

Fort Saskatchewan RCMP Detachment

School Resource Officer Program

Year End Report

2015/2016



Prepared by: Staff Sergeant Peter Tewfik

Acting Officer in Charge
Fort Saskatchewan Detachment

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School Resource Officer Program Summary

The junior and senior high schools in Fort Saskatchewan requested funding from the City of Fort Saskatchewan to support a full time School Resource Officer to work with the schools in the community. The proposal outlined that by providing direct services to the schools the School Resource Officer would indirectly impact the wider community. In the proposal it was established that efforts in educating youth regarding the law, alcohol and drugs, loitering and defensive driving would impact the community as a whole positively. The proposal outlined 16 points related to the role of the School Resource Officer:

1. Provide law enforcement and police services to the school and surrounding community;
2. Provide a rapid response to incidents that occur in schools through availability during the school day every day;
3. Crime prevention through close contact and building positive relationships with youth as they come to recognize that police presence is positive and that the RCMP is approachable;
4. Establish a close partnership with schools in order to provide a safe and caring school environment;
5. Assist school officials in their efforts to enforce school rules;
6. Provide assistance with criminal matters relating to drug, alcohol and weapon possession at school;
7. Provide assistance when conflicts arise that are potentially volatile;
8. Assist in building safe neighborhoods by providing a visible presence within the school community;
9. Develop and implement a tobacco and drug reduction strategy;
10. Work with guidance counselors to assist students and provide services involving referrals to outside agencies;
11. Liaise with community agencies affecting youth;
12. Develop and implement classes in law related education, working closely with staff to ensure students are familiar with the law;
13. Initiate interaction with students in the classroom and general areas of the school;
14. Work with Parent Councils to inform them about legal issues with young people in the community;
15. Promote the profession of policing by serving as a positive role model; and
16. Liaison between the RCMP, youth and the community.

The Fort Saskatchewan School Resource Officer Program delivers community oriented policing through a dedicated officer assigned to schools. This officer acts as a resource to faculty, students, parents and community while imbedded in the school environment. The School Resource Officer is responsible for delivering this program to a number of junior high and high schools in the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

The School Resource Officer interacts with students, teachers, school staff and parents on a daily basis. The Officer provides education on safety, substance abuse, life skills and the justice system to junior

high and high school students. The Officer will also investigate complaints to police involving schools. In some cases mediation or alternative dispute resolution brings about a successful resolution to the complaint; in other cases a criminal charge may result.

Program Objectives

The objective of this program is to build positive relationships with junior high and senior high school youth through:

- Classroom interactions;
- Problem solving with youth and staff;
- Acting as a resource to the school administrators; and
- Providing enforcement or conducting police investigations as needed.

School Resource Officer Responsibilities

The Fort Saskatchewan School Resource Officer serves as a positive role model to instill in students good moral standards, good judgement, respect for others, and sincere concern for the school community. The School Resource Officer works to establish a trusting channel of communication with the students, parents, and school staff. The goal is to reduce youth crime through counselling and teaching about the criminal justice system, and taking a personal interest in the students. The position functions as a resource in legal/social related issues in cooperation with school officials. The School Resource Officer coordinates and monitors established school safety programs and activities and prepares and conducts classroom and large group presentations.

School Division Partners in Fort Saskatchewan

St. John Paul II Catholic High School

Fort Saskatchewan High School

Next Step Senior High School

Rudolph Henning Junior High School

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School

Fort Saskatchewan Christian School

Program Delivery – 2015/2016

Law Enforcement and Police Services

Criminal Investigations 2015/2016

The School Resource Officer conducted investigations of Criminal Code and provincial offenses at schools in Fort Saskatchewan during the school year. Since October 5, 2015, 40 police files were created in relation to criminal investigations of child pornography, utter threats, criminal harassment, disturbing the peace, assault and stolen property.

School Zones - Provincial/Municipal Enforcement

Since October 5, 2015, 9 police files were created in relation to investigations into provincial or municipal violations. Investigations included improperly stopping, parking or jaywalking.

Drivers were asked to move vehicles out of the School Bus unloading areas and parents were encouraged to unload children from the passenger side of their vehicles to avoid children coming into contact with moving traffic. The School Resource Officer, in co-ordination with Municipal Enforcement and the RCMP Traffic Unit, conducted speed operations in all school zones over the past year.

Forty violations or warning tickets were issued during the school year for provincial offences including underage smoking, tinted vehicle windows, littering, failing to wear a seatbelt, and stunting.

