

# ST. ALBERT RCMP

## QUARTERLY REPORT

Q3 – 2018

October 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018



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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. This report is also an opportunity for the St. Albert RCMP to inform City Council and the Community about the efforts made to proactively support 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 – 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 – A 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). This plan, which runs from April 2018 to March 2019, establishes a number of strategic priorities that are important to the public and consistent with policing priorities established by the Province of Alberta, the RCMP, and the Government of Canada. The policing priorities for this year’s APP cycle are as follows:

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

Several initiatives and measures have been developed to support these four priorities. This report provides an update on the third 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	On Track
2.	5% Decrease in total number of collisions	Weekly media messaging to the 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.	On Track
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 and education/awareness of traffic priorities.	On Track

Traffic safety continues to be a priority for the St. Albert RCMP. The St. Albert Traffic Services unit remains involved in the St. Albert Traffic Safety Committee as well as the Capital Region Intersection Safety Partnership (C.R.I.S.P.). By attending monthly meetings, the Traffic Services unit

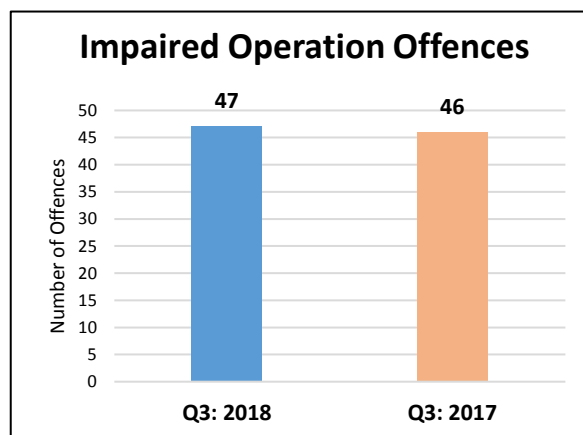
offers a police perspective and actively participates in the joint organizational endeavor. Working together with the City, Municipal Enforcement Services (MES), and the contract company, the St. Albert Traffic Services unit strives for the safest engineering and enforcement we can attain for the City.

St. Albert Traffic Services, in partnership with MES and General Duty members, completed 23 Special Operations/Check Stops focusing on Impaired Operation (Drug and Alcohol) as well as Intersection Safety and Distracted Driving. The Traffic unit received Provincial funding for a Traffic Check Stop Impaired initiative that was conducted for 8 hours on October 27, 2018. Approximately 1000 vehicles were checked resulting in several traffic offences and 24 hour suspensions.

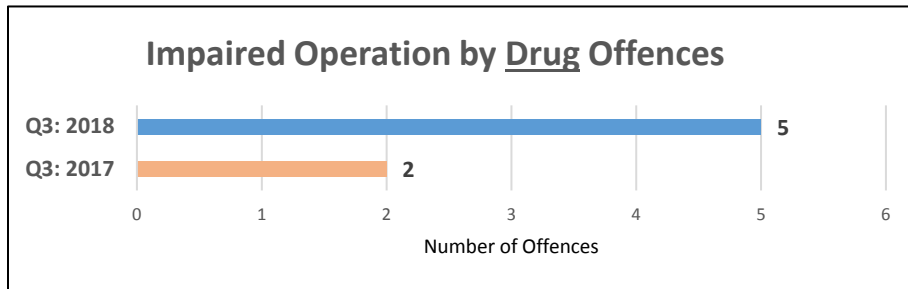
On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, changes to Canadian laws relating to alcohol-impaired driving in the Criminal Code took effect. The alcohol-impaired driving reforms implemented mandatory alcohol screening which authorizes law enforcement to demand a breath sample at the roadside from any driver that has been lawfully stopped. During this quarter all front line officers received the mandatory training for cannabis legalization and mandatory alcohol screening. Prior to December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, members issued approximately 25 Roadside Demands for the Approved Screening Device (ASD), based on reasonable suspicion of alcohol in the driver's body. After December 18<sup>th</sup>, approximately 200 Mandatory Alcohol Screening (MAS) demands were made during the check stops. Four Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST's) were conducted during the check stops for suspicion of drug impairment. This data is based on check stops alone and does not include the ASD demands and MAS demands members made as a result of Traffic Stops and Collision Investigations.

