

# Report to Council



**Date:** December 3, 2018  
**File:** 0100-01  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Brent Mundle, Superintendent Kelowna RCMP Detachment  
**Subject:** RCMP Quarterly Council update 2018: July to September

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## **Recommendation:**

That Council receive the RCMP Quarterly/Yearly Update report from the Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment dated Dec. 3, 2018.

AND THAT the Superintendent Kelowna RCMP Detachment investigate providing Community Impact Statements signed by the Superintendent Kelowna RCMP Detachment and the Mayor to be included in our court packages that are forwarded to Crown Counsel for charge approval.

## **Purpose:**

To provide Council with an update on the activities of the RCMP and on progress toward goals and outcomes in the 2016-2019 Crime Reduction Strategy.

## **Background:**

The 2016-2019 Crime Reduction Strategy consists of four main goals each with multiple strategies within. The four goals include:

1. Taking a proactive approach to crime
2. To work with partner agencies for more effective policing
3. To maximize the effectiveness of resources using an intelligence-led model
4. Leveraging effective communications

In the previous two quarters of 2018, work continued to meet these goals.

## **Taking a proactive approach to crime**

Proactive policing initiatives this quarter focused on bicycle theft crime prevention, targeted drug criminal activity, auto-theft crime and traffic offences, especially speed enforcement in school zones.

The Police Services Crime Prevention Unit participated in seven events to encourage residents to register their bicycles with Project 529 Garage. Registration increases the chances of a bicycle being returned to its rightful owner if stolen. Additional efforts to promote the program included social media posts, a Facebook Live video and proactive media relations. More than 3,050 regional bicycles are registered in the program at this time. There have been 25 bicycles successfully recovered and returned to their owner.

The Downtown Drug Project continues on its track record of proactively targeting drug activity in the downtown core. From May to October the project resulted in 120 drug charges against 73 individuals

In July, officers ran a two-week initiative with the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT) program. The program uses bait vehicles and automatic licence plate readers to target auto-theft criminals. As a result, 10 stolen vehicles were recovered, 11 individuals were arrested and an additional eight auto-theft files were cleared.

The combined RCMP and Bylaw Services bike patrol teams were out in City parks and neighbourhoods over the summer months, with patrols extended into late October this year. The RCMP members have now been re-assigned to work with the team targeting street level property crime.

Entering into a new school year, in September a new school zone speeding silhouette was purchased with an additional five silhouettes on order. The silhouettes are a highly-visible reminder to motorists of school-zones in effect and act as a deterrent to speeding.

Heading into the holiday season, the RCMP is actively planning for holiday Counter Attack road-checks to target impaired driving, and the Crime Prevention Unit along with RCMP volunteers will once again be patrolling parking lots around high-shopping areas as extra eyes and ears to deter theft from vehicles.

## **To work with partner agencies for more effective policing**

The RCMP continued to partner with the John Howard Society in delivering the STOP Project to increase awareness about the harms of domestic violence. STOP incorporates free counselling for men who use violence or controlling behaviours in their relationships and supports those with or without criminal charges. The project is an independent, community-focused and offender-oriented program with voluntary enrolment by participants. Information is confidential and protected. The program has received a \$25,000 grant from the Federal Family Violence Initiative to help further the work being done.

The Police and Crisis Team (PACT), a partnership between Interior Health and the RCMP, received a total of 417 referrals from June to September, 2018, generating 318 police files. PACT members brought individuals to the hospital 22 times to receive medical attention, and successfully diverted 54 individuals from the hospital to other support services, helping reduce traffic to the emergency room.

As a next step in collaboration with community organizations, including Interior Health, School District No. 23, BC Housing, Probation Canada and the Ministry of Children and Family Development, a HUB Model for community safety is being coordinated for implementation in 2019. Weekly meetings will see improved inter-agency communication and help triage individuals presenting high risk of crisis in the community. The goal is to connect them immediately with support services so they can access the help they need. An all-stakeholders awareness session is planned for late January with training in late February, and subsequently implementation.

### **To maximize the effectiveness of resources using an intelligence-led model**

The effective use of crime analysis informs RCMP staff of trending criminal activity within the region. By focusing on trending crime patterns and prolific offenders, crime prevention activities and resource allocation can be focused on potential hot spots.

Property crime this quarter indicates a 20 per cent rise over the same period last year. Bike theft and thefts from auto (TFA), generally, are drivers to Kelowna's property crime. While the rise in TFA's was relatively low (five per cent), bicycle theft spiked by 66 per cent with 339 bikes reported stolen from July to September.

Downtown-specific crime data indicates increases across the board. Person offences, at 63, remain relatively low, but it is double over last year (31 person offences). There were 238 reported property crime offences in the downtown area, indicating a 23 per cent rise.

Resources are being redeployed to combat the spike in property related crime, in addition to proactive policing efforts in place. This includes the creation of a rotating unit to target street level property crime during the winter months. Supplemental downtown foot patrols this fall have been increased to include three additional afternoons. Resources are being increased to include four new Members allocated in the 2018 budget cycle.

Crime data continues to inform special event policing, Online Crime Report and Kelowna General Hospital protocols to help reduce wait times.

Supporting staffing resources, the Kelowna RCMP Detachment has continued to work with a well-being consultant and the therapy dog BARK Program in partnership with UBC Okanagan to offer additional health-resources to employees.

### **Leveraging effective communications**

The local RCMP took part in several community events including: food bank collections and a gratitude barbecue open house event at the Police Services Building the early fall.

Supporting the RCMP's charitable arm, Cops for Kids, Kelowna welcomed the traditional RCMP Musical Ride on Aug. 9 for the first time in 13 years. In September, the annual Cops for Kids Bike Ride saw 36-riders cycle around the Okanagan for 10 days. Combined, these two events raised more than \$440,000 for the Southeast B.C. Interior charity.

Addressing public safety in the community, Supt. Brent Mundle continues to conduct monthly interviews with AM1150 and with Kelowna Now, in addition to ongoing proactive media relations.

### **Community Impact Statements**

In support of the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights, the Province has established a Community Impact Statement Program so that statements describing the impacts of a particular offence on the community can be admitted in court and considered by the judge during the sentencing of a convicted offender.

A Community Impact Statement is a statement that describes the harm or loss that an offence has caused to a community. If we submit a community impact statement, the court must take it into account when it sentences an offender, assuming it meets the Criminal Code requirements for admissibility. Whether these requirements have been met in a particular case will be for the judge to decide. How much weight the Community Impact Statement will be given, once admitted, is also up to the judge to decide.

Our expectation is that the RCMP would prepare the Community Impact Statement for those crimes having a significant impact on Kelowna and it be signed by the Superintendent RCMP Kelowna Detachment and the Mayor.

#### **Internal Circulation:**

S. Jackson, Police Services Manager  
D. Gazley, Bylaw Services Manager  
C. Cornock, Crime Prevention Supervisor  
A. Bazett, Communications Consultant  
T. Wilson, Communications Manager

#### **Considerations not applicable to this report:**

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

**Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:**

**Existing Policy:**

**Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**  
**Personnel Implications :**  
**External Agency/Public Comments:**  
**Communications Comments:**  
**Alternate Recommendation:**

Submitted by:

B. Mundle, Superintendent Kelowna RCMP Detachment

Approved for inclusion:



**Joe Creron, Deputy City Manager, Operations**