Provide Rapid Response to Incidents in Schools

SAFE School Planning

The SAFE (School Action for Emergencies) plan is an RCMP initiative released nationally in September 2007. SAFE creates site-specific emergency response plans designed to help front-line members respond efficiently and effectively to critical incidents. The initiative is part of the RCMP's ongoing commitment to youth as well as to building safer communities.

SAFE can be applied in any school event or situation requiring police resources, including an active shooter, bomb threat or hostage situation. A SAFE Plan also includes school contacts, floor plans, aerial photos, maps, lockdown procedures and other site-specific emergency response information. This helps law enforcement and other emergency service providers work together and act quickly in critical incidents occurring at schools.

SAFE plans have been completed for 2 schools in Fort Saskatchewan as of June 2016:

- James Mowat
- St. John XXIII

Feedback- Establish Close Partnerships and Assist School Officials

The School Resource Officer solicited feedback from principals of partner schools (Appendix A). The feedback positively highlighted the team approach between school officials and the School Resource Officer to issues in the school community. The principals commented about the positive police presence in the schools and how the School Resource Officer built positive relationships with students.

Law Enforcement Related Education

Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) – Tobacco/Drug Reduction Strategy

D.A.R.E. is a ten week program delivered to students in sixth grade. The nine classroom sessions are designed to teach students to act in their best interest when facing high-risk, low-gain choices and to resist peer pressure and other influences in making their personal choices. The D.A.R.E. curriculum has evolved to counter challenges faced by today's youth, including physical bullying and cyber-bullying. The program is designed to teach confidence, empathy, healthy decision-making principles, and to foster better communication with teachers and parents. The dangers of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco use are also covered.

This program was taught by the School Resource Officer at Our Lady of the Angels and Ecole Parc Elementaire schools. Ecole Parc Elementaire's D.A.R.E. graduation was on April 20th and 20 students received their D.A.R.E. certificates. Our Lady of the Angels School D.A.R.E. graduation was held on June 10th and 83 students received D.A.R.E. certificates.

Alberta Health Service's Option 4 - Tobacco Reduction Strategy

The School Resource Officer facilitated a program to allow students who have been issued a smoking ticket to attend an education session on the detrimental effects of smoking. Students who attended this session had their ticket withdrawn. This program was delivered by Alberta Health Services and the School Resource Officer at the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP detachment on June 6th.

This program has been very successful. It is a great partnership between the school divisions, schools, Alberta Health Services and the RCMP.

Other School Presentations - Providing for a Safe School Environment

Grade 7: Ten presentations were made about Internet safety and cyber bullying.

Grade 8: Eleven presentations were made about the dangers of Marihuana use.

Grade 9: Nine presentations were made about the dangers of street drugs.

Grade 10: Four presentations about impaired driving and traffic laws were made to CALM 10 classes.

Liaison between the RCMP, Youth and the Community

Remembrance Day Ceremonies

The RCMP has a proud military heritage. As a result of the RCMP's distinguished service in the South African War (1899-1902), on June 24, 1904, King Edward VII honoured the North West Mounted Police by changing its name to the Royal Northwest Mounted Police (RNWMP), later to become the RCMP. Additionally, RCMP members served overseas during the First World War (1914-1918), the Second World War (1939-1945) and many United Nations Missions (1989 to present).

The School Resource Officer helps keep the tradition of Remembrance alive in the student body by participating in Remembrance Day commemorations. This year, the School Resource Officer attended St. John Paul II High School and Fort Saskatchewan High School on November 6th to participate in school based Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

St. Albert Youth Academy

St. Albert RCMP, in partnership with Bellerose High School, hosted a very successful 4th annual St. Albert RCMP Youth Academy in 2016. Our School Resource Officer ensured that one youth from Fort Saskatchewan joined this initiative. The work experience program included a week of marching, handcuffing, lectures and scenarios about police work. RCMP officers from K Division, St. Albert, Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Leduc, Fort Saskatchewan, and Morinville pitched in to make this camp a safe and exciting event for the cadets. At the completion of the program 38 youth participated in a graduation ceremony in front of parents and dignitaries.

