

St. Albert Detachment



January 1st, 2017, to March 31st, 2017

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.
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ANNUAL POLICE 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. Four areas emerged strongly as being the policing priorities for this year's APP cycle which runs from April, 2016 until March 2017.

1. Property Crime/Drugs.
2. Police Community Relations/Visibility.
3. Traffic Safety.
4. Support for Persons with Mental Health Issues.

Several initiatives and measures were developed to support the four priorities. This fourth quarter report provides a summary of the overall results for 2016/17.

Property Crimes/Drugs:

Initiative: Continue to pursue and increase the number of street checks in order to gather intelligence, deter crime and show visibility.

Measure: Increase street, vehicle and property checks by 50%.

Status: 1148 checks were conducted, compared to 990 during the 2015/16 fiscal year. RCMP Street Check scoring definitions changed during this 3rd quarter which eliminated our ability to track our property and suspicious vehicle checks as part of our street check initiative. This impacted overall results. Overall there was a 16% increase in street checks, which does not include 4th quarter property and suspicious vehicle checks.

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

Measure: Conduct 200 individual checks.

Status: 93 checks were completed in the final quarter, resulting in 236 overall checks, surpassing our goal. During a recent meeting with Probation, these checks were recognized as having a significant impact on condition compliance for offenders in our community.

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

Measure: Increase checks by 15% from the previous year.

Status: 2707 checks were completed, exceeding our goal of 2500 checks.

Initiative: Since many property crimes are committed to purchase drugs, all units to actively pursue drug seizures and prosecutions.

Measure: 10% increase in seizures and charges related to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA). (Goal is 84 drug charges/130 seizures)

Status: Goal met with 94 charges and 121 no case seizures in fiscal 2016/17.

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: 15% increase in bike/cart patrols.

Status: Exceeded goal, 108 completed year to date vs. 77 last year.

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

Measure: 10% increase in school visitations.

Status: 196 General Duty and Traffic section visits conducted was short of the 250 goal. A goal of 300 visits has been set for 2017/18, with new emphasis on Watch assigned schools to better spread out and monitor the efforts for all St. Albert schools.

Initiative: Continue to build positive community relations through attendance at neighbourhood block parties.

Measure: 25% increase in block parties attended.

Status: Exceeded goal with 78 block parties attended (last year there were 45 visits).

Traffic Safety:

Initiative: Target distracted drivers through education and enforcement.

Measure: Increase distracted driving enforcement by 25%.

Status: 397 Distracted Driving charges were laid in 2016/17 vs. 369 in 2015/16. Although not meeting goals, there was a 7% increase in Distracted Driving charges year over year, and efforts toward detecting and reducing Distracted Driving will continue in 2017/18.

Initiative: Work with the local Media to develop an on-going and regular monthly media initiative for traffic safety and awareness.

Measure: Provide a minimum of twelve traffic safety articles to the media for print.

Status: The traffic NCO completed 55 media discussions/releases related to traffic safety in coordination with our traffic safety partners.

Initiative: Enhanced traffic enforcement by Traffic and General Duty members.

Measure: 35% increase in warning and violation tickets issued.

Status: Exceeded goal with 8017 warnings and tickets issued compared to 4412 last fiscal year.

Support for Persons with Mental Health Issues:

Initiative: Work with partner agency to deliver training workshop to frontline personnel outlining options when dealing with persons with mental health issues.

Measure: 25% of detachment personnel to receive workshop.

Status: 97% - All but two members who recently transferred in to St. Albert have completed the RCMP Crisis Intervention and De-escalation course, which directly relates to tactics for helping to diffuse situations we attend where people are experiencing mental health crisis.

Initiative: Work with community partners in an effort to explore and potentially develop a coordinated and sustainable multi-disciplined Community Crises Team.

Measure: Preparation and submission of business case.

Status: At this time St. Albert Detachment continues to use Central Alberta District's Rural Police and Crisis (RPAC) team to assist in our interventions with persons experiencing mental health crisis. This team consists of District members of the RCMP and mental health workers who attend and assess individuals presenting safety concerns to themselves or others due to mental crisis. 97% of St. Albert members have completed training related to crisis intervention and de-escalation.

