

# St. Albert Detachment



September 30<sup>th</sup> to December 31, 2017

Third Quarter - Quarterly Report

Completed by: Insp. Pamela Robinson

# 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 in 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.
- 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 various community stakeholders, partners, the public at large and Mayor and Council, 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 and Government of Canada. Three areas emerged strongly as being the policing priorities for this year's APP cycle which runs from April, 2017 until March 2018.

1. Traffic Safety.
2. Community Policing – Family/Youth/Partnerships/Visibility.
3. Property Crime Reduction.

Several initiatives and measures were developed to support the priorities. This report provides an update on the second quarter progress for 2017/18.

## Priority: Traffic Safety

**Objective:** Enhance Road Safety

**Goals:**

- 1: 5% Decrease in Overall Collisions
- 2: 5% Increase in Impaired Driver Detection - (Charges and suspensions)

**Initiatives:**

1: Proactive Traffic Enforcement Strategy - Traffic Unit will provide ongoing Intel on collision hot spots, traffic complaint locations, and traffic violation priorities to strategically focus traffic enforcement efforts. Initiative goal is 600 traffic interactions (tickets/warnings) each month using this strategic focus.

2: Distracted /Impaired Driving Initiatives and Education Campaign - 12 dedicated distracted driving operations, 15 dedicated Impaired Checkstop Operations, and continuing a weekly media messaging campaign focussed on educating and providing awareness to the public on traffic safety priorities.

3: Educate members on indicators of Impaired Driving by Drugs – education to be provided to general duty members by subject matter experts from our Traffic and Drug unit in preparation for legalization of marihuana and the potential increase in impaired driving by drugs.

**Status: On track**

Collisions stats are slightly lower this quarter. Quarter three statistics in 2017 compared to the same period in 2016 show a 1.4% decrease in the overall number of collisions (513 in Q3 2016 vs. 506 in Q3 2017).

Due to holiday season impaired driver detection was the main focus of proactive traffic enforcement efforts in city of St. Albert. Detachment members completed 23 check stops, in both residential and high traffic roadways. Members conducted 46 impaired operation related investigations this quarter that resulted in 5 roadside suspensions for impaired by alcohol - without criminal code charges, 7 roadside suspensions for impaired by drug, and 9 charges of impaired operation of a motor vehicle. This is a 12.5% decrease in impaired related investigations reported last year. The decrease, is a positive outcome that may be attributed to a number of factors, including the high visibility of police on the city roadways and education/prevention messaging to the public. It suggests that citizens are more proactive in ensuring appropriate measures are taken to ensure safe city streets.

A detachment total of 1592 tickets were issued in the third quarter, 513 of these interactions resulted in a warning ticket and 1,079 resulted in fine or court enforcement. Two occurrences were reported and investigated regarding the dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.

The Traffic Safety section continues work with the city of St. Albert Traffic Steering Planning Committee and the Capital Region Safety Partnership, in a collaborative effort to service the community in maintaining the 4 E's of traffic safety. Engineering, providing input on additional safety measures such as; curb placement, crossing lights, safety zones, school zones appropriate ATE locations and signage. Education, members participated in an detachment training session about the Drug Recognition Expert Program, a support provided by RCMP to assist in the detection of impaired by drug driving enforcement. Continued Enforcement in the priorities of distracted driving and a continued evaluation of daily information identified from the public, occurrence types, member input to identify and a responsibility to communicate locations for "hot spot" enforcement.

Traffic Safety supervisor met with representation from Alberta Health Service to consider an "Option 4 check stop program" for infant and child seat installation. A check stop focused on the safe installment and usage of child/infant car seats where the violator will have an opportunity to participate in an educational forum instead of a fine payment option to conclude the violation ticket. Due to the necessity of a collaborative effort and trained resources, this project will be completed in early spring.

The Traffic Safety section continues work with the city of St. Albert communications. Weekly traffic safety advertisements have been designed, altered and posted in the local newspaper and city website highlighting and educating the public on traffic safety priorities.