With the legalization of cannabis, Traffic Services implemented a new schedule to increase check stop efforts in St. Albert to increase impaired by drug detection. Additional resources were acquired, and an enhanced traffic position piloted to promote traffic safety in the community. This enhanced position does not carry an investigative file load and is focused on pursuing citizen contact and impaired driving detection through enforcement and education.

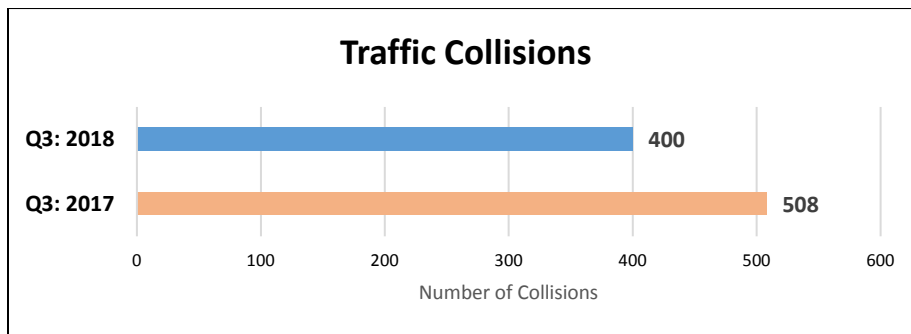
Compared to Q3: 2017, impaired operation offences remained relatively constant with only a small, 2% increase in Q3: 2018.



However, Q3: 2018 saw an increase in impaired operation by drug offences. There were 5 reported offences in Q3:2018 compared to 2 reported offences in Q3: 2017.



Approximately 3388 traffic interactions (tickets/warnings) were recorded this quarter, a 112% increase compared to the third quarter in 2017. However, traffic collisions decreased 21%, with 400 reported in Q3: 2018 and 508 reported in Q3: 2017.



## Priority: Crime Reduction

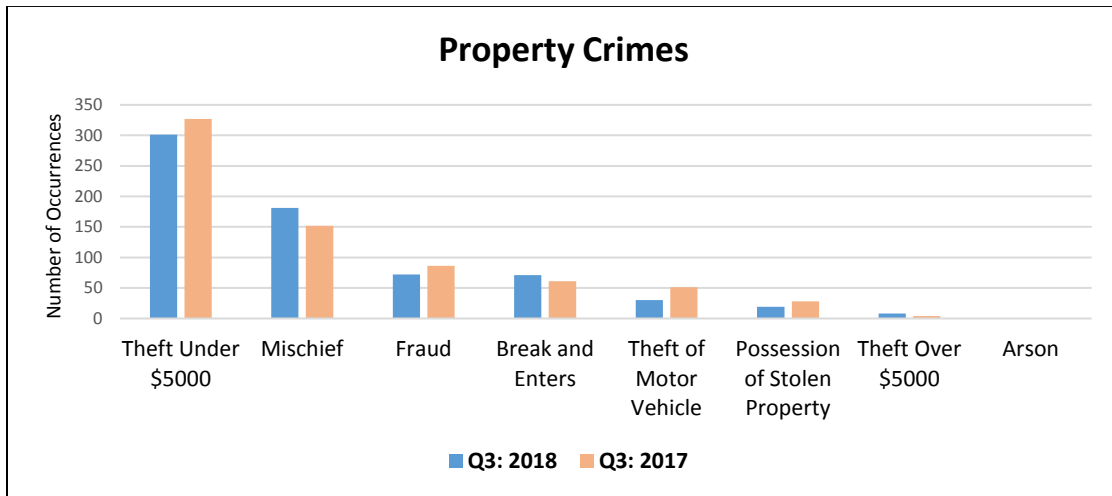
*Objective: Crime Reduction and Habitual Offender Management*

