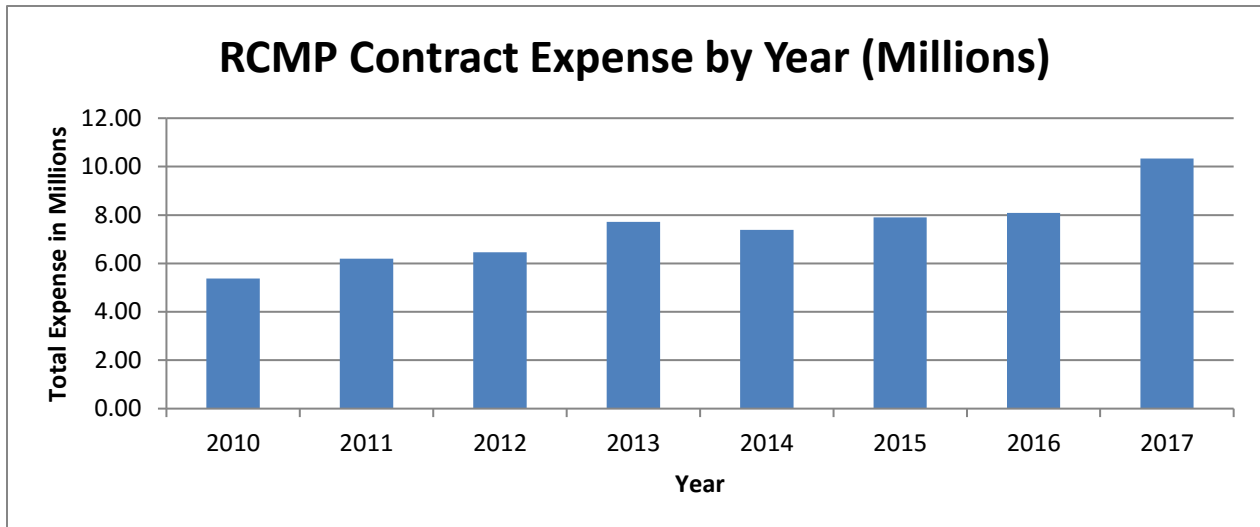
The graph below represents the total expenses, revenue and net operating costs for Policing Services as a whole. This includes things such as the RCMP contract, the Municipal employee salaries, and revenue from fines. The net expense for policing as a whole increased in 2017. This increase in expenses was a result of the new Council approved increases in resources for the RCMP contract as well as the municipal staff previously noted. There was also a decrease in revenue for a second year in a row that was mainly attributed to reduced automated enforcement fines. The increase in expenses and decrease in revenue amounted to an overall net increase in expenses from 2016 to 2017.



*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.



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

Policing Grants

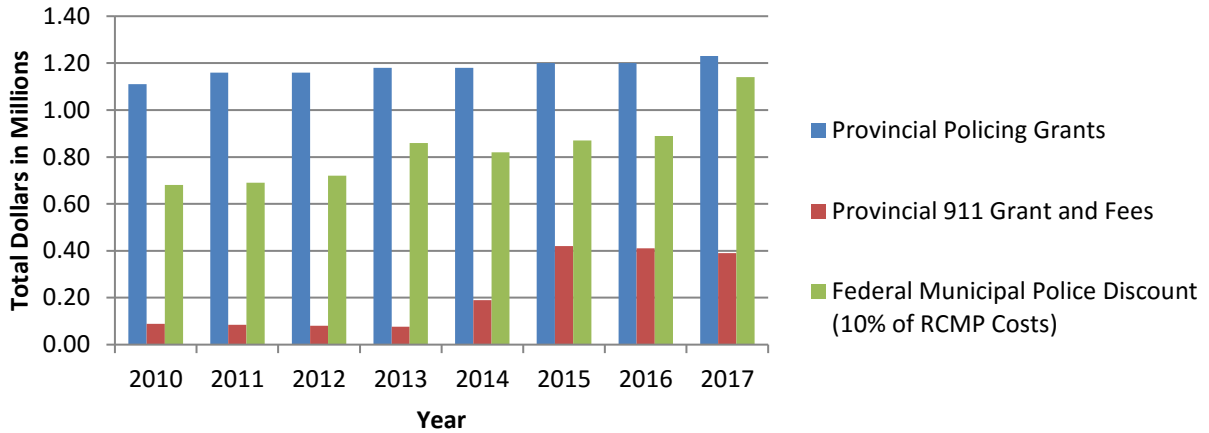
The graph below represents the total grants received from the Province of Alberta, the 10% Federal discount that the Municipality receives by contracting out the RCMP, as well as the 911 fees collected from telecommunication companies (Telus and Shaw).

