

St. Albert Detachment



January 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2018

Fiscal Year End - Quarterly Report

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 departments daily operations such as 911/Dispatch, police records management, and property and exhibit control.

ANNUAL POLICE PLAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In consultation with various community policing committee, 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. Enhanced Road Safety.
2. Reduce Property Crimes.
3. Meaningful Community Engagement and Social Master Plan Contribution

Several initiatives and measures were developed to support the three priorities. This fourth quarter report provides a summary of the overall results for 2017/18.

Traffic Safety:

Initiative: Enhance Road Safety, by proactively targeting distracted drivers through education and enforcement.

Measure: 5% decrease in overall collisions

Status: During Q4, 1,689 violation/warning traffic related tickets were issued by the RCMP. The result for the previous year yield 6956 traffic violation/warning tickets written by the general duty and traffic services unit. The increase in proactive efforts resulted in a 2% decrease in collisions, therefore efforts are on track towards a 5% decrease in the total number. There was a 7% increase in the number of Distracted Driving charges in comparison to the previous year. The traffic services unit worked collaboratively with the City of St. Albert Traffic Safety Committee in educating the public on 14 occasions, regarding roadway safety. Efforts toward detecting and reducing Distracted Driving will continue in 2018/19, focused on re-evaluating intelligence surrounding collision hotspots, enforcement to promote intersection safety and continue to work in collaboration with the City of St. Albert Traffic Safety Committee and on public education and messaging.

Initiative: Designated impaired driving check-stop operations are to be completed. Weekly traffic safety advertisements/media focused on traffic priorities.

Measure: 5% Increase in impaired driver detection (charges and suspensions)

Status: During quarter 4, approximately 800 vehicles were checked during multiple proactive check stops. The yearly goal has been met, The Traffic Services members in partnership with the GD units combined their work efforts in conducting impaired operation operations and roving patrols. There was an 8% increase in impaired driving related charges, 65 Impaired Operation charges for the fiscal year 2017/2018 compared to 60 impaired charges from the previous year of 2016/2017.

Initiative: Education for members on indicators of Impaired Driving by Drugs

Status: Internal training was provided by an RCMP Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), to approximately 25% of our members. Education focused on the provincial DRE program and its support to our detachment. Information was provided on the detection and investigation of impaired by drug drivers. Efforts are continuing in the New Year.

Property Crimes/Drugs:

Objective: 10% Reduction in Thefts of/from vehicles, B+E's, and Mischief

Initiative: Hot spot mapping and weekly intelligence sharing based on strategic analysis of crime trends to identify locations to focus general duty pro-active patrols. Summer Bike Patrol Hot-Spot policing program - track for 16 summer bike patrols. Quarterly Media Education campaign to educate citizens on ways to prevent property victimization.

Status: On track, weekly hot-spot mapping occurred and intelligence analyzed and shared daily at morning muster meetings to identify crime trends and persons/locations/vehicles of interest. An analyst has been hired and daily, crime mapping accessible to the public has been completed and initiated to provide current intelligence to the public.

Initiative: Conduct regular and sustained licenced premises checks in order to deter illegal activities conducted at or near drinking establishments.

Measure: Conduct 200 individual checks monthly. A check was defined as a member's presence.

Status: 723 checks were completed in Q4, resulting in 2429 overall checks, surpassing our yearly goal. Often due to member safety, licensed premises checks involved more than one member. Member visibility at these establishments was positively received by business owners and community members as a deterrent to property crime and impaired driving.

Initiative: Conduct checks on habitual offenders and persons on parole and probation in order to reduce recidivism, crime and promote habitual offender management.

Measure: Habitual/Prolific Offender Condition Check Program coordinate 220 checks for the year.

Status: Goal was met. 29 checks were completed in the 4th quarter, resulting in 329 checks in total for the year. One Habitual offender voluntarily identified to partake in the Habitual Offender Management Program. A collaborative program that involves, probation, Crown Prosecutor, Alberta Health Services and various community and addiction supports. The program promotes offender accountability and support to overcome the root cause of why crimes are being committed. This program requires consistent management by the RCMP.