	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	On Track

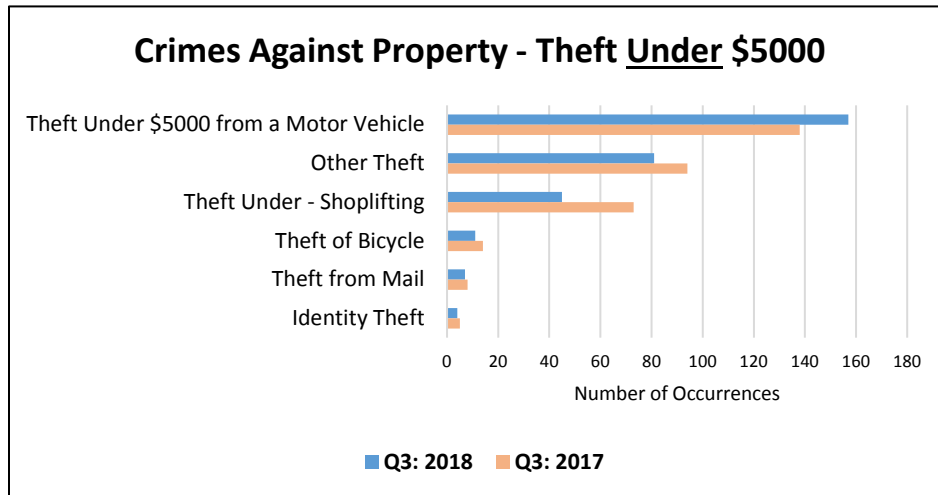
		offender management and victim support.	
4.	100% Increase in the Habitual Offender Management Program	Candidates for the program will be selected based on the prescribed requirements and tracked through a member of the Crime Reduction Unit. The CRU member and offender will work collaboratively to manage offender behaviour.	Monitoring

### Property Crimes

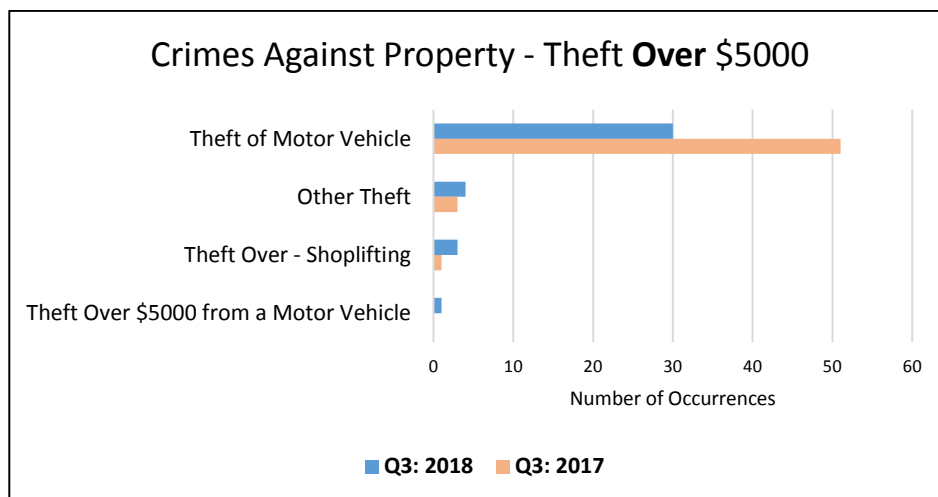
Overall, in Q3: 2018, there was a 4% reduction in the total number of property crimes when compared to Q3:2017. In Q3: 2018, there were a total of 683 offences reported, while Q3: 2017 reported 710 property offences. Of these offences, Theft Under \$5000 and Mischief were the two most reported crimes.



Looking closer at property crimes, we see that there are a couple of notable categories when comparing Q3: 2018 and Q3: 2017. For instance, there was a 14% increase in the number of reported Thefts from a Motor Vehicle in Q3: 2018. However, there was a 38% decrease in Theft Under \$5000 – Shoplifting offences and a 14% decrease in Other Thefts.



Furthermore, there was a noteworthy decrease of 41% in the number of reported motor vehicle thefts in Q3: 2018 compared to Q3: 2017.



The St. Albert RCMP participated in a media education campaign to empower citizens about proactive efforts that may be completed to prevent property victimization and encouragement to work collaboratively with the police. A public crime map was implemented (and updated daily) as a tool to educate the citizens of St. Albert on property crime in their area.

