

Report to Council



Date: February 9, 2026
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: RCMP 2025 Year in Review
Department: RCMP Superintendent

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive the RCMP 2025 Year in Review Report from the Officer in Charge, Kelowna RCMP Detachment, dated February 9, 2026.

Purpose:

This summary provides an overview of public safety and crime data in 2025 for the City of Kelowna. It aligns with the strategic priorities set by City Council in April 2024 and reflects the objectives outlined in the Kelowna RCMP's 2024–2026 Strategic Plan, Policing for Greater Impact. Accordingly, Appendix 'A' contains a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), strategically selected for Kelowna's public safety context, and a further breakdown of crime incidence.

Council Priority Alignment: Crime & Safety

Background:

Our work is guided by three key frameworks that collectively shape our priorities and organizational direction. These include:

- Kelowna RCMP 2024-2026 Strategic Plan;
- City Council Priorities 2023-2026; and
- Mayor's Task Force objectives.

Together, these frameworks ensure our policing approach is aligned with community expectations, municipal objectives and our detachment and organizations long term strategic vision.

Summary Analysis:

In 2025, Kelowna's community safety picture showed progress and pressure at the same time. Several indicators improved, while repeat property crime and visible disorder remained concentrated in specific areas and continued to disrupt daily life and economic activity.

As the city grows, risk patterns shift and targets change, so enforcement, prevention, and partner-led responses must keep adapting. This report summarizes what changed, where pressures remain, and what the RCMP is prioritizing in response.

Crimes Against Property

Overall, total property offences decreased by 18 per cent between 2022 and 2025, continuing a sustained downward trend following the significant decline from 11,227 offences in 2022 to 9,528 in 2023, a more modest decrease in 2024 (9,208 offences), and a slight stabilization in 2025 (9,201 offences).

By contrast, mischief offences showed a notable reversal. After declining for several years, mischief rose by 15 per cent year-over-year in 2025 (increasing from 1,659 to 1,908 offences). The increase is even more pronounced in the final quarter of the year, where Q4-2025 mischief files rose by 21.6 per cent compared to Q4-2024 (from 402 to 489 files).

This uptick appears to be driven primarily by social disorder related incidents and warming-fire calls being coded as mischief files. These factors suggest that while earlier efforts effectively reduced overall property crime, emerging social disorder driven pressures now require targeted strategies to sustain progress and address the specific drivers of mischief related activity. In response, foot patrols have been increased, not only in the downtown business community, but other areas of the city, to provide enhanced visibility, early intervention and stronger community presence.

Key Decreases 2025 compared to 2024

- Auto Theft: Dropped by 16.5 per cent year-over-year, continuing a multi-year decline.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle: Fell by 11.9 per cent, indicating improved vehicle security.
- Break & Enter categories show a sustained downward trend from 2022 to 2025. Business B&Es saw the most dramatic improvement, dropping from 865 files in 2022 to 389 in 2025, a 55 per cent reduction overall. Residential files also declined, moving from 237 to 201 over the same period, representing a 15 per cent decrease. B&E Other remained more stable year over year but still improved, decreasing from 242 to 212 files, a 12 per cent reduction overall. These declines indicate that strategies such as the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative are having a meaningful impact, while stronger prevention measures may also be attributed to the Strong Neighborhoods program.
- Fraud: Decreased by 10.2 per cent, possibly linked to enhanced awareness campaigns.
- Persons Recommended for Charges: Decreased by 15.3 per cent. Analysis indicates this reduction is primarily due to process timing and the implementation of new Body Worn Camera requirements, rather than a significant drop in offences.

Key Increases 2025 compared to 2024

- **Bike Theft:** Increased by 23.2 per cent, reversing previous declines and underscoring the need for targeted prevention. Collaboration continues with the Community Safety Services Branch to identify new Bike Valet locations for 2026, as this proactive measure helps reduce theft and improve community safety.
- **Shoplifting:** Up 6 per cent, continuing to be a persistent challenge for businesses. Businesses are encouraged to report all incidents of shoplifting so repeat offenders can be identified and targeted, helping to deter this crime in our community. An increase in reported cases is a positive sign, and we hope to see continued growth in reporting to strengthen enforcement efforts.

Crimes Against Persons

Crimes against persons rose slightly by 6.5 per cent from 2022 to 2025, but trends vary by category. After steady increases through 2024, several offences declined in 2025, signaling progress in some areas.

Key Decreases 2025 compared to 2024

- **Assault with Weapon:** Down 25.9 per cent, continuing a positive trend in violent crime reduction. Assaults with Weapons were more concentrated in the downtown core in 2024, but this trend declined in 2025, with June showing the largest decrease (from 20 files to 10), from January to June. Increased Crime Reduction Unit presence during summer months, focused on proactive patrols and engagement, likely contributed to this reduction. Bear spray incidents dropped by 33.3 per cent following the adoption of a City bylaw in March 2025 regulating deterrent spray sales, suggesting an impact on weapon availability. In 2026, the summer plan includes the Crime Reduction Unit again taking a lead role in the downtown core to maintain safety and support proactive crime prevention. Our continued focus on collaboration and visibility aims to enhance community safety and public confidence.
- **Sex Offences:** Slight decline of 3.9 per cent, remaining relatively stable overall. However, Interior Health reports that sexual assault disclosures are increasing, with 81 cases in Kelowna in 2025 compared to 65 last year, the highest in the region. Nearly half of Kelowna patients (49.4 per cent) chose to report to police, reflecting a rising willingness to come forward.