Objective: 10% increase in seizures and charges related to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA).

Initiative: Promotion of intelligence led policing through source recruitment and strategic Intel gathering. All detachment members focused proactive efforts to disrupt and dismantle illegal drug enterprise.

Measure: Increase in the number of seizures and charges related to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA).

Status: During the 4th quarter there were a total of 34 CDSA investigations resulting in 24 CDSA charges and 15 no case seizures. A 10 % increase in CDSA charges and seizures related to the controlled drug and substance act was not achieved overall, but a 1.4% increase demonstrating our efforts were on track. A positive outcome was achieved, in that the focus of intelligence led policing resulted in targeting traffickers and the street drugs that were posing a greater risk to community safety. These investigations were more complex and required more time and resources to investigate. These efforts contributed to the overall number of charges showing to be lower but efforts promoted community safety. This approach resulted in a 50% increase of charges related to the seizure of heroine, 71% increase in charges related to the seizure of cocaine, 42% increase related to the seizure of Schedule 1 drugs: Fentanyl, and 23% increase in charges related to Methamphetamine seizures and a 27% increase in Cannabis seizures. This initiative has been carried forward in the New Year.

Police Community Relations/Visibility:

Initiative: Continue to maintain police visibility on the trail system and parks through the use of the golf cart, bike, and foot patrols with a balance of education, public relations and enforcement.

Measure: Opportunity for community engagement in bike/cart patrols.

Status: April – October, 2017, Bike/Cart completed 135 shifts focused on increased visibility to promote the safety of the citizens within the parks, pathways and recreational facilities. Enforcement Violations for By-Laws & Provincial Statutes were issued.

Initiative: Continue to increase visibility in the schools for formal programs such as DARE and Grade 8 drug awareness and informal visits/presentations.

Measure: An increase in 250 – 300 school visitations.

Status: Individual member presence was measured at the school and included traffic enforcement, youth engagement and a proactive response to emerging events/trends involving the youth. During the 4th quarter 266 visits were conducted resulting in 1070 times a member was present at one of the City of St. Albert Schools this APP fiscal year. This initiative has been carried forward and will be re-evaluated to include the type of visits.

Initiative: Domestic Violence High Risk Victim Support Program contacts with all high risk DV victims, Partnerships with SAIF/DV Committee, ITRAC, Probation, CFS, and media/public awareness campaigns.

Status: During the fourth quarter the new DV Coordinator was selected and mentored by interim DV Coordinator. DV Coordinator provided support and subject matter expertise in 4 Court date attendances, participated in 3 community inter-agency meetings, reviewed 71 files from the DV High Risk Task Queue, Updated Victims, and liaised with probation, child and family supports and other community agencies.

In the previous APP year members responded to 638 domestic violence calls, which is a 5 % increase in the total number of occurrences. Our detachments efforts in identifying and building subject matter expertise, this area resulted in a 19% increase in files cleared by criminal charges. This priority has carried forward in the New Year.

Initiative: Bullying Prevention Program

Measure: Bullying Prevention presentations to 100% of St. Albert Jr. High Schools. DARE program to continue in all grade 6 classes in St. Albert3, Grade 8 Drug Awareness lessons in all grade 8 classes in St. Albert and participate in the forming of Violent Threat Risk Assessment Model (VTRA) in St. Albert.

Status: A Bullying prevention presentation was made at Lorne Akins School to a leadership group of students. These students came from Lorne Akins, Sir George Simpson, Cuts and Gish Junior High Schools. They then took the information learned back to each of their schools where their leadership classes developed bullying prevention activities for each school.

DARE classes are almost all completed with an expected completion date in May for all schools. All schools have received this program at the grade 6 level and it has been very well received.

Grade 8 drug awareness classes are completed in some schools, but most junior high schools will now be receiving these classes in the spring. This initiative has been carried forward in the upcoming APP.