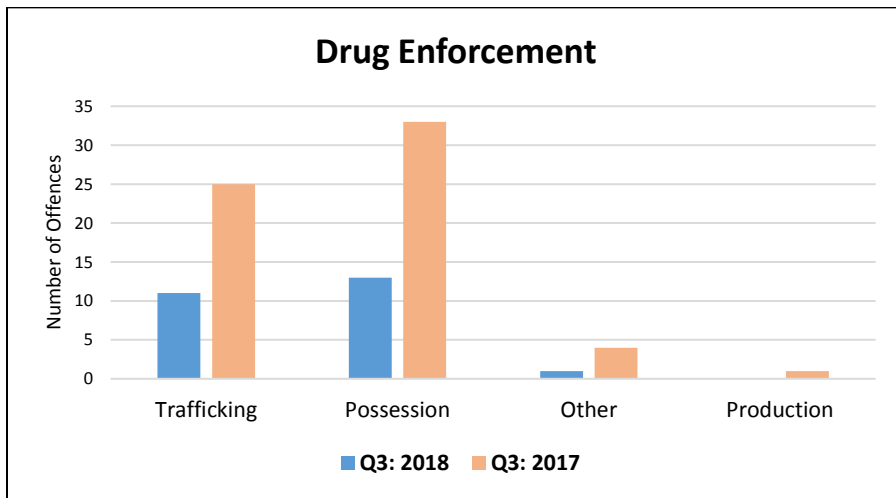
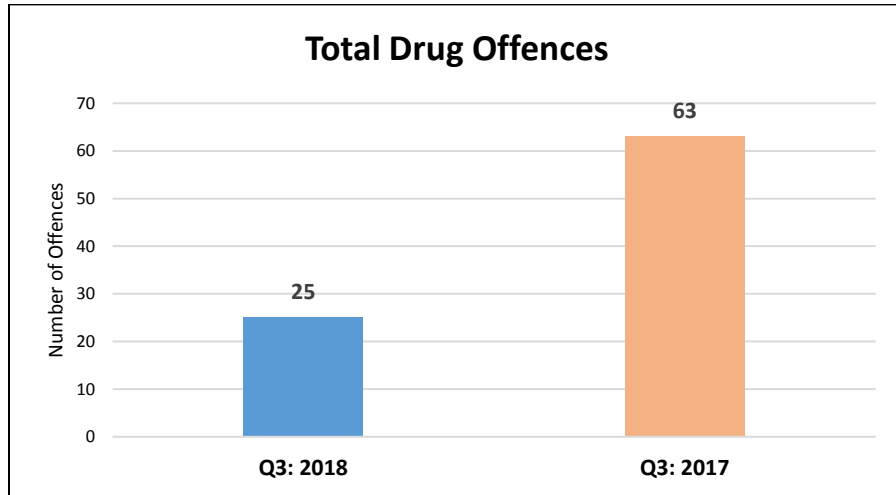
In Q3: 2018, we noticed that there has been an increase in transient criminals who appear to operate in a more random fashion. The St. Albert RCMP continue to work with other detachments and police agencies in order to reduce crime and manage these issues. These collaborative efforts provide intelligence to track emerging trends and develop weekly hot spot mapping identifying areas of concentrated crime. Intelligence is shared daily at the detachment level. By identifying and sharing hot spot locations, crimes, and persons of interest, our General Duty and Crime Reduction



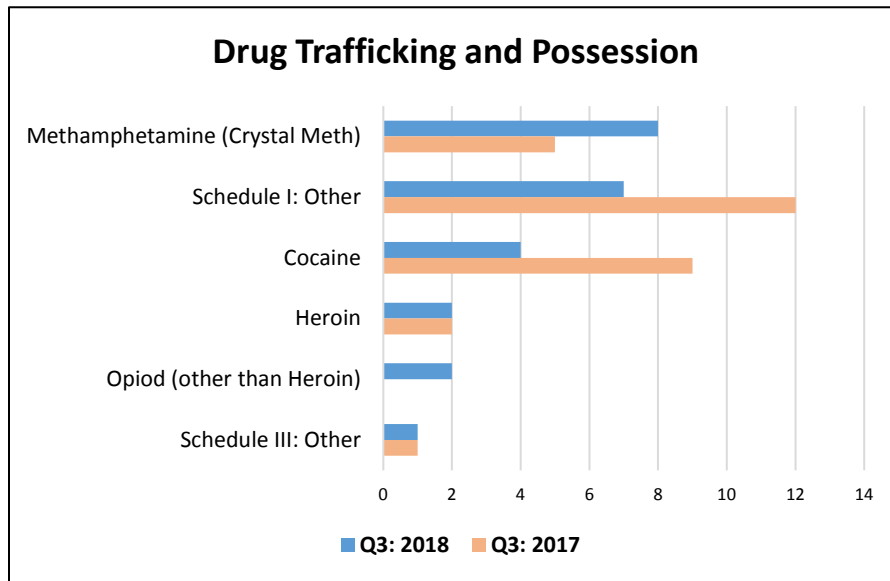
Unit is more informed and able to focus their efforts. The crime reduction focus will continue to be on the proactive identification of the problem, increased visibility, education, and enforcement.