Community Activities

The School Resource Officer participated in many community activities including:

- Trunk or Treat – A safety minded trick or treat event hosted by Little Minions in Legacy Park. Businesses offered Halloween treats from vehicles to children when accompanied by parents;
- National Child Day – An event held at the Fort Saskatchewan Public Library in which the School Resource Officer read to children. The Mayor attended and read a Proclamation;
- Bike Rodeo – An event organized by RCMP, Municipal Enforcement and Little Minions Family Events in which children attended the Protective Services Building parking lot with their bicycles to learn about bicycle and traffic safety;
- Touch a Truck – A fundraiser for the Boys' and Girls' Club hosted by Little Minions;
- PARTY (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program – A Program in which police and other emergency services explain the dangers of risky behaviours. All Grade 9 students attended one of 12 PARTY presentations. An additional PARTY Program presentation was held for Grade 12 students in May.

Planning and Objectives - 2016/2017

The School Resource Officer Program began in the U.S. in the 1950's and evolved through the 70's, 80's and 90's. A key objective for the SRO Program exists in Fort Saskatchewan's program, "To improve the relationship between the local police and youth." It is a widely held belief that a child's perceptions of the police will change from negative to positive through non-threatening interactions.

Feedback from School Division partner officials clearly shows the School Resource Officer has successfully developed networks with students, teachers, administrative staff, parents and the community at large. Through increased use of mediation and conflict resolution, many of the situations the School Resource Officer deals with are handled outside of the courts.

The School Resource Officer worked closely with the School Division partners to develop strategies for specific students. Being an effective crime prevention resource will remain a priority for the School Resource Officer.

At the onset of the Program, 16 points were submitted to Council to define the role of the School Resource Officer. Those 16 points can be grouped into 4 key responsibilities, under which all of the proposed activities are captured. These key responsibilities will form the foundation for the objectives and deliverables set for the position for 2016/2017.

1. *Provide law enforcement and police services to the school and surrounding community. Ensure a rapid response to incidents that occur in schools through availability during the school day;*
 - a. Provide assistance with criminal matters relating to drug, alcohol and weapon possession at school;
 - b. Provide assistance when conflicts arise that are potentially volatile; and
 - c. Develop and implement a tobacco and drug reduction strategy;
2. *Establish a close partnership with schools in order to provide a safe and caring school environment;*
 - a. Assist school officials in their efforts to enforce school rules;

- b. Work with guidance counselors to assist students and provide services involving referrals to outside agencies;
- c. Liaison with community agencies affecting youth;
- d. Work with Parent Councils to inform them about legal issues with young people in the community; and
- e. Initiate interaction with students in the classroom and general areas of the school;
- 3. *Develop and implement classes in law related education, working closely with staff to ensure students are familiar with the law;*
- 4. *Be a Liaison between the RCMP, youth and the community;*
 - a. Crime prevention through close contact and building positive relationships with youth as they come to recognize that police presence is positive and that the RCMP are approachable;
 - b. Assist in building safe neighborhoods by providing a visible presence within the school community; and
 - c. Promote the profession of policing by serving as a positive role model.

Through 2015/2016 there was limited reporting on the activities of the School Resource Officer to provide metrics for the networks developed at the partner schools or use of mediation and conflict resolution for issues that were encountered. To support the overall objectives and ensure deliverables are achieved for the position for 2016/2017 the following areas will be reported on quarterly:

Activity	Frequency (3 months)
Meeting with teacher/school administration	
Involvement with special program/field trip/extra-curricular activities	
Formal meetings with students	
Call from parent/meeting with parent	
Dealing with student involved in aggressive behaviour	
Dealing with student involved in violent/criminal behaviour	
Speaking with numerous students over lunch/in the hallway	
Dealing with request from another officer	
Meeting with class/lecture/presentation	
Dealing with student reporting suspicious/criminal behaviour	
Dealing with student who has been a victim of aggressive behaviour	
Dealing with student who has been a victim of violent/criminal behaviour	
Meeting with community/community event	
Contact with Child and Family Services with regards to student	
Dealing with suicidal student	

Law Enforcement and Police Services

Criminal Investigations

The 40 recorded criminal investigations between October 5, 2015 and June 12, 2016 do not accurately represent the files that should have been generated for the period. The School Resource Officer did not generate a police file for each instance that involved an informally resolved investigation during the reporting period. This process will change for the coming year and will be reported weekly to Detachment's senior management and quarterly to Protective Services.

School Zone - Traffic Enforcement

The role of the School Resource Officer will expand to coordinate other Detachment resources to assist in key activities, such as traffic safety. Beginning in the fall of 2016, in addition to the Detachment's traffic operations in school zones, members of the Crime Prevention and Victim Services Unit and the School Resource Officer will attend local schools to increase police visibility during the morning school drop off time period. These will be high visibility activities. Due to the number of schools in Fort Saskatchewan the goal will be to conduct this type of operation at each school on numerous occasions throughout the school year.

