



RCMP Annual Police Priorities Proposed for the 2015/2016 Police Year

Annual Police Priorities (APPs) for 2015/2016 were developed based on Council input and direction, and community consultation. While initiatives listed are preliminary, additional initiatives may be developed and added throughout the year. The following APPs are recommended for the 2015/2016 police year.

- 1. Traffic Safety:** Traffic Safety is a continuing concern of Council, citizens in Fort Saskatchewan, the RCMP and Municipal Enforcement (ME). Continued growth of our city brings increasing numbers of vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians to our roadways. Our traffic safety plan includes the enforcement of provincial and criminal code related traffic laws, as well as the following:
 - a. Public Education - media releases, radio announcements, newsletters and newspaper advertising. Information focuses on educating all users of the road of safe practices, traffic campaigns and the provincial monthly traffic safety focus. Shared information will include the results of traffic operations within our city. This initiative will take the form of monthly media releases.
 - b. Enforcement - each year, in our province, there are fatalities and injuries resulting from motor vehicle collisions. Fort Saskatchewan RCMP and ME are building an evidence based traffic enforcement model to guide our joint approach to traffic education and enforcement. This model is based on data analysis of complaints, observed activities at specific intersections and locations, collisions and the results of traffic operations. Progress on this initiative in 2014/2015 included the formation of the Traffic Safety Working Group which brings together various city departments and the RCMP to focus on traffic safety in our city. We expect the work of this working group, along with targeted traffic operations, to have a positive effect on driver behavior. This approach has proven effective over the past few years as the overall number of injuries has dropped and collisions have not increased.
- 2. Substance Abuse (Drugs):** The prevalence of substance abuse and drug related activity in our city contributes to the overall crime rate and effects quality of life in our community. This priority includes:
 - a. Public Education – much of the education occurs through the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program as well as presentations to all ages and groups relating to drug awareness.
 - b. Enforcement - enforcement in this area is time consuming and requires specially trained officers. Successful prosecutions depend on effective intelligence gathering, record keeping, knowledge of current legislation and justice practices, and accurate and current knowledge of local people and activities. Our General Investigative Services (GIS) team has proven to be effective in all areas.

3. **Crime Prevention:** Many educational and interactive police activities serve to reduce crime in the community. Educational presentations on bullying, fraud prevention and business security serve to educate citizens and reduce victimization. Maintaining a focus in this area allows officers to interact with citizens on a positive and educational basis. Response to day to day calls for service can easily impact the time officers have to spend on proactive crime prevention activities. Maintaining this item as a police priority is important to ensure sufficient energy is expended on the preventative side of police work.
4. **Crime Reduction:** This priority is directed by the Provincial Minister and includes specific initiatives directed at habitual offenders and crime trends. It is often found that a small number of habitual offenders commit a significant percentage of the crime in a community. This model involves using data analysis to identify these individuals and trends. Specific monitoring of their activities through enforcement of court ordered conditions allows police to reduce the impacts of this group on our community. Identification of crime trends also allows planned targeted patrols and enforcement which increases the success of police efforts.

Domestic violence, although not one of the APPs, is considered a priority and as such has been incorporated into our Crime Prevention priority. The RCMP partnership with the Fort Saskatchewan Families First Society (Families First) completes the approach and response to this community problem. The following points speak to the complete response provided by this valued partnership:

- Although the roles of the RCMP and Families First are very different, each is equally important from both prevention and intervention standpoints.
- Families First is key in long term support of those affected by domestic violence.
- Families First also assists families prior to police involvement.
- RCMP and Victim Services are short term in nature at the time of crisis and leading up to court attendance.

Police visibility remains a priority and is addressed through each of the priorities listed above.

Progress reports on each of the approved APPs will be provided to Council.