

Report to Council



Date: May 30, 2022
To: Council
From: Supt. Triance, Officer in Charge – Kelowna RCMP
Subject: 2022 Q1 RCMP Update

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive, for information, the RCMP Quarterly Update report from the Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment, dated May 30, 2022.

Purpose:

To present Council with an update based on 2022 Q1 public safety and crime data.

Background:

On April 12, 2021, Council approved the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan for the Kelowna RCMP Detachment. The Plan is aligned with Council's community safety priorities and is focused on achieving measurable outcomes related to public safety initiatives as well as critical frontline policing services, traffic enforcement, drug enforcement and youth engagement. The Plan is comprised of four strategic objectives:

- 1) Increase the sense of safety in our public spaces;
- 2) Decrease the risk of property crime;
- 3) Earn the trust of more citizens that have experienced persons crimes; and
- 4) Show up at our best for every citizen.

In support of the Plan, a comprehensive performance measurement and reporting framework was also adopted in spring 2021. In April 2022, a one-year review of the metrics was conducted. As a result, a small number of metrics have been either refined or, in select cases, removed. Additionally, four new metrics are introduced here:

- 1) Calls for service receiving callback
- 2) Thefts reporting forced entry
- 3) Persons recommended for charges
- 4) Offences by prolific offenders on release

Summary:

Throughout the reporting period, Kelowna RCMP continued to advance efforts to build trust and capacity within our community through our daily interactions with citizens and partners, alike. We continued to actively encourage shared responsibility to prevent and reduce crime through our work with citizens (i.e., gPM Routine) and businesses, as well as collaborative action with essential

government partners. Significantly, alongside the City of Kelowna and provincial government ministries, we proudly launched the Community Safety Plan in April. This Plan serves as an important, tangible roadmap for action in our community, and the RCMP is committed to its implementation.

Kelowna RCMP has reviewed the results of the recently presented 2022 Community Safety Survey. While we are pleased to see that citizens continue to feel safe in their neighbourhoods, generally, the Kelowna RCMP shares the concerns of citizens and remains very committed to reducing property crime. Among other, Kelowna RCMP also noted the decreased number of people who reported incidents of crime. In 2020, we launched an [online crime reporting tool](#) to simplify the process to report select offences, and we will continue to encourage use of this innovative platform.

Statistically, paralleling societal returns to post pandemic lifestyle, Kelowna RCMP's comparison of Q1 2022 with Q1 in 2021 indicates a return to pre-pandemic property crime rates, notably:

- 13.2 per cent increase in commercial break and enters;
- 15.0 per cent increase in residential break and enters;
- 63.3 per cent increase in shoplifting files; and
- 47.8 per cent increase in auto theft, typically involving idling and unlocked vehicles.

Conversely, there were notable decreases in reported theft from vehicles and bike thefts.

Since December 2021, Kelowna RCMP has assisted the City of Kelowna and the BC Urban Mayors' Caucus in its efforts to profile the impact of prolific property offenders in our community with the provincial government. In Q1 this year, 149 files were attributed to a relatively small number of prolific offenders, many who require a multi-agency response.

Within Q1, there is a notable decline in drug trafficking offences. While the raw numbers are relatively low, this decrease largely reflects an ongoing shift in federal enforcement and prosecution policies. A further decline is notable in respect of traffic violation tickets which resulted from a temporary redeployment of traffic services to frontline resourcing to address demands of calls for service, workloads, and pressures relating to human resourcing.

In Q1, Kelowna RCMP experienced a continued increase in calls for service, particularly priority 1 and 2 calls, a 64.4 per cent increase in calls related to downtown Kelowna and an increase in suspicious fires. Analysis reveals that the increased downtown calls relate to a corresponding increase in the number of individuals accessing our emergency shelter system and/or sheltering outdoors.

Also notable in Q1, and of concern for our community and the Kelowna RCMP is a 40.9 per cent increase in assault with a weapon, a concerning trend being experienced by all jurisdictions nationally. In March 2022, Public Safety Canada (PSC) reported an 81 per cent increase in violent offences involving guns since 2009. That month, PSC announced \$250M for community-based prevention initiatives under its Building Safer Communities Fund. Kelowna RCMP, in partnership with the City of Kelowna, will be exploring opportunities under this fund in the coming months.

Quarter 1 Metricsⁱ

The following includes standardized indicators from the Canadian Police Performance Metrics Framework and measures of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan. All indicators relate to the City of Kelowna.