### Drug Offences

In Q3: 2018, total drug offences decreased by 60% compared to Q3: 2017. However, it should be noted that in Q3: 2017, cannabis was not legal and was included in the drug offences statistics.



Last quarter (Q2: 2018), there appeared to be an emerging trend indicating an increase in the trafficking and possession of methamphetamine (Crystal Meth). However, in Q3: 2018, there were only 7 trafficking/possession offences dealing with Crystal Meth. Nevertheless, trafficking/possession of Crystal Meth offences increased by 60% in Q3: 2018 compared to Q3: 2017. An increase in drug offences, such as possession and trafficking, is a direct correlation to enforcement by members.



Confidential Source Handling training was completed for the membership. This developmental opportunity provide training on how to pro-actively and professionally connect with community members to garner valuable intelligence in relation to illegal crime activity.

In Q3: 2018, there was a 27% increase in Breach of Court Orders and Fail to Comply with Court Order charges compared to Q3: 2017. General Duty and the Crime Reduction Unit completed 117 offender checks in Q3: 2018.

### *Other Police Activities*

The Domestic Violence (DV) unit has increased their mandate to include a review of all DV files at St. Albert detachment. This ensures subject matter expertise is shared and habitual DV offenders identified and tracked. Understanding the emotional, financial, social and physical connection of the victim and offender relationship, provides our DV unit members with the ability to conduct a fulsome risk assessment. These members then act as an liaison in court, connect the victims and families with appropriate supports and ensure the appropriate enforcement of criminal statues to promote safety in our city.

The Crime Reduction Unit is continuing to identify and work collaboratively with clients interested in the offender management program. Outside agency and service delivery gaps have been identified as a barrier in supporting clients, who are not in crisis, through addictions and mental health counselling. These issues have been brought forward at the RCMP Provincial level for support and continued discussion.

## 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 St. Albert 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.

A 33% decrease has been noted in reported mental health occurrences (Q3: 2018 reported 68 and Q3: 2017 reported 102). New policy and procedures have been implemented at St. Albert Detachment that connects the subject matter expertise of the members assigned to the Rural Police and Crisis Team (RPACT) with our citizens and members. This opportunity provides enhanced timely support to front line members in improving safe outcomes in situations of crisis and conflict related to mental health.

The Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) protocol was completed and sent to different community/school legal departments for review. Level 2 VTRA training was completed and five RCMP officers were trained along with one Municipal Enforcement Officer. Two Level 2 (case conferences) were held for students and four Level 1 (information gathering and sharing) were completed with students this quarter.

During the winter months, there are no Bike/Cart shifts completed. However, member visibility was still high in the St. Albert schools and city. General Duty Watches completed 51 visits to St. Albert schools, which included traffic safety, in-school visits, and night patrols to prevent crime and mischief. Community Policing/Victim Services (CPVS) officers taught “D.A.R.E.” and/or “Safe in 6” to 11 St. Albert schools. These officers attended numerous classes weekly or bi-weekly within each school. In Q3: 2018, CPVS officers also recorded 275 visits to St. Albert schools, which included criminal code investigations, VTRA, in-school classroom instruction, traffic safety patrols, classroom liaising with students & teachers, administration interactions/dealings, Remembrance day ceremonies and hallway/school patrols. Also the membership participated in various Remembrance Day ceremonies throughout the city and attended various city events throughout the holiday season.