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 General Duty members responded to and investigated 2664 reported incidents in addition to their proactive efforts.

Drug unit

During the 2015/2016 fiscal year the drug unit tracked a total of 194 detachment drug charges or no-case seizures, and set their sights on a 10% increase for 2016/17. This was achieved through a combined detachment effort totalling 215 charges/no-case seizures. A new NCO i/c of the drug unit started in early April, adding additional team experience. The drug unit will continue their efforts toward achieving another 10% increase in drug enforcement in 2017/18. In the coming months in coordination with the Traffic Unit, the Drug Unit will lend their expertise to provide information for all detachment members on the signs of impaired driving by drugs. This presentation will help prepare members for impaired driving investigations that may be result with the future legalization of marihuana.

Community Policing/Victim Services Unit

The St. Albert Community Policing/ Victim Services (CPVS) continues to be highly visible in the community and St. Albert Schools. Eight Elementary schools are currently receiving DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) classes at the Grade 6 level. In the next quarter these schools will hold their DARE grads which will celebrate all grade 6 students in St. Albert having received this preventative life skills program.

Four St. Albert Junior High Schools have received their two lesson Drug Awareness program that is taught at the Grade 8 level, and 5 Schools are currently receiving these presentations. By the next quarter, all grade 8 classes in St. Albert will have received drug prevention information from a RCMP officer.

The Crime Free Multi Housing (CFMH) program is continuing to build. We are still in the process of certifying an additional 3 properties into the program and in the next quarter, we will be hosting our first CFMH training for property managers. In March 2017, 10 & 12 Nevada Place property celebrated one year with the CFMH program and received their 1st annual re-certification. An analysis of the 10 & 12 Nevada Place property has shown a 15% decrease in RCMP calls for service since becoming a CFMH member.

St. Albert CPVS have started a graffiti project for the city. This started by sending an officer for enhanced graffiti awareness and enforcement training and he is now actively working on an analysis of the graffiti patterns in St. Albert. He is also developing a training presentation that he will be delivering to the Detachment members and some city departments including Public Works. He has also connected with the Downtown Business Association and is working with them to address the graffiti problem they are experiencing on the backs of some of their buildings.

St. Albert CPVS oversees the Domestic Violence Coordinator position for the St. Albert RCMP. This new resource provides improved services for people impacted by domestic violence through safety planning, court monitoring and regular contact to ensure the family is safe. She is currently working on 45 Domestic violence files, some of which will require long term work and others whose safety needs are addressed more quickly. This officer is a part of the St. Albert Domestic Violence Sub-Committee which was formed under the Family Working Group umbrella. City partners are working closely with this officer to provide all necessary resources to these struggling families.

St. Albert CPVS is gearing up for the enhanced bike and cart patrols and the block party visits. This will be a busy season with the city's goal of 150 block parties. The cart is already out on city pathways and is making appearances at local schools and the skateboard park as a preventative way to ensure all ages of citizens are safe in these harder to patrol areas. Youth and adults alike are making positive comments about the police presence on the trails and in the park areas.

St. Albert CPVS has also been working closely with St. Albert Victim Services to hire a new Executive Director for the program. Service is continuing without interruption to the victims of crime or tragedy and the Detachment and Victim Services can be proud of the high quality support victims are receiving. St. Albert Victim Services is seen as one of the leaders in the Province for its innovative program and quality support that is provided free to any residents in need. 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 2016/2017, in addition to their usual enforcement activities, the St. Albert Traffic Unit focussed additional effort on traffic safety awareness within the community. They worked closely with the Communications Advisor for the City of St. Albert to produce and deliver weekly traffic safety advertisements, including specifically for impaired and distracted driving. They attended meetings and shared information with the Capital Region Intersection Safety Partnership and the St. Albert Traffic Safety Committee. Their daytime focus toward distracted driving enforcement initiatives resulted in 20% more charges than during the same period the previous year. The Traffic Unit has started to use traffic hot spots or areas of concern in and around schools during the daytime hours, upping their patrols and conducting enforcement projects. Joint Speeding Enforcement initiatives of the St. Albert RCMP Traffic

Unit and the St. Albert Municipal Enforcement Traffic Unit have been conducted on a weekly basis. The St. Albert Traffic Unit are currently implementing traffic enforcement initiatives associated to 2017/2018 fiscal year Annual Performance Plan.

