

St. Albert Detachment



April 1, 2018 to July 1, 2018

First Quarter - Quarterly Report

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Report

The RCMP Quarterly Policing Report has been prepared to provide City Council and the Community with an update on the status of policing in the City of St. Albert and efforts to proactively support of the policing strategic priorities and community safety matters.

Detachment 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 awareness.
- 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 rendered 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.

ANNUAL POLICING PLAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In consultation with the St. Albert Police Committee, various community stakeholders, partners and the public at large, the Officer in Charge (OIC) develops an Annual Policing Plan (APP) which establishes a number of strategic priorities that are important to the public and consistent with policing priorities established by the Province of Alberta, RCMP and the Government of Canada. The policing priorities for this year's APP cycle which runs from April, 2018 until March 2019.

1. Traffic Safety.
2. Crime Reduction
3. Community Policing
4. Employee Wellness

Several initiatives and measures have been developed to support the four priorities. This report provides an update on the first quarter progress for 2018.

Priority: Traffic Safety

Objective: Enhance Road Safety

	Initiative	Measure	Status
1.	5% Increase in Impaired Driving Detection	Impaired Check stop Initiative	Monitoring
2.	5% Decrease in total number of collisions	Weekly media messaging to public and ongoing collaboration with Traffic Safety initiative focused on strategic analysis, call volume and collision locations. It will include 600 traffic interactions (tickets/warnings) each month.	Monitoring
3.	50% Increase in distracted driving/Intersection Related Offences	Distracted driving/intersection focused enforcement initiative. 18 distracted driving/intersection related check stops to be completed. Enforcement strategies will include hot spot locations. Weekly media messaging to the public education/awareness of traffic priorities.	On Track

Traffic Safety continues to be a priority for the St. Albert RCMP. June, kicked off the collaborative “bike safety” program between the RCMP, Municipal Enforcement and the City of St. Albert. Members are now conducting traffic safety utilizing bike, golf cart and vehicle patrol.

During this quarter the RCMP initiated an Option-4 Check-Stop program. This was a collaborative education and enforcement initiative between, the RCMP, Alberta Health Services, Municipal Enforcement Services and Provincial Crown, to promote child seat safety. Over a two-day period approximately 700 vehicles were checked, 119 of which had child seats checked and 24 option 4 violation tickets issued.

Twelve additional proactive check stops have been completed keeping us on track to a 5% increase in impaired driving detection. During this quarter a 12% decrease has been noted in the reported impaired driving offences, with a 25 % decrease in criminal offences. These percentages may be influenced by variable factors such as educational messaging promoting responsible driving habits or the increased in police visibility. Of note a 40% increase of impaired by drug offences was detected this quarter in comparison to last year this time. Approximately 1/3 of the detachment members have received in-house training focused on the recognition of impaired by drug offences. With the impending legalization of cannabis, training efforts and educational messaging to be completed collaboratively with the City of St. Albert Communications department and weekly messaging to the city will continue throughout the year.

St. Albert Traffic Services unit continues to be involved in the St. Albert Traffic Safety Committee as well as C.R.I.S.P. (Capital Region Intersection Safety Partnership). Attending monthly meetings and providing the police perspective and impute in the joint organizational endeavor, to work together with the City, MES, and the contract company to strive for the safest engineering and enforcement we can attain for the City.

Approximately 1600 traffic interactions (tickets/warnings) were recorded this quarter. The focus has been on intersection related offences. But despite the efforts, a 12 % increase of collisions has been observed. Variable factors such as population growth due to local events and the summer weather attributing to an increase in speed on the roadways. This will be monitored and enforcement continued throughout the year.

Priority: Crime Reduction

Objective: Crime Reduction and Habitual Offender Management

	Initiative	Measure	Status
1.	10% reduction in property crimes	2018/19 PROS statistics to be compared to 2017/18 statistics for property crimes. CRU will track through local process. Hot Spot enforcement. Educational messaging.	On Track
2.	10% increase in drug trafficking/possession charges	Source recruitment, intelligence led projects to disrupt drug traffickers will be a priority. Source training for membership and drug related charges to be tracked	On Track
3.	10% decrease in Breach of Probation - Offender Checks	CRU and GD to work collaboratively with CROWN and Probation for offender management and victim support.	Monitoring
4.	100% Increase in the Habitual Offender Management Program	Candidates for the program will be selected based on the prescribed requirements and tracked through a member of the Crime Reduction Unit. The CRU member and offender will work collaboratively to manage offender behaviour.	On Track

A 13% reduction has been noted in the total number of Property crimes in comparison of Q1: 2018 to Q1: 2017. Specifically, a 16% reduction in theft under \$5000 offences, 45% reduction in theft from motor vehicles, a 17% reduction in theft of vehicles and a 29% reduction in mischief related offences. A 10% increase in break and enter offences was noted this quarter. A noted 140% increase in possession of stolen property offences, denotes positively to demonstrate our enforcement actions.