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

**Objective** – Meaningful Community Engagement and Social Master Plan Contribution:

**Initiatives and Goals/Measures:**

1: Summer bike/cart patrol program - High visibility community based patrols and attendance at block parties, events, and high pedestrian traffic locations during peak hours. Efforts will be reported quarterly.

2: Jr. High and Elementary School Visit Program - Goal of 300 visits including walk through visits, traffic safety patrols, evening security patrols, presentations, and assembly attendances.

3: Domestic Violence High Risk Victim Support Program - goal - 1 active program. Part time DV coordinator developing program to ensure contacts with all high risk victims, partnerships with SAIF/DV Committee, and media/public awareness campaigns throughout year. Quarterly updates to be provided.

4: Bullying prevention program - goal 100% of Jr. High Schools offered bullying presentations, tracking of the number of presentations, ongoing DARE program which includes sessions on bullying, and ongoing participation and cooperation in the forming Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) program.

**Status: On track and exceeding the identified initiatives.**

Bike/Cart shifts this quarter were scheduled around Senior High Football Games and the Farmers Market wrap up. 7 Cart/Bike Patrol shifts were completed this quarter. Enforcement Violations for By-Laws & Provincial Statutes were issued and the Community continues to embrace and appreciate the police presence in the green spaces/park & pathways and attending community functions. The Community Policing unit was recognized for their proactive efforts in completing bike/cart patrol and community engagement, by MLA, Ms. Marie Renaud. Representation from the unit attended the Alberta Legislature where they were introduced and recognized for their neighbourhood development and crime reduction strategies in the community.

Third quarter shows 804 school visits in total.

St. Albert has four school districts and 31 schools. The collaborative efforts of St. Albert RCMP resulted in 804 school visits, during quarter three. School visits included school presentations and meetings with staff and students.

Members participated in Remembrance Day ceremonies and various school events to build relationships with the youth and provided drug presentations during the National Drug Awareness week in November. As per the request of the educational staff, the drug awareness presentations covered an overview of all drugs and specific mention was given to the dangers associated to alcohol and fentanyl abuse.

Members conducted vehicle and foot patrols in school zones educating the public and when necessary taking enforcement action to ensure safe pedestrian crossings, legal street parking's and proper stopping/drop off of students.

All school resource officers have continued to offer bullying presentations at all Junior High schools in the fall. Bullying lessons have been delivered to the grade 6 through the DARE program. The DARE program was delivered in 12 schools during the fall. DARE will resume at the beginning of January with the remaining schools.

St. Albert members participated in VTRA (Violent Threat Risk Assessment) training. VTRA is a collaborative response, threat assessment utilized to identify root issues that cause behavioural concerns and identified the appropriate agency required for continued assessment and follow up. Six VTRA conferences have been held with school partners to address school safety issues and due to the subject matter expertise of our CPVS unit in this area we assisted a neighbouring detachment in the completion of 1 VTRA conference. Approximately 80 people in this region have received the Level 1 VTRA training. The next VTRA meeting will be held at the end of January to talk about the level 2 training in the spring and the implementation of policy and protocol within the schools in the fall of 2018. Feedback in the usage of the VTRA model has been positive and it is growing in demand.

Selection was made for the domestic violence position to replace the temporary assigned member and a secondary member has been identified to assist with the workload. The domestic violence member attended community meetings with SAIF, Victim Services Unit and other partners is continuing. Regular weekly court attendance to work with the Crown and support the victims. The position is becoming a "go to" for the community partners. A member attended external domestic violence training to continue the development of subject matter expertise in investigating domestic violence offences.

Although there has been a notable increase in reported crimes associated to domestic violence, it is a multi-layered complex occurrence type. Officers conduct an investigation that includes a total assessment of all factors that influence the offender and victim behavior ensuring appropriate enforcement action is taken and the appropriate community supports offered. In Q3, seven high risk files are being monitored by the domestic violence coordinator who is working in partnership with ALERT's (Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team), Integrated Threat Risk Assessment Center, to conduct a multi-disciplined, threat and risk assessment on the offenders associated to each occurrence. Frequent contact occurs with the victims and families associated to these occurrences.