In October, CPVS officers took part in "Orange Shirt Day", an event designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to ongoing process of reconciliation. In addition to this event, R/Cst. McKay spent two weeks in Sanikiluaq, Nunavut, wherein he interacted with many Indigenous people during his stay and shared his stories & art work with the unit when he returned to St. Albert. A Blanket Ceremony to increase awareness and cultural understanding has been planned for Quarter 4.

## 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

Employee wellness is a detachment priority that is continually monitored by the leadership team. Work-life balance, member recognition, development opportunities, and the overall well-being of the member are all essential goals supported by the leadership team in order to ensure a positive work environment. This past quarter, a local Peer to Peer member also arranged for an evening information session on the benefits and supports available for members and spouses.

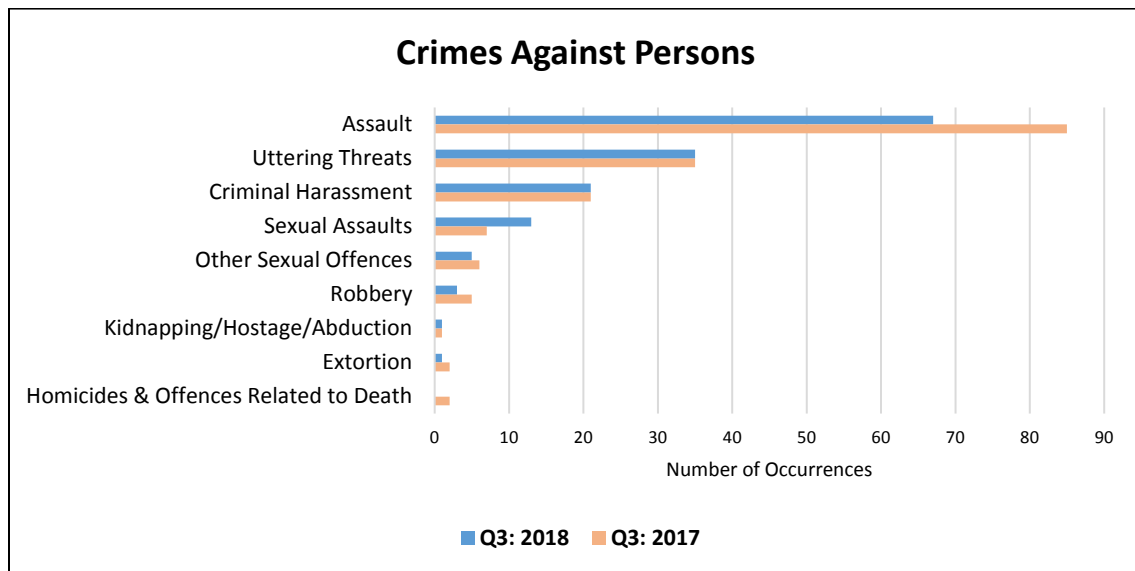
## General Detachment Updates:

### Calls for Service

The RCMP received 5080 calls for service with 4693 occurrences opened in Q3 of 2018, 1,012 of these were criminal code offences. During the same period last year, the RCMP received 5185 calls for service with 4941 occurrences opened, 1,037 of these matters were criminal code offences. Thus, a 2 % decrease in total calls for service and 2.4% decrease in criminal code matters.