The implementation of a public crime map may attribute to an increase in calls reporting suspicious and criminal behaviours but a decreased in actual offences. These collaborative efforts provided intelligence to track emerging trends and develop weekly hot spot mapping. Intelligence is shared daily at the detachment level that identified locations, crimes and persons of interest, to proactively focus our General Duty and Crime Reduction efforts. The crime reduction focus will continue to be on the proactive identification of the problem, increased visibility, education and enforcement.

A media education campaign to educate citizens on ways to prevent property victimization and the proactive efforts of members to identify un-locked and running vehicles occurred. Approximately half of the vehicles checked were insecure and educational material was left to educate the public on how to prevent crime by safeguarding their vehicle and valuables. Increased visibility and high occurrence locations, such as bars, public events and hot spot locations, deterred criminal activity.

A 10% increase in drug trafficking/possession charges is on track. The St. Albert Drug unit has focused its efforts on investigating illegal drugs that pose the greatest harm to the community. In comparison of Q1: 2018 to Q1: 2017, trafficking offences have decreased 61%, but overall possession offences increased 12%, specifically seizures of trafficking/possession crystal methamphetamine increased 42%, trafficking/possession in fentanyl increased 100%, possession of heroine 200%, and possession of ecstasy 100%.

A 12% increase in Breach of Probation charges has been noted. Although a 10% decrease is the goal, an increase in criminal charges denotes an increase of enforcement, such as offender checks and collaboration with probation to monitor habitual offenders. Eighty-five offender checks were completed in the first quarter. Probation attended the detachment and completed training with all members. The Domestic Violence unit increased their accessibility this quarter by committing to be at the St. Albert Courthouse every Monday morning. A member is now accompanied by a Victim Services Advocate and this has increased the ability for clients to gain the information they need and to be connected to the resources and community support.

The crime reduction unit identified an habitual offender who volunteered to comply with the program and assisted and supported the offender through the management of his/her conditions. The offender was un-successful in maintaining a crime free lifestyle and subsequently held accountable by the justice system. CRU is currently working collaboratively with our other partners to identify other candidates suitable for the program and adequate supports in the city of St. Albert.

Priority: Community Policing - Family/Youth/Partnerships/Visibility

Objective: Meaningful Community Engagement and Social Master Plan Contribution

	initiative	Measure	Status
1.	Mental Wellness and Homelessness	Working collaboratively in an interagency setting to identify community needs and develop and mental wellness and homelessness strategy.	On Track
2	Violent Threat Risk Assessment Program	Adoption of a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding for intelligence sharing and contribution in ongoing assessments.	On Track
3	Bike/Cart Patrol Program	Crime reduction initiative - High visibility community based patrols and attendance at block parties and high pedestrian traffic locations. Efforts include the number of tickets issued and # of community events attended.	On Track
4	School patrol and youth engagement/support Program	CPVS and GD will continue supplemental school visits. Member presence tracked includes traffic enforcement, school walk through, assembly participation and education prevention/awareness. CP will present DARE in elementary schools and during drug awareness week.	On Track
5	Continuous support of our Indigenous Residents	Member participation in cultural events and blanket ceremony training initiative.	On Track

The RCMP are partners at the Mental Wellness working table, the Diversity and Inclusion working Table, The Neighbour Connectors working table and the St. Albert Homelessness Coalition committee. These committees allow the police to partner on crime prevention projects and increase awareness of crime issues in the community, while gathering information about key community issues.

As part of this work, an Alberta Health Services Cannabis 101 talk was hosted by the Mental Wellness working table and the RCMP invited the local media to this talk as a way of increasing community awareness on the topic.

Three, stage one Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) cases and two, Stage two VTRA case conferences were held in this quarter. The VTRA protocol is being edited for final review by partnering agencies' legal teams and signing of the protocol is tentatively scheduled for October 2018. One additional RCMP officer was trained in Level one VTRA.