Insp. Robinson of St. Albert detachment spoke to media in December to educate the public on the partnerships and initiatives of the RCMP and the combined efforts of our partnering agencies to support these vulnerable victims and investigate domestic violence.

## **Priority - Property Crime Reduction:**

**Objective:** Reduce Property Crime

### **Measure/Goal:**

1: 10% reduction in thefts of/from vehicles, break and enter, and mischief

2: 10% increase in drug trafficking/possession charges/seizures

**Initiatives:**

1: CRU/Crime Analyst Crime Reduction Strategy - Hot spot mapping of property crimes and weekly updated intelligence sharing for strategically directed patrols by all units. A summer bike patrol program focused on Hot Spot policing. Victimization prevention education/messaging program.

2: Licenced Premises Checks Program – High visibility deterrence – 200 licenced premises visits per month.

3: Habitual/Prolific Offender Condition Checks Program – Analyst/Probation to identify offenders on conditions, units will complete zero tolerance conditions checks to ensure compliance - 10% increase in efforts goal to 220 checks this year.

4: Drug Unit Strategy – continued focus on drugs impact on property crime through source recruitment, strategic Intel gathering, and project based operations focussed on disrupting drug traffickers and users.

**Status: On track and exceeding the identified initiatives.**

Due to the impending holiday season and increase in criminal opportunity associated to vacant homes and the allure of merchandise in vehicles, St. Albert RCMP focused its “hot spot” proactive efforts towards property related offences.

Understanding that crime is without borders and our association to the larger Edmonton Region, St. Albert RCMP worked in partnership with the Edmonton Police Service TRAP team, seconding a resource for a three-month period to work collaboratively in monitoring prolific offender behavior associated to the theft of vehicles. The team was successful in disrupting and dismantling opportunity for “spin off” offences and has a positive impact in reducing crime in the region.

In November members partnered with Central Alberta Districts, Integrated Crime Reduction Unit (ICRU), seconding a member to the team for a three-month period to assist in monitoring prolific offenders that have a regional foot print. St. Albert RCMP and ICRU in November, arrested a prolific offender who was involved with a group in St. Albert believed to be committing various property related offences at the St. Albert Mall. A person associated to this group was wanted for armed robbery x2 and theft, stemming from offences committed two weeks’ prior in Calmar, Spruce Grove and Stoney Plain.

In December, our Crime Reduction Team worked collaboratively with Edmonton Police Service to monitor and investigate a group of prolific offenders, believed to be involved in the theft of high value property from Edmonton, living in our area. This three-week project resulted in the apprehension of suspects and execution of a search warrant in Beaumont, Alberta that resulted in the recovery of high end property stolen from St. Albert.

Despite significant rising property crime in the province St. Albert in Q3 showed an 8.4% increase in reports of property related offences.

- Theft of motor vehicles had 8.7 % decrease in reported crimes during this time quarter. In 2016, 57 offences were reported in Q3 and in 2017, 52.
- The reported theft under \$5000 increased 15% from 280 reported in Q3 2016 to 329 in Q3 2017. This notable increase is directly influenced by an increase in reported theft of bicycles, mail and shoplifting complaints. Theft from motor vehicles remained constant and proactive media messaging was completed to educate the public on measures to take to safeguard their property.
- The reported theft over offences decreased by 33%. In Q3 2016, 6 offences were reported and in Q3 2017, 4 offences were reported.
- Mischief related occurrences increased by 29% with 107 occurrences reported in Q3 2016 and 150 reported in Q3 2017. I believe that this increase may be attributed to reporting times associated to mischief related offences. Minor mischief in the city is sometimes reported in bulk, by Public Works.
- Break and Enter offences decreased 19% with 74 incidents reported in Q3 2016 and 60 reported in Q3 2017.
- Fraud reported offences decreased by 16%. 88 offences were reported in Q3 2016 and 74 in Q3 2017.
- Possession of Stolen good offences increased 8%, 24 offences was reported in Q3 2016 and 26 offences was reported in Q3 2017. An increase in this area is a positive because it is directly associated to the recovery of stolen property.