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 decreased slightly in 2017 compared to 2016.

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, then the total amount covered by the federal government also increases.

Policing Grant Total by Year (Millions)

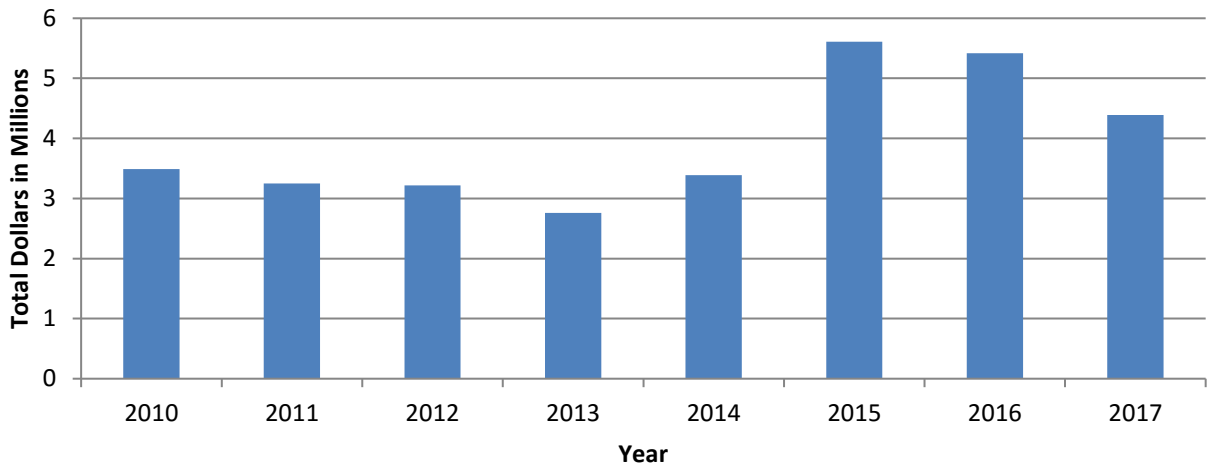


*Numbers in the above graph were obtained from internal annual Budget reports.

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 a fairly significant decrease in overall fine revenue from 2016 to 2017. This was mainly attributed to reduced automated enforcement revenue.

Total Fine Revenue by Year (Millions)



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICER IN CHARGE



In 2017 the City of St. Albert RCMP detachment has continued to be very busy and fully engaged with the community. Population growth, a national opioid crisis, emerging technology and increased demands of the courts have led to a significant increase in policing demands.

Recognizing that crime has no borders, we worked collectively with our partnering agencies to maximize enforcement, share intelligence and target emerging trends. New crime reduction strategies were implemented that focused on

increased visibility, intelligence led policing and offender management.

A safe community is the responsibility of all citizens. A strategy promoting community engagement with all diverse groups focused on building relationships led to understanding community needs and responding effectively. Community education forums were held to promote awareness of the opioid crisis and healthy behaviours in our youth. A communication strategy was completed in partnership with the City of St. Albert to educate the public on safe practices for safeguarding property, report mischief/vandalism and promote traffic safety efforts.

Knowing that a connected community is a safe community, we focused on building relationships with our various city partners, identifying service delivery gaps and managed a response that met the needs of our residents. To maintain and promote the safety of victims, additional resources were sought, and relationships created in the courts to ensure adequate support.

Targeted enforcement, pro-active patrols, intelligence and education have all played key roles in reducing crime in our community. It is due to this collective effort we maintained the lowest crime severity index of all Alberta municipalities.

Going forward, 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.

As the officer in Charge of St. Albert, I would like to thank the RCMP members, Peace Officers and municipal staff on their dedication to delivering a professional policing service to the City of St. Albert. In sharing one vision to maintain the safety of others and work collaboratively we can quickly adapt and pro-actively respond to policing needs. Often, these amazing people selflessly and courageously put the needs of others before themselves. I am grateful for work ethic and appreciate their support.

Respectfully,

Pam Robinson, Insp.