Key Increases 2025 compared to 2024

- **Intimate Partner Violence:** Incidents have risen by 39.9 per cent since 2022, peaking in 2024 before a 3.8 per cent decline in 2025. We are collaborating with the Community Safety Plan Action Team to raise awareness and with the Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICAT) to identify the highest-risk cases and develop collaborative safety plans. In 2025, 23 cases were referred to ICAT for coordinated intervention.
- **Robbery (Theft with Violence):** Increased 17.2 per cent year-over-year, with Q4 2025 spiking 62.5 per cent, these are primarily linked to persons experiencing homelessness, mental health, and addictions care needs. We continue to work with community partners to address these underlying issues.

Traffic Safety

In 2025, the RCMP coordinated the Traffic Advisory Committee, bringing together city departments and provincial ministries to strengthen collaboration on road safety initiatives. Key efforts focused on pedestrian safety in high-collision corridors and targeted enforcement, including actions following a fatal collision on Swamp Road and ongoing distracted driving campaigns that resulted in 341 cell phone violations throughout the year. Looking ahead to 2026, the committee will expand initiatives to address seasonal traffic challenges and enhance safety measures in school zones and high-risk corridors.

Traffic interactions increased by 14.2 per cent (4,305 in 2024 to 4,918 in 2025). This rise can be partly attributed to the Criminal Collision Investigative Team being transitioned to the General Investigative Section. This change allowed the Traffic Unit to focus exclusively on enforcement and educational activities, resulting in a higher number of recorded traffic interactions.

In 2025, 15 dedicated volunteers supported Speed Watch at 34 locations, monitoring nearly 24,000 vehicles and issuing 435 warning letters to promote safer driving. This important initiative will return in the spring, continuing its role in reducing speeding and enhancing road safety across Kelowna.

Responsiveness to Calls

Calls for service per 100K have remained relatively steady, dropping from 39,136 in 2022 to 34,661 in 2024, then rising slightly to 35,926 in 2025. Response times for urgent Priority 1 calls have stayed consistent at about 8 minutes, while Priority 2 and 3 calls improved through 2024 but increased in 2025 (P2: 13.7 minutes; P3: 35.4 minutes). Overall, callbacks remain a key part of service delivery, with 76.9 per cent of calls receiving a call back in 2025, though this dipped in the last quarter compared to the previous year. We continue to work to increase our callbacks to provide better service to the community.

Community Engagement

Kelowna RCMP demonstrated strong commitment to community engagement in 2025, attending over 100 events/presentations throughout the year. Highlights in the fourth quarter include the Remembrance Day Parade, Parade with a Purpose, and the Kelowna Rockets Teddy Bear Toss, reflecting our ongoing efforts to build trust and strengthen connections with residents. In 2026, we plan to continue and expand these efforts by increasing our presence at community events and creating new opportunities for engagement to enhance public safety and confidence.

Auxiliary Program

In August 2025, the Kelowna RCMP Auxiliary Program was temporarily paused to allow for updates to course materials. Tier 1 training materials have now been completed, and the program has resumed. Tier 1 training will permit Auxiliaries to begin performing their designated Tier 1 duties, with remaining details and training for Tiers 2 and 3 to follow, though no timeline has been set. This program plays an important role in strengthening community safety by providing additional support for public engagement and crime prevention initiatives.

Conclusion:

The information and trends highlighted in this report are actively monitored to ensure policing strategies reflect the needs and priorities of the Kelowna community. These insights guide collaborative efforts with local partners and support advocacy for broader improvements at the Provincial and National levels.

The Officer in Charge remains committed to building trust and fostering strong relationships with residents, while prioritizing response to priority calls and ensuring public safety. At the same time, we continue to focus on sustainable workloads and the well-being of our police professionals. By combining intelligence-led, data-informed approaches with a strong emphasis on community engagement, we advance our shared vision of *'Policing for Greater Impact'* and creating a safer, more connected Kelowna.

Internal Circulation:

Community Safety Department
Communications Department

Considerations applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority: Article 5.3 Municipal Police Unit Agreement (April 2012)

Submitted by: Superintendent C. Goebel, Kelowna RCMP Detachment

Approved for inclusion: S. Leatherdale, General Manager, People & Protective Services

Attachments:

Attachment A – 2026-02-09 – 2025 RCMP Year In Review presentation - FINAL

Attachment B – 2026-02-09 – 2025 Appendix A - FINAL

cc:

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T. White, Police Services Branch Manager