The detachment completed 721 bar walks in the third quarter to proactively curb criminal behavior. 77 Habitual Offender Condition Checks in the management of high risk offenders were completed yielding a cumulative total of 300 this year, exceeding the annual goal of 200.

During the 3rd quarter there was a 5% increase in drug related offences. 56 occurrences were reported during Q3 2016 and 59 offences reported in Q3 of 2017. An increase is a positive measure of the self-generated proactive work being completed by the members at the detachment. Drug offences are unique because the offender has to be “found committing” in order to be charged with an offence, thus the enforcement action of our members will increase the number of occurrence reports. Crime trends indicate an increase in the detection of fentanyl, carfentanil, methamphetamine, cannabis derivatives, cannabis synthetic preparations and resin. A decrease in heroine and ecstasy, while cocaine detection was relatively the same. Proactive efforts continue to build our intelligence surrounding the disruption and dismantling of this illegal enterprise.

## **Unit Updates:**



## **General Duty**

During the last quarter our General Duty unit was fully staffed with member's primary function responding to the reactive side of policing, our incoming calls for service. Members focus their proactive time contributing to our community's APP priorities. Efforts continued with our bar walk, street check, school visits, curfew check, and traffic enforcement initiatives.

Members completed annual training and participated in Road to Mental Health readiness training.

Quarter 3 showed a 10% decrease in calls for service. This year during this time period, 4937 calls for service were reported and last year members responded to 5489 calls for service.

During this quarter there was a 7% decrease in crimes against the person offences, 175 offences was reported in Q3 2016 with 162 reported in Q3 2017.

## **Drug Unit**

During the 3rd quarter the drug unit experiences shortages due to transfer of members, persons have been identified to backfill these positions. Despite these shortfalls the unit has continued to make a positive impact on intelligence gathering and increasing the number of sources. The unit has successfully mentored and coached detachment members in this investigative technique. During this period the unit has combated the loss of resources by utilizing Alberta Law Enforcement Team resources to assist in conducting investigative strategies. The unit successfully concluded an investigation that led to the execution of a search warrant and the seizure of drugs and numerous charges against two individuals.

## **Community Policing/Victim Services Unit**

The Community Policing Unit is committed to building meaningful relationships, promoting an inclusive relationship that meets the needs of the community's social master plan and meets needs of the citizens of St. Albert.

In October, St. Albert RCMP, partnered with K Division Aboriginal Policing, the city of St. Albert and our First Nations and Metis communities to participate in the opening and celebration of The St. Albert Healing Garden. The Healing Garden was created in recognition and acknowledgement of the survivors of Indian Residential Schools in St. Albert. It is meant to be a therapeutic place of reconciliation that will bring awareness, education and cultural teachings to the community.

CPVS continues to assist multi housing complexes in obtaining Crime Free Multi Housing (CFMH) certification.

CPVS began organization and planning for the upcoming Youth Academy, scheduled for March of 2018.

St. Albert Victim Services has continued their excellent service delivery in providing free emotional support and referrals to St. Albert clients of crime and tragedy. 57 proactive referrals were completed during Q3.

### **Traffic Unit**

For this period of the St. Albert Traffic Unit remained proactive in conducting numerous check stops to identify various traffic and criminal code offences. The unit is responsible for the investigation of motor vehicle collisions and proactive enforcement of traffic offences. During this quarter, 57 were deemed to be non-fatal injury related collisions.

### **Crime Reduction Unit**

The St. Albert Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) continues to identify hot spots and provide intelligence to all detachment members to concentrate policing activities in efforts to reduce property crime. CRU's primary focus is in the management of habitual offenders and continues to work with probation and their clients in efforts to deter prolific offenders from breaching their conditions. During this quarter there was a 36% increase in the reported fail to comply with probation order. This increase may be attributed to multiple factors such as an increase in reported offences and an increase in detection efforts.

