

# Report to Council



**Date:** November 6, 2023  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** RCMP Report – January 1 to August 31, 2023  
**Department:** RCMP Officer In Charge

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**Recommendation:**

THAT Council receive the RCMP report for January 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023, from the Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment, dated November 6, 2023.

**Purpose:**

To present Council with an update for January 1 to August 31, 2023 public safety and crime data.

**Background:**

The RCMP acknowledges receipt of Council’s updated priorities in Q1 of 2023 and will present a refreshed Strategic Plan in the coming weeks. This updated Strategic Plan will include three new objectives that directly align with Council’s priorities and feedback received through community consultation:

- 1. Be present in neighbourhoods and districts to deter crime and improve road safety;
- 2. Target recurring property theft; and
- 3. Promote the right providers for mental health and addictions care and housing needs.

**Trends & Themes**

Provided are general crime data trends and themes observed within the city from January 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023.

Calls for Service

Kelowna RCMP experienced a 7.5 % decrease overall in calls for service compared to 2022, led by a notable 22.3 % drop in the Downtown core. This is attributed, in part, to enhanced police visibility and targeted “hot spot” enforcement in that area. Conversely, a 27.4 % increase in calls for service in Rutland has been noted. In response, police resources were recently shifted to increase visibility and responsiveness in Rutland, in conjunction with the dedicated Rutland RCMP Sub Detachment. Our analytical team has evaluated calls for service to identify strategic opportunities to improve deployment approaches in this area, including the identification of hot spots, peak times, repeat offender

managements. Our police officers, alongside the City's Community Safety Department inclusive of Bylaw Services, are working diligently to address the concerns of residents and businesses, alike.

#### Break & Enter (Business).

Overall, Break and Enters (B&E) are down across British Columbia approximately 8%. In Kelowna, the number of Business B&Es decreased substantially by 43.9% compared to 2022 while residential B&Es decreased by 10.7%. These reductions can be partially attributed to data and intelligence-led strategies implemented by Kelowna RCMP including a relentless focus on repeat property offenders. Of note, B&Es were the highest driver of our 2022 Crime Severity Index (CSI) score, both in the City of Kelowna and in the Census Metropolitan Area. Despite the noteworthy decreases in B&Es, analysis indicates that this crime continues to drive Kelowna's 2023 CSI. Through continuously improving crime data analytics, we are deploying finite resources more strategically at the times / locations when crimes are occurring, targeting known repeat offenders, and able to equip business and residents through media releases about emergent trends. In partnership with the City's Community Safety Department, crime prevention [toolkits](#) were released providing practical steps for businesses and residents to assist in our collective effort to reduce property crime in our community.

#### Fraud

Frauds are reported to have increased across British Columbia by nearly 11%. In Kelowna, Frauds are also a key CSI driver with a concerning 56.7% increase during the reporting period here. These Frauds comprise Online and Phone Frauds, Banking Fraud and Forgeries, and Real Estate Fraud. This specific category does not include Identity Fraud. In many cases, these files originate in other jurisdictions, including international, which increases the complexities in investigating this crime type. Police strategies targeting Fraud are primarily limited to prevention through public awareness and education with the goal of reducing financial loss. With improving public awareness about these increasingly common and sophisticated crimes, more victims are likely to report incidents, which will continue to drive this metric statistically.

#### Persons Offences

Kelowna experienced an overall 5.7 % increase of Persons Offences compared to same period in 2022, which is consistent with the 5.1 % increase observed across the province. While Kelowna observed a significant reduction in Robberies by 40.7 %, this improvement was offset by increases in other persons crimes which are being closely monitored and analyzed. Opportunities for RCMP to proactively engage in education and prevention initiatives are being explored as well as continued disruption and enforcement actions.

#### Traffic

In line with the key objectives noted in our last Report to Council, the RCMP Traffic Section has observed a reduction in collisions causing injury and death by 5.2 % compared to the same period last year. In addition, 87.8 % more traffic violation tickets were issued. This notable increase compares to a period in 2022 when traffic enforcement declined due to staffing challenges and reflects our ability to fully resume and prioritize our Traffic Section throughout the busy summer season. The Kelowna Traffic Section continues to use data to inform traffic safety by strategically engaging in education and enforcement activities, especially in high collision locations.

