

# Report to Council



**Date:** February 22, 2021  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** 2020 Year in Review RCMP Update  
**Department:** Kelowna RCMP Detachment

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receive the RCMP Quarterly Update report from the Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment, dated February 22, 2021.

## **Purpose:**

To present Council with an update on 2020 public safety and crime trends.

## **Background:**

By the end of 2019, the Kelowna RCMP Detachment achieved many of the targets set in its 2016-2019 Crime Reduction Strategy. However, in the fall of 2020, Statistics Canada released results indicating that the 2019 crime severity index in Kelowna Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) - inclusive of rural Kelowna, West Kelowna, Peachland, and Lake Country - had risen to the fourth highest of 35 CMAs in Canada. Indeed, while Kelowna citizens felt safe in their neighbourhoods in 2019<sup>1</sup>, the City of Kelowna experienced an estimated 25 per cent increase in property crime. This put upward pressure on Kelowna's overall crime index.

## **Current Status:**

In 2020, the Kelowna RCMP Detachment focused on property crimes through proactive policing, public campaigns and targeting known offenders. These efforts, together with pandemic-related factors, resulted in a 16 per cent decrease in property offenses from 2019. However, while citizens continue to report that they feel safe in Kelowna (87 per cent in 2018 and 2020)<sup>2</sup>, 2020 brought new challenges to communities across Canada and there has been an increase in persons crime offences.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Kelowna Public Safety & Crime Survey. April 8, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> City of Kelowna Citizen Survey. October 26, 2020.

**Key Information:**

The following includes standardized indicators from the Canadian Police Performance Metrics Framework and, following Council approval of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan, will also include measures of targeted initiatives. All indicators relate to the City of Kelowna and will be reported on a quarterly basis, except those marked with an asterisk (\*) which will be reported on an annual basis.

<b>Police Capacity &amp; Response</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>		<b>Change</b>
Total Calls for Service	60,219	58,740	●	-2.5%
Calls for Service Priority 1-3 Combined	47,964	46,956	●	-2.1%
Calls for service requiring a police presence per officer	237.5	232.5	●	-2.1%
Response Time for Priority 1 Calls (target: 7 minutes)	7.5	7.6	●	1.3%
Response Time for Priority 2 Calls (target: 10 minutes)	9.8	9.6	●	-2.0%

**2021-24 Strategic Initiatives**  
 Measures subject to Council feedback on 2021-24 Strategic Plan. Example measures: Disorder calls from Downtown area; Officer hours allocated to visibility in Downtown & public spaces; Citizen-reported sense of safety; Citizen satisfaction with police services\*

<b>Relevant Social Indicators</b>				
Calls for Police Service with Mental Health Component	1,757	1,717	●	-2.3%
Mental Health Act Apprehensions	702	647	●	-7.8%
Overdose – Non-Fatal (naloxone administration)	39	80	●	105.1%
Drug Overdose Files (i.e., fentanyl, illicit, prescript incl. fatal)	64	124	●	93.8%

<b>Total Property Offences</b>	<b>11826</b>	<b>9974</b>	●	<b>-15.7%</b>
Auto Theft	559	422	●	-24.5%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	2,813	2,163	●	-23.1%
Break & Enter – Business	711	524	●	-26.3%
Shoplifting	1,420	1,107	●	-22.0%
Break & Enter – Residential	356	263	●	-26.1%
Bike Theft	691	553	●	-20.0%
Other Theft & Property Crime	5,276	4,942	●	-6.3%

**2021-24 Strategic Initiatives**  
 Measures subject to Council feedback on 2021-24 Strategic Plan. Example measures: Crime prevention cross-media impressions; property theft where property was secured

<b>Total Persons Offences</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>		<b>Change</b>
Assaults (Common only)	985	1159	●	17.7%
Domestic Violence	673	776	●	15.3%
Sex Offences (Sexual Interference, Exploitation, Invite to Touch, Child Sexual Abuse Imagery, Producing Child Sexual Abuse Imagery/Child Pornography)	54	47	●	-13.0%
Sexual Assault (does not include Sexual Interference)	159	144	●	-9.4%
Theft with Violence (known as Robbery)	84	86	●	2.4%

Utter Threats/Harassment	460	648	●	40.9%
Assault w/ Weapon	267	326	●	22.1%

**2021-24 Strategic Initiatives**

Measures subject to Council feedback on 2021-24 Strategic Plan. Example measures: Persons offences reported after referral from community partners\*, Detachment participation in training\*

<b>Drug Offences</b>				
Trafficking	171	172	●	0.6%

<b>Traffic</b>				
Collision - Non Fatal	242	179	●	-26.0%
Collision – Fatal	6	6	●	0.0%

**Conclusion:**

The City of Kelowna welcomed Superintendent Kara Triance into the role of Officer in Charge of the Kelowna Detachment in October 2020, following the conclusion of the Detachment’s 2016-2019 Crime Reduction Strategy. This change in leadership, together with the extraordinary social and economic stressors facing Kelowna, creates the appropriate time for a refreshed 2021-2024 Strategic Plan for Kelowna’s RCMP Detachment.

**Internal Circulation:**

Community Safety Department  
 Communications Department

**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:**

Submitted by: K. Triance, Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment

**Approved for inclusion:**  S. Leatherdale, Divisional Director, Corporate & Protective Services

- cc:
- D. Caul, Community Safety Director
  - S. Jackson, Police Services Manager
  - C. Cornock, Crime Prevention Supervisor