Bike and Cart shifts have commenced for the city, but on a much reduced scale. The Community Policing Unit continued to work in local schools, complete media releases and attend crime prevention events while modifying their work schedule to allow them to patrol the city parks and green spaces throughout the week. Twenty bike or cart patrols have been completed and 39 Block parties have been attended. Three positive tickets, 2 violation tickets and 12 warnings have been issued. Lions Park, the Farmers Market, skateboard park, splash park and ball diamonds have all been priority areas to visit during these patrols.

There have been 255 school visits completed by General Duty officers. All grade 6 classes in the city received DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Program) and all grade 8 classes received a 2 lesson drug awareness presentations. The School Resource Officers Program & Community Policing Program year end report was shared with the Greater St. Albert Catholic School Board at a Board meeting and another presentation was scheduled for the fall with the St. Albert Public School Division.

The RCMP Tipi was incorporated into the St. Albert Children's Festival this year. The RCMP hosted an Elder at both the tipi set up and take down work bees that became cultural learning opportunities for the officers and the city staff that attended. As well, 2 RCMP officers attended the St. Albert Indigenous Day at Lions Park. They participated in the Grand Entry in their red tunic dress uniform and stayed to interact with the public for part of the day. The detachment OIC participated in a community smudging ceremony at the healing garden, focused on reconciliation and cultural awareness.

Priority: Employee Wellness Strategy

Objective: Promotion of employee wellness and member well being.

	Initiative	Measure	Status
1.	Employee wellness strategy	Employee wellness strategy - annual/wellness leave, developmental opportunities and training.	On Track

Leave plans were developed with the members and supported by the supervisor to promote healthy work like balance. Learning plans identifying members developmental interest and performance were completed. These new plans will be used to prioritize developmental opportunities for members tailored toward current job functions and future career and learning

interests. All detachment members have completed Road to mental Readiness training and an additional 10% of detachment members were supported to attend Lt. Col. Grossman's presentation on the importance of mental health in policing.

General Detachment Updates:

The RCMP received 5283 calls for service with 4909 investigations opened in Q1 of 2018. During the same period last year, the RCMP received 5983 calls for service with 5683 investigations opened, 1,030 of these matters were criminal offences, an 19% decrease from Q1 last year.

Detachment resources fluctuated due to transfers, secondments, illness, and training. At the beginning of Q1 the detachment had 62 members with 59 positions actively serving the community at the end of Q1. Several members have already been identified to fulfill vacancies.

On the following page I have provided the crime stats for the period of April 01 to June 30, 2018, the first quarter of the APP. The chart also shows the five year stats for the same quarter. The stats continue to affirm a trend that is consistent across Alberta.

*** The statistics provided are compiled by the "K" Division Corporate Client services. As investigations proceed or are concluded, the statistical scoring is amended to reflect the most accurate categorization at the time which can lead to minor differences in the stats throughout the year. ***

P.G. Robinson, Inspector

Officer in Charge, St. Albert Detachment

St Albert Municipal Detachment

Crime Statistics (Actual)

Q1: 2014 - 2018

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"

July-09-18

CATEGORY	Trend	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Homicides & Offences Related to Death		0	0	2	0	1
Robbery		0	3	3	6	4
Sexual Assaults		5	6	8	10	10
Other Sexual Offences		0	2	6	9	5
Assault		64	76	103	121	85
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction		2	0	1	4	0
Extortion		1	0	0	0	1
Criminal Harassment		11	12	15	37	29
Uttering Threats		26	34	36	55	37
Other Persons		1	0	1	1	0
TOTAL PERSONS		110	133	175	243	172
Break & Enter		34	62	65	61	67
Theft of Motor Vehicle		27	33	40	35	29
Theft Over \$5,000		1	7	9	9	13
Theft Under \$5,000		236	304	357	335	280
Possn Stn Goods		9	10	16	10	24
Fraud		38	57	59	57	75
Arson		4	9	2	1	2
Mischief To Property		263	316	229	277	196
TOTAL PROPERTY		612	798	777	785	686
Offensive Weapons		16	4	7	9	8
Disturbing the peace		81	81	69	73	36
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		93	105	92	140	128
TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		190	190	168	222	172
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE		912	1,121	1,120	1,250	1,030