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. Each week the statistics are gathered from incidents reported in the previous seven days. These are plotted on a map and the areas of greatest concentration of crimes are highlighted. Then two areas are selected from this process and are targeted for increased patrols and covert operations. The intention is 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. Recently a meeting was held at the detachment between the RCMP and Probation. Protocol were refined and updated to ensure the continued cooperation and collaboration between the two units. The Detachment continues to see positive results from conducting regular curfew checks. There have been fewer breach charges laid as those on conditions are aware we will be routinely checking on their compliance. Both General Duty and Crime Reduction Unit members have increased the number of checks done per month. Positive feedback was received through the Probation office as offenders report the checks done by police.

As the warmer months approach the Crime Reduction Unit looks to use the cart and bike patrols as another tool to reduce crime and hit targeted hot spots.

General Investigation Section

Over the last quarter the St. Albert General Investigation Section (GIS) assisted the General Duty Membership in 25 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 7 judicial authorizations, and assisted in the execution of 2 search warrants during this quarter.

General Detachment Updates:

Policing Priorities for 2017/18 were identified as Traffic Safety, Property Crime Reduction, and Community Policing (Family/Youth/Partnerships/Visibility). New and continuing initiatives and goals have been implemented effective April 1st. The new plan has been outlined in a separate report. The A/OIC thanks our citizens, city representatives, various policing partners, and the Strategy and Mobilization Committee for helping us identify and focus the policing priorities for 2017/18.

During the last quarter an experienced member transferred in from a northern posting, and a cadet arrived from Depot to start his career. A Sgt. promoted into our General Duties filling a long term vacancy. In early April we had a new Corporal transfer into our Drug unit.

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 time of this report had 64.5 positions actively serving the community. The three additional positions approved for 2017 have been proceeding through administrative requirements and staffing processes should start in the coming quarters.

Report Submitted by
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A/OIC St. Albert Detachment

QUARTER FOUR CRIME STATISTICS:

St Albert Municipal Detachment Statistical Comparison Quarter 4: 2013 – 2017 (January 1st – March 31st)

April-06-17

| CATEGORY | Trend | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Homicides & Offences Related to Death | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Robbery | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Sexual Assaults | | 3 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| Other Sexual Offences | | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Assault | | 75 | 60 | 64 | 84 | 69 |
| Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction | | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Extortion | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Criminal Harassment | | 28 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 25 |
| Uttering Threats | | 27 | 21 | 17 | 30 | 21 |
| Other Persons | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| TOTAL PERSONS | | 137 | 107 | 98 | 131 | 133 |
| Break & Enter | | 53 | 16 | 39 | 47 | 32 |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle | | 19 | 17 | 25 | 26 | 22 |
| Theft Over \$5,000 | | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Theft Under \$5,000 | | 233 | 126 | 186 | 292 | 214 |
| Possn Stn Goods | | 9 | 8 | 19 | 12 | 13 |
| Fraud | | 33 | 44 | 48 | 41 | 75 |
| Arson | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Mischief To Property | | 236 | 129 | 187 | 197 | 109 |
| TOTAL PROPERTY | | 587 | 344 | 509 | 622 | 473 |
| Offensive Weapons | | 9 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 12 |
| Public Order | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Disturbing the peace | | 62 | 71 | 43 | 35 | 33 |
| OTHER CRIMINAL CODE | | 80 | 85 | 92 | 89 | 110 |
| TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE | | 151 | 161 | 140 | 130 | 157 |
| TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE | | 875 | 612 | 747 | 883 | 763 |