Police Capacity & Response	2021 Q1	2022 Q1	% Change
Total Calls for Service	13501	14001	3.7%
Total Calls for Service from Downtown area	1195	1965	64.4%
Total Calls for Service from Rutland area	Not avail	Not avail	Not avail
Calls for Service, Priority 1 & 2 ⁱⁱ	4618	5010	8.5%
Response Time for Priority 1 Calls (in minutes)	8.7	8.1	-6.9%
Response Time for Priority 2 Calls (in minutes)	10.7	10.3	-3.7%
% of Calls for Service receiving Callback ⁱⁱⁱ	Not avail	23%	Not avail
Officer Hours assigned to public spaces: Downtown, Rutland & parks	Not avail	3313	Not avail
Caseload ^{iv}	26	27	2.7%
Total Property Offences	2422	2560	5.7%
Auto Theft	92	136	47.8%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	524	423	-19.3%
Break & Enter – Business	167	189	13.2%
Shoplifting	270	441	63.3%
Break & Enter – Residential	40	46	15.0%
Bike Theft	96	65	-32.3%
Fraud	161	150	-6.8%
Mischief	507	500	-1.4%
Arson	20	33	65.0%
% of Thefts which reported Forced Entry ^v	Not avail	33.4%	--
Persons recommended for Charges ^{vi}	--	131	
Offences by 28 Prolific Offenders on Release ^{vii}	--	128	--
Total Persons Offences			
Assault (Common)	291	280	-3.8%
Domestic Violence	200	142	-29.0%
Sex Offences ^{viii}	37	43	16.2%
Theft with Violence (known as robbery)	16	20	25.0%
Assault with Weapon	44	62	40.9%
Illegal Drugs			
Illegal Drug Trafficking	30	12	-60.0%
Traffic Safety			
Traffic Violation Tickets	1052	316	-70%
Collisions – Combined	175	262	49.7%
Relevant Social Indicators (reflecting policing complexity in Kelowna)			
Calls for Service with Mental Health Component	773	703	-9.1%
Calls for service, MHA Apprehensions	155	145	-6.5%
Calls for service, Overdose ^{ix}	37	39	5.4%

With our partners in Kelowna Events and other response agencies, Kelowna Regional RCMP has prepared for a summer that embraces our tourism industry, visitor population, and post-pandemic return to public spaces. We have optimized shifting, schedules, and resourcing, detailing plans with readiness and for seasonal events, increased populations, and emergencies. The Okanagan will benefit from the deployment of RCMP officers from around British Columbia, coming to work events and weekends, to ensure adequate staff in our busiest season.

Throughout the seasonal planning and with our restructuring; prioritization of downtown, public spaces and parks remained a focus for Kelowna Regional RCMP. Our commitment to enhanced visibility, a sense of safety, and building strong community partnerships was at the forefront of our mandates, specifically that of our Community Safety Unit. As we prepared for summer, we gave significant consideration to ensure that we have a reasonable capacity to respond to increased populations experiencing homelessness and calls for services related to social disorder.

Conclusion:

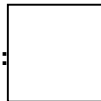
The metrics and related data were utilized to inform, through evidenced based analysis, the decisions that have guided the responses to crime and public safety outlined in the quarterly update. Kelowna RCMP Officer in Charge continues to drive change with a focus on sustainable workloads and wellness of the members of Kelowna Detachment. This is being done by creating efficiencies through reprioritization and realignment of administrative work to support staff which in turn increases the operational capacity of front-line members. Our commitment to all initiatives identified in the strategic plan remains our top priority.

Internal Circulation:

Community Safety Department
Communications Department

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. Coates, Police Services Manager
C. Cornock, Crime Prevention Supervisor

ⁱ The following annual metrics are used to monitor delivery of our 2022-2024 Strategic Plan:

- Objective 1, Increase the sense of safety in our public spaces: Citizen perceived level of safety in areas including Downtown & Rutland per City of Kelowna bi-annual Public Safety & Crime Survey
- Objective 2, Decrease the risk of property crime: Percent of property offence charges that resulted in a conviction
- Objective 3, Earn the trust of more citizens that have experienced persons crimes: Detachment participation in trauma-informed practice training, Detachment referrals to community supports
- Objective 4, Show up at our best for every citizen: Seats at senior decision-making table held underrepresented groups; Detachment participation in unconscious bias training & Indigenous Cultural Safety; Detachment participation in mental wellness training and crisis debrief supports; Citizen satisfaction with police services as per City of Kelowna Citizen Survey

ⁱⁱ Priority 1 calls are the most serious emergency calls and require immediate police response. They involve a risk of loss of life or grievous bodily harm. Examples include in-progress abductions, assaults, domestic disputes, home invasions, robberies, sexual assaults, screams for help, shootings, stabbings, and suicidal persons. Priority 2 calls are urgent calls that require immediate police attention such as a residential break and enter in progress.

ⁱⁱⁱ False alarms, abandoned calls for service, traffic and online reports, assistance outside of public safety and failure to appear are not indicated for follow up calls. New metric, changes to system was required to capture the data. Changes implemented in March 2022.

^{iv} Case loads are defined as the number of Criminal Code offences (excluding drugs and traffic offences) per authorized strength. They represent the workload per officer, and as a result, are often a better indicator of the demand for police services than either a jurisdiction's population or its crime rate. The case load is calculated by dividing the total number of Criminal Code offences by the authorized strength for the reporting period. *For reference, in 2020, annual caseload for Coquitlam was 40 (pop 152,800) and for Township of Langley (pop 133,951) was 54.*

^v Excludes shoplifting as forced entry is not relevant. New metric, changes to system was required to capture the data. Changes implemented in March 2022.

^{vi} Consistent with national reporting, the "persons charged" category will include the number of people recommended for charges by police (not the number of charges laid or recommended).

^{vii} In Kelowna, prolific offenders are designated by Present Behaviour (any adult or youth offender with a history of non-compliance with release conditions, or more than 10 negative police contacts in a six-month period) or Past Behaviour (3 or more criminal convictions or 3 stayed/withdrawn property charges in the last 3 years). Persons designated as prolific offenders in other jurisdictions who relocate to Kelowna are included.

^{viii} Sexual offences include sexual assault level 3 (aggravated), sexual assault level 2 (weapon or causing bodily harm), sexual assault level 1 (common sexual assault), and sexual violations against children.

^{ix} Overdose counts do not reflect all overdose incidents occurring within police service boundaries as response is frequently by paramedics. Where police do not attend, the occurrence will not appear in police records.