### **General Investigation Section**

St. Albert General Investigation Section (GIS) is responsible for conducting complex investigations relating to serious crimes. In the last quarter GIS assisted the general duty membership with approximately 20 investigations. The assistance was provided in the form of immediate response, general guidance, interview assistance, specific legal advice, or investigative direction. GIS members also drafted or assisted in drafting 10 judicial authorizations, and planned or assisted in the execution of 2 residential search warrants.

## **General Detachment Updates:**

Detachment resources fluctuate on an almost daily basis due to transfers, secondments, promotions, illness, training, and parental leave. At the time of this report the detachment had 65 positions actively serving the community.

## St Albert Municipal Detachment Statistical Comparison

Q3: 2013 - 2017

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

Friday, January 5, 2018

| CATEGORY                              | Trend | 2013       | 2014       | 2015         | 2016       | 2017         |
|---------------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Homicides & Offences Related to Death |       | 0          | 0          | 0            | 0          | 2            |
| Robbery                               |       | 2          | 4          | 4            | 5          | 7            |
| Sexual Assaults                       |       | 6          | 6          | 9            | 19         | 7            |
| Other Sexual Offences                 |       | 1          | 1          | 2            | 6          | 5            |
| Assault                               |       | 67         | 76         | 95           | 91         | 83           |
| Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction          |       | 1          | 1          | 0            | 2          | 1            |
| Extortion                             |       | 0          | 0          | 0            | 3          | 1            |
| Criminal Harassment                   |       | 6          | 9          | 25           | 24         | 20           |
| Uttering Threats                      |       | 16         | 20         | 35           | 24         | 36           |
| Other Persons                         |       | 0          | 0          | 0            | 1          | 0            |
| <b>TOTAL PERSONS</b>                  |       | <b>99</b>  | <b>117</b> | <b>170</b>   | <b>175</b> | <b>162</b>   |
| Break & Enter                         |       | 41         | 26         | 81           | 74         | 60           |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle                |       | 14         | 34         | 32           | 57         | 52           |
| Theft Over \$5,000                    |       | 5          | 3          | 7            | 6          | 4            |
| Theft Under \$5,000                   |       | 128        | 221        | 308          | 280        | 329          |
| Possn Strn Goods                      |       | 7          | 11         | 8            | 24         | 26           |
| Fraud                                 |       | 31         | 43         | 72           | 88         | 74           |
| Arson                                 |       | 3          | 0          | 2            | 1          | 1            |
| Mischief To Property                  |       | 268        | 197        | 184          | 107        | 150          |
| <b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>                 |       | <b>497</b> | <b>535</b> | <b>694</b>   | <b>637</b> | <b>696</b>   |
| Offensive Weapons                     |       | 1          | 4          | 11           | 5          | 13           |
| Public Order                          |       | 0          | 0          | 0            | 0          | 2            |
| Disturbing the peace                  |       | 0          | 68         | 55           | 24         | 43           |
| <b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b>            |       | <b>142</b> | <b>70</b>  | <b>80</b>    | <b>100</b> | <b>99</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b>      |       | <b>143</b> | <b>142</b> | <b>146</b>   | <b>129</b> | <b>157</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE</b>            |       | <b>739</b> | <b>794</b> | <b>1,010</b> | <b>941</b> | <b>1,015</b> |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                  |       | <b>61</b>  | <b>46</b>  | <b>71</b>    | <b>67</b>  | <b>74</b>    |
| Fatals                                |       | 2          | 0          | 0            | 0          | 0            |
| Injury MVC                            |       | 42         | 24         | 25           | 58         | 54           |
| Property Damage MVC (Reportable)      |       | 441        | 457        | 380          | 421        | 421          |
| Property Damage MVC (Non Reportable)  |       | 36         | 21         | 23           | 29         | 24           |
| <b>TOTAL MVC</b>                      |       | <b>521</b> | <b>502</b> | <b>428</b>   | <b>508</b> | <b>499</b>   |