Six VTRA case conferences were held in this quarter. All matters were resolved satisfactorily and affected individuals continue to be monitored by CPVS members. The VTRA protocol has been developed to address intelligence sharing and preparations are underway for agency approval. Continued training and defined policy and protocol has been identified as a priority for the upcoming year.

Unit Updates:

General Duties

During the last quarter our General Duty members continued using 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. During the last quarter 6174 occurrences for service were reported in addition to their proactive efforts. In the past year 21, 947 occurrences were reported to St. Albert RCMP.

Drug unit

During the 2017/2018 fiscal year the drug unit has experienced manpower shortages due to member transfer. New members have been identified for replacement and are currently in the staffing process. Despite these resource challenges the unit has continued to perform at a high rate with positive outcomes, as noted above. A re-alignment of detachment resources and partnership with other regional detachments and agencies such as the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) and Edmonton Police Service has contributed to our success. In consideration of the national opioid crisis and its impact on community safety, drug enforcement continues to be a priority. Efforts to train and mentor members in the area of source recruitment and intelligence management are being implemented to understand the dynamics of St. Albert's illegal drug subculture. Intelligence garnered will be used to guide enforcement action.

Community Policing/Victim Services Unit

All initiatives are on track this year for either meeting or surpassing goals.

The St. Albert Community Policing/ Victim Services (CPVS) continues to be highly visible in the community and St. Albert Schools. DARE and Grade 8 drug awareness presentations on track and will be completed for the school year by the end of new APP, quarter one. Seventeen classes received DARE training this year. Bullying prevention has been taught as part of DARE at all grade 6 classes and has been offered to all Junior High schools. One Junior High Bullying Prevention presentation was taught at one school with attendance represented from all Public Junior High Schools. Support and connection to youth has remained priority and will continue to be supported in the next year through our designated school resource officer and proactive police presence.

The Crime Free Multi Housing (CFMH) program is continuing to build, our CPVS unit is committed to working with the citizens of multi-home complex's to identify and address safety concerns. At the present St. Albert has four properties (eight buildings) Crime Free Multi Housing (CFMH) certified, with multiple other properties assessed, and inquiring to join the program. The program is solution oriented towards a crime free prevention goal, while maintaining a tenant friendly atmosphere. CFMH has shown a huge benefit to communities as the program brings property residents and police together to work at keeping their properties free of crime.

Bike & Cart Program is hoping to send a new member in CPVS on the Bike Training course this spring to continue to meet the mandates of Bike Patrol in the community. Planning for spring/summer bike/ cart patrols is underway for the new year.

St. Albert RCMP, in partnership with an inter-agency group, is moving forward with bringing the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) model to St. Albert. A MOU has been drafted and the approval of interagency policy for intelligence sharing is a priority in the new year.

St. Albert CPVS delivered a training presentation to Public Works and is working to streamline the reporting process for graffiti found on city property.

Domestic Violence (DV) Coordinator is involved in all high risk DV files and is actively addressing couples who are breaching "no contact" orders. The DV Coordinator's duties and job description continues to evolve and is moving towards a High Risk and Habitual Offender Model and victim support. Work with SAIF and the DV Inter-agency committee is going well. A collaborative response is providing a service that addresses the family unit needs.

St. Albert Victim Services has a new Executive Director and two new Program Managers in the unit. They have been busy providing free emotional support and referrals to St. Albert clients of crime and tragedy. Citizens wishing to become volunteer advocates are encouraged to contact the local Victim Services Unit for information.

Traffic Unit

During the last fiscal quarter of 2017/2018, in addition to their usual enforcement activities, the traffic enforcement unit as the subject matter experts responded to and investigated the majority of our 1684 reported collisions. This unit 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. Upon review of collision data, traffic safety continues to be a priority for the New Year with proactive enforcement action focused on distracted driving and intersection related offences, in attempt to decrease intersection related collisions. "Option 4 check stop program" for infant and child seat installation is being planned. This check stop focusses 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. Weekly traffic safety messaging highlighting and educating the public on traffic safety priorities will continue.