### Crimes Against Persons

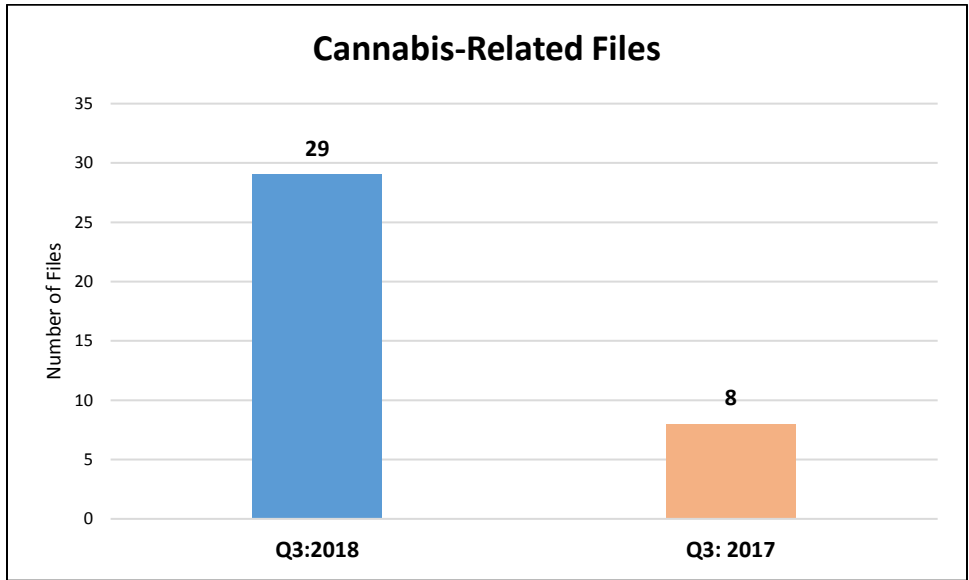
In the third quarter of 2018, St. Albert saw a small decrease in the totality of criminal code offences compared to the third quarter of 2017 (1,012 reported offences and 1,037 reported offences respectively). This trend also occurred within the Crimes Against Persons category. Specifically, Assaults decreased (by 21%) as well as Robberies (by 40%). Yet, on the other hand, the number of Sexual Assaults increased in Q3: 2018 by 85%, with 13 reported and only 7 reported in Q3: 2017. This increase could be attributed to the “Me Too” movement empowering victims to come forward and report sexual crimes. Of note, in Q3: 2018, complaints of sexual assault have involved a familiar relationship where the victim and the offender knew each other. The St. Albert RCMP will continue to monitor this trend and connect victims to community support systems.



### Cannabis Legislation

With the legalization of cannabis, detachment members have received mandatory training. This is still a new and evolving issue that will be continually monitored to determine the impact on the citizens of St. Albert and the appropriate response from the police. Our focus thus far has been on the promotion of enhanced traffic safety. We have responded by realigning traffic resources to implemented a new schedule to increase check stop efforts and patrols for impaired by drug detection. As a result, there was a significant increase in the number of cannabis-related files that

both General Duty members and Traffic Services handled. This will be continually monitored and assessed.



### Detachment Resources

Detachment resources fluctuated due to transfers, secondments, illness, and training. At the beginning of Q3 the detachment had 57 members actively serving the community and the end of Q3 showing 56 active members. Five members have been identified to backfill vacancies and are in various stages of transfer.

P.G. Robinson, Inspector,  
Officer in Charge, St. Albert Detachment

# APPENDIX A

The following chart illustrates St. Albert’s third quarter crime statistics over a 5 year period.<sup>1</sup>

## St Albert Municipal Detachment Crime Statistics (Actual) Q3: 2014 - 2018

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

January-07-19

CATEGORY	Trend	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Homicides & Offences Related to Death		0	0	0	2	0
Robbery		4	4	5	5	3
Sexual Assaults		6	9	19	7	13
Other Sexual Offences		1	2	6	6	5
Assault		76	95	91	85	67
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction		1	0	2	1	1
Extortion		0	0	3	2	1
Criminal Harassment		9	25	24	21	21
Uttering Threats		20	35	24	35	35
Other Persons		0	0	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL PERSONS</b>		<b>117</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>146</b>
Break & Enter		26	81	74	61	71
Theft of Motor Vehicle		34	32	57	51	30
Theft Over \$5,000		3	7	6	4	8
Theft Under \$5,000		221	308	280	327	301
Possn Stn Goods		11	8	24	28	19
Fraud		43	72	88	86	72
Arson		0	2	1	1	1
Mischief To Property		197	184	107	152	181
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>		<b>535</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>683</b>
Offensive Weapons		4	11	5	14	6
Disturbing the peace		68	55	24	43	46
<b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b>		<b>142</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE</b>		<b>794</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>1,012</b>
Fatals		0	0	0	0	0
Injury MVC		24	25	58	64	47
Property Damage MVC (Reportable)		457	380	421	417	332
Property Damage MVC (Non Reportable)		21	23	29	27	21
<b>TOTAL MVC</b>		<b>502</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>400</b>

<sup>1</sup> The statistics provided in this report 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.