## Repeat Offending

As reported consistently over the last 18 months, repeat property offenders have a persistent and significant impact on our businesses and residents, as well as the Kelowna CSI. Kelowna RCMP is an active participant and, in fact, a leader in the Provincial Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) launched earlier this year, with 22 of the 40 available prioritized positions occupied by Kelowna violent offenders. The ReVOII Program, however, does not include repeat *property* offending, and so Kelowna RCMP initiated and launched its own Repeat (Property) Offender Management Program in spring 2023. Both initiatives are believed to have been instrumental in Kelowna's success in driving down its property offence statistics by 17 % during this reporting period.

Police Capacity & Response	31-Aug-22	31-Aug-23	% Change
Total Calls for Service	41,752	38,607	-7.5%
Total Calls for Service from Downtown area	7,061	5,487	-22.3%
Total Calls for Service from Rutland area <sup>i</sup>	2,337	2,977	27.4%
Calls for Service, Priority 1 & 2 <sup>ii</sup>	14,250	13,285	-6.8%
Response Time for Priority 1 Calls (in minutes)	8.1	8.2	1.2%
Response Time for Priority 2 Calls (in minutes)	10.2	10.2	0.0%
% of Calls for Service receiving Callback <sup>iii</sup>	37.80%	67.40%	78.3%
Officer Hours assigned to public spaces: Downtown, Rutland & parks	10,586	11,684	10.4%
Caseload <sup>iv</sup>	60.69	52.91	-12.8%
<b>Property Offences</b>	<b>6079</b>	<b>5194</b>	<b>-17.0%</b>
Auto Theft (2135-1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9)	395	234	-40.8%
Theft from Motor Vehicle (2132 2142 -0)	1492	1035	-30.6%
Break & Enter – Business	597	335	-43.9%
Shoplifting	1199	1213	1.2%
Break & Enter – Residential	187	167	-10.7%
Bike Theft	434	266	-38.7%
Fraud	427	669	56.7%
Mischief	1243	1187	-4.5%
Arson	105	88	-16.2%
% of Thefts which reported Forced Entry <sup>v</sup>	42.00%	38.40%	-8.6%
Persons recommended for Charges <sup>vi</sup>	235	201	-14.5%

<b>Persons Offences</b>	<b>1806</b>	<b>1908</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
Assault (Common)	785	829	5.6%
Intimate Partner Violence	498	543	9.0%
Sex Offences <sup>vii</sup>	125	150	20.0%
Theft with Violence (includes Robbery)	81	48	-40.7%
Assault Cause Bodily Harm/ Assault with Weapon	317	338	6.6%
<b>Illegal Drugs</b>			
Illegal Drug Trafficking	44	40	-9.1%
<b>Traffic Safety</b>			
Traffic Violation Tickets	1092	2051	87.8%
Collisions – Combined	1216	1219	0.3%
<b>Relevant Social Indicators (reflecting policing complexity in Kelowna)</b>			
Calls for Service with Mental Health Component	2001	2050	2.5%
Calls for service, MHA Apprehensions	420	493	17.4%
Calls for service, Overdose <sup>viii</sup>	94	60	-36.2%

### **Conclusion:**

The metrics and related data provided within this report are continuously monitored and used by the RCMP to inform, through evidence-based analysis, our decisions and responses to crime and public safety in Kelowna. Kelowna RCMP empowers its policing professionals to advance prevention and response and promote the right providers for mental health, addictions care and housing. The Kelowna RCMP Officer in Charge (OIC) continues to affect transformative change to drive results through teamwork and initiative, sustainable workloads, appropriate staffing levels, and wellness of all members of Kelowna Detachment. By taking care of our people, and increasingly using intelligence and data led targeted enforcement to deploy finite resources, the Kelowna RCMP is positioned to be present in neighbourhoods and districts to deter crime, improve road safety, and target recurring property theft.

### **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:***

***Consultation and Engagement:***

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

Approved for inclusion:



S. Leatherdale, Divisional Director, Corporate & Protective Services

cc:

D. Caul, Community Safety Director

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M. Douglas, Community Safety Services A/ Manager

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<sup>i</sup> The Rutland atom was created and applied beginning in April 2022. This number reflects April 1 to Aug 31st for both years.

<sup>ii</sup> 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.

<sup>iii</sup> 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.

<sup>iv</sup> 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. The case load was calculated using the dates January 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023.

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

<sup>vi</sup> Consistent with national reporting, the "persons charged" category will include the number of people recommended for property crime offence charges by police (not the number of charges laid or recommended).

<sup>vii</sup> 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.

<sup>viii</sup> 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.