Crime Reduction Unit

The St Albert Crime Reduction Unit continues to focus on intelligence led policing. They have implemented a program of Hot Spot policing. Daily crime mapping is being completed as a mechanism to share information with the public and promote the gathering of intelligence associated to these offences. A continued evaluation crime trends and hot spot locations guides members to target resources to the parts of St Albert most impacted by crime.

Work with Probation and their clients also remains a priority of the Crime Reduction Unit. The Detachment continues to see positive results from conducting regular curfew checks and instrumental in offender management. A continuance of the Habitual Offender Management Program will be implemented in the New Year.

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 to monitor prolific offender behavior associated to the theft of vehicles. Worked with an Edmonton Police Service Project team 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. CRU partnered with Central Alberta Districts, Integrated Crime Reduction Unit (ICRU), to assist in monitoring prolific offenders, conducting crimes that have a regional foot print. Also, the city of St. Albert to provide a comprehensive approach to address the root issues at locations that result in a high level of calls for service.

General Investigation Section

Over the last quarter the St. Albert General Investigation Section (GIS) assisted the General Duty Membership in 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 assisted with drafting 1 judicial authorizations. In the past APP year our GIS unit has been involved in approximately 95 serious crime investigations that included the offences of murder, attempted murder, weapons offences, fraud, assault, forcible confinement, robbery and sexual assault. These investigations are complex and lengthy with investigations lasting several months including specialized investigative techniques, subject matter expertise and support from specialized services.

General Detachment Updates:

Policing Priorities for 2017/18 were identified as Traffic Safety, Property Crime Reduction, Community Policing and Employee Wellness. New and continuing initiatives and goals have been implemented effective April 1st. The new plan has been outlined in a separate report.

As the OIC I would like to express my thanks to our citizens, the police committee, various policing partners, and the Strategy and Mobilization Committee for helping us identify and focus the policing priorities for 2017/18.

The detachment faced a 1% increase in operational calls of service from the previous year, responding to 21,946 calls between April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017. There was a significant increase in the seriousness of crime types that resulted in the prioritization of operational needs over the proactive response identified in this APP. These complex investigations attributed to an increase in investigative time effecting the daily operations of the detachment and its human, equipment and financial resources.

Detachment resources fluctuate on an almost daily basis due to transfers, promotions, illness, training, and parental leave. This last quarter the detachment has maintained its strength, and at the end of the fourth quarter had 64 positions actively serving the community. An additional position has been approved for 2018 and is currently proceeding through the administrative requirements.

Report Submitted by
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OIC St. Albert Detachment

St Albert Municipal Detachment Crime Statistics (Actual) January to March: 2014 – 2018

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

April-04-18

CATEGORY	Trend	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Homicides & Offences Related to Death		0	0	0	0	1
Robbery		2	1	0	3	3
Sexual Assaults		9	6	6	9	12
Other Sexual Offences		2	1	2	5	4
Assault		60	64	82	68	83
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction		3	0	1	0	4
Extortion		0	0	0	0	1
Criminal Harassment		8	8	8	28	25
Uttering Threats		21	17	30	21	24
Other Persons		2	1	0	2	1
TOTAL PERSONS		107	98	129	136	158
Break & Enter		16	39	47	32	58
Theft of Motor Vehicle		17	25	26	22	47
Theft Over \$5,000		4	5	6	6	12
Theft Under \$5,000		126	186	292	211	246
Possn Stn Goods		8	19	12	15	24
Fraud		44	48	41	76	82
Arson		0	0	1	2	0
Mischief To Property		129	187	197	110	123
TOTAL PROPERTY		344	509	622	474	592
Offensive Weapons		5	5	5	12	9
Disturbing the peace		71	43	35	35	42
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		85	92	90	118	136
TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		161	140	130	165	187
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE		612	747	881	775	937