Provide Rapid Response to Incidents in Schools

SAFE School Planning

In addition to being available at schools for emergency calls for service and intimately knowing the layout of schools and staff members, the School Resource Officer will be responsible for SAFE Planning with School Division partners who have yet to complete SAFE school plans. The completion of these plans for School Division partners will be a priority for the School Resource Officer in 2016/2017.

Law Enforcement Related Education

Creating an Option 4 Program for Provincial Tickets – An Education Strategy

Although the Option 4 Program was an Alberta Health Services diversionary program for smoking, it can be tailored for other issues such as speeding and traffic safety. Traffic Safety Option 4 programs will be put in place for the upcoming school year.

In an effort to further educate the students, there will be a greater emphasis for the School Resource Officer and members of the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP to identify issues such as smoking or traffic safety and to enforce the applicable statutes. Members will be advised to use discretion during ticketing interactions and to consider options such as a verbal warning, written warning or diversionary programs.

Liaising with Youth, Community, and Community Agencies Affecting Youth

VTRA Program (Violence Threat Risk Assessment)

Starting in 2016, the School Resource Officer will work with schools and community agencies to implement the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol in Fort Saskatchewan. This is consistent with Elk Island Public School's goal to train staff in aspects of this Protocol by the end of December 2016.

The VTRA Protocol brings educators, police and community agencies together to develop and implement a community-based, multi-disciplinary, and cross-threat assessment protocol. VTRA Protocol partners agree to respond to all behaviours that flag when a child/youth is or may be on a path of violence; behaviours that may pose a risk of violence to children/youth, staff and members of the community. The Protocol helps to collect data to do an initial risk assessment and, if risk is identified, to engage multiple agencies in planning an intervention to reduce or eliminate the risk.

Partners may include, but are not limited to, schools, RCMP, Child and Family Services, Alberta Health Services, Building Bridges, Families First and the City of Fort Saskatchewan. These partners will work together for the benefit of children/youth and their parents/guardians by:

- Building working relationships based on mutual respect and trust;
- Promoting safe, caring and restorative school environments and practices;
- Prioritizing prevention and intervention strategies that demonstrate effectiveness;
- Providing coordinated and integrated supports and services for children/youth and their families;
- Involving children/youth and their families in planning services and supports;
- Recognizing each child/youth has unique strengths and needs that should be considered when developing supports, interventions, and services;
- Realizing working together successfully requires persistence and is a process of learning, listening, and understanding one another; and
- Ensuring policies and procedures regarding Violence, Threat and Risk Assessment is provided to staff members, children/youth and parents/guardians.

Conclusion

When choosing to put police in schools the activity should be strategic and aimed at clearly defined goals. In the upcoming year, the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP is taking an analytical approach to safety problems in an effort to clearly understand the needs of our community partners and how they relate to the objectives of our program delivery. This analysis may result in further goal identification for the School Resource Officer and changes to the program design in order to meet goals and needs for which the program was funded. The School Resource Officer has partnered successfully with schools in the City of Fort Saskatchewan and the RCMP looks forward to building on the previous success.

Appendix 'A'



June 10, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: School Resource Officer Position

It is a pleasure to write this letter of support for both the School Resource Officer position and the current officer Constable Janice Schoepp. The administration and staff at Our Lady of the Angels School are very pleased with the services provided to our school.

Constable Schoepp supports our school in many capacities that truly make a positive impact not only at our own school but the entire community of Fort Saskatchewan. These include:

- Running an effective D.A.R.E. program
- Openly working with school administration
- Offering programs of anti-bullying, restorative justice, awareness of cyber and internet safety
- Organizing and leading presentations as required or requested (e.g. Champions in our Community presentation by the Edmonton Eskimos)
- Emphasizing both student and traffic safety through numerous initiatives

One of the areas I feel is so effective is Constable Schoepp's flexibility and desire to be of assistance when called upon. This model works well for us, as certain cases just require a second opinion around instances, while others require a full team approach.

Students comment on her positive approach and display respect and appreciation. I would strongly support both the position and Constable Schoepp as we move forward through a strong community policing initiative and partnership with members of the community working together. This program is creating a stronger community of Fort Saskatchewan.



Lorne Monaghan
Principal



RUDOLPH HENNIG
JUNIOR HIGH



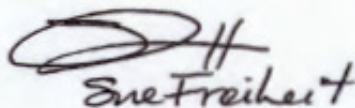
SRO Report
15-16

Constable Schoepp has become an integral part of Rudolph Hennig Junior High. The students know her and are used to seeing her in our halls and in the community. She has developed a strong rapport with our higher needs students and their families. The staff rely on her for advice and support. She is very flexible with her time and has made arrangements to be available during the day, in the evenings and on weekends. She is very dedicated and genuinely cares about our kids and the community.

More specifically, Janice has helped us with bullying situations, even mediating family meetings. She has spoken with students 1:1 who are experimenting with drugs and alcohol. She has helped us with situations of harassment, cyber bullying, and students sending nude pictures through their devices. She has met with struggling students and their parents, to help provide a legal perspective and all the ramifications that go along with breaking the law. She has dealt with vandals, smokers, and students who aren't wearing helmets. She does all of this, and more, from the perspective of teaching and helping, rather than from a punitive angle.

She has met with all of our health classes, teaching them about substance abuse (her background as a teacher is so valuable!). She has been to and sometimes spoken at our assemblies. She is building relationships with our students and is helping to foster a sense of reliability and trustworthiness between the students and the police, rather than a sense of fear. Our Parent Council is thrilled to have her on board, and she has participated in some of their meetings.

For myself, the benefit to the school is invaluable, but I also see the benefits to Fort Saskatchewan as a whole. I truly appreciate having Janice as a resource.


Sue Freiheit

9512 - 92 Street, Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 1L7
P|780 998 2216 F|780 998 7374 www.rudolphhennig.ca



Janice SCHOEPP - Fort High SRO Benefits and Suggestion

From: Jeff Spady FHS <Jeff.Spady@eips.ca>
To: 'Janice SCHOEPP' [REDACTED]
Date: 2016/06/10 3:42 PM
Subject: Fort High SRO Benefits and Suggestion

Hi Janice! Here is what you asked for, let me know if this is sufficient.

Benefits of having an SRO

- A RCMP officer creating positive relationships
 - o with high school aged students
 - o with parents when parents are contacted
 - o with staff members
 - o with community members when the SRO attends community events at the school
- Having the ability to solve problems at the school level before they become community problems
- Students feeling comfortable reporting issues to our SRO
- Students being comfortable seeing a RCMP vehicle parked outside our school, which helps them understand the positive force our RCMP are in our community
- Students receiving education on the harmful effects of smoking
- Administrators feeling confident knowing they can call/text the SRO at any time
- Administrators feeling confident that, when the SRO is called/texted, the response time will be quick
- Administrators having the ability to work as a team, with the SRO, on complex issues
- Staff feeling comfortable having a RCMP officer in and around the school

Suggestion

- It would be great if the SRO could start at the beginning of the academic year

Jeff Spady
Principal
Fort Saskatchewan High School

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St. John Paul II Catholic School
Knowledge, Faith, and Pride Acquired and Retained Forever
9975 – 93 Avenue, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta T8L 1N5
Phone: (780) 992-0889 • Fax: (780) 998-7345
Steven Tymko – Principal; Tracy Melnyk – Assistant Principal
stjp2.eics.ab.ca

June 9th, 2016

RE: School Resource Officer, Cst. Janice Schoepp

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to provide a letter outlining our experience with our School Resource Officer, Constable Schoepp.

Having a School Resource Officer (SRO) these past two years at St. John Paul II has been a blessing! Constable Schoepp is a visible presence in our school regularly. She has been able to establish and maintain a wonderful rapport with our students, and school community, as a whole. She assists us in ensuring that our school is a safe and caring place to be while balancing her enforcement nicely with prevention and much needed intervention.

Constable Schoepp has provided services via classroom presentations to several CALM (Career and Life Management) classes as well as several Health classes speaking on anything from traffic violations, to answering questions about substance abuse. She actively participates in the grade 9 and 12 DARE programs and is dedicated to educating our youth on the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and distracted driving. She is also a great assistance to school administration, helping identify and address concerns and problems that occur in the school and community. She conducts investigations, hold restorative justice meetings, is a valuable source of information, and also enforces laws/statutes when needed. I honestly do not know how we dealt with issues before she arrived, or ever want to find out again. Her assistance and contributions to this school have been immeasurable!

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Kindest regards,

Tracy Melnyk, Assistant Principal

"...Let your faith shine before the world." St. John Paul II