



Council Report

penticton.ca

Date: February 11, 2025
To: Anthony Haddad, City Manager
From: Supt Beth McAndie, Officer in Charge: Penticton
Subject: Q4 2024 – RCMP Update

File No:

Staff Recommendation

THAT Council receive into the record the report titled “Q4 2024 – RCMP Update” from the Officer in Charge, Penticton RCMP Detachment, dated February 11, 2025.

Strategic priority objective

Safe & Resilient: The City of Penticton will enhance and protect the safety of all residents and visitors to Penticton.

Background

The Penticton RCMP is committed to providing timely information about current and emergent policing issues and outcomes. This Report offers a general overview and analysis of select crime data in Penticton between October 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

Financial implication

Not applicable.

Analysis

In Q4 of 2024 our total calls for service 4,044, we are up 5% from last year which is a difference of 198 files. The total Calls for service in 2024 was 17,175 compared to 16,958 in 2023.

The Penticton RCMP remain number two in the province for the highest number of criminal code files per police officers, with 131 per officer. The provincial average per police officer is 76. The Penticton RCMP Senior Leadership Team remain vigilant in monitoring the quality of police investigations, training and development of all employees, while prioritizing the health and wellbeing of staff.

The Penticton RCMP through collaboration and partnership created the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. This plan was created in consultation with the City of Penticton and community partners, making clear its commitment to advancing community priorities. The Penticton RCMP are priorities are to: CONNECT- Vulnerable People with the Appropriate Supports, IMPACT- Crime Trends through Intelligence Led Strategies, ADVANCE- Preparedness for Natural and Human Caused Disasters and DRIVE- Results Together through Engagement and Partnerships.

In this Q4 report a Year in Review, the Penticton RCMP will share the results of the work dedicated to drive the strategic initiatives and results. Our context is not static, and our Strategic Plan has not been set and then forgotten. Remaining agile, Penticton RCMP will continue to reach out to the community regularly to make sure our services, and the strategic initiatives identified in this Plan, continue to represent the community's needs.

Achievements

- Since its inception in January 2024, the Integrated Crisis Response Team (ICRT) has seen a decline in repeat client calls. During Q4 the ICRT had 284 client contacts (relatively equal to the 281 in Q3). This can be attributed to clients experiencing longer periods of stability, the implementation of more supportive care plans and connecting clients with the right resources.
- The detachment was a partner in an integrated public safety communications campaign which included short-form videos, and traditional media ads aimed at educating the public on steps they could take to increase public safety across the safety spectrum during the holiday season. This campaign was well received by the community and further statistics are available within Q4 2024 Public Safety and Partnerships Division Update.
- Considerable work has been done to continue to advance the Restorative Justice Program within the City of Penticton and surrounding areas. There were 74 referrals this year which is 49% increase from last year.
- The Crime Reduction Unit continues to prioritize repeat offenders not only within the municipality, but in collaboration with regional detachments in the South Okanagan Similkameen. This collaboration resulted in the apprehension of a prolific repeat offender who is believed to be responsible for upwards of 50% of auto thefts (Ford F350).
- Proactive patrols and social media outreach, and collaboration with partners enabled officers to track and apprehend two individuals who are thought to be responsible for a series of break and enters throughout the city.

STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS

CONNECT- Vulnerable People with the Appropriate Supports

Integrated Crisis Response Team

Q4 marks the completion of one year since the inception of the Penticton RCMP Integrated Crisis Response Team ("ICRT"). A collaboration between the Penticton RCMP and Interior Health to provide the best response to those people within our community experiencing mental health and drug

addiction crisis. This multi-disciplinary team, of a police officer and nurse, has helped to alleviate frontline officers from responding to all calls for individuals experiencing crisis and freed officers up to respond to incidents that require a policing response.

During Q4 of this year the ICRT had 284 Client Contacts. Client Contacts consist of outreach, frontline referrals from officers, interior health referrals, follow up with previous clients, cell block assessments, meetings, and "other" category. (Q1=319, Q2= 427, Q3=281, Q4=284))

A review of the years data shows that the ICRT team had 1,311 Client Contacts.

When we review the data, we can see that the ICRT has seen a decline in repeat client contacts for services. This can be attributed to clients experiencing longer periods of stability, the implementation of more supportive care plans and connecting clients with the right resources. Ultimately, the results observed meet the primary objective of this collaborative approach; supporting those within the community experiencing mental health and addictions crisis. The Penticton RCMP looks forward to sharing additional results of this collaboration in 2025.

Restorative Justice Program

This dedicated program refers to "an approach to justice that seeks to repair harm by providing opportunity for those harmed and those who take responsibility for the harm to communicate about and address their needs in the aftermath of a crime". There has been considerable work to continue to enhance the Restorative Justice Program within the City of Penticton and Regional Area. There were 74 referrals made this year in comparison to 39 in 2023. There are 35 files that are currently active and 12 files that are being monitored as a Disposition Agreement was signed and it is being monitored by the program coordinator. This approach remains consistent with best practices and provides an alternative approach to law enforcement.

IMPACT- Crime Trends Through Intelligence Led Strategies

Auto Theft

During Q4, several multi-jurisdictional auto theft offenders were active in the Penticton area which caused a significant spike in the calls for service. Working in conjunction with other regional RCMP detachments many offenders believed to be contributing to this trend are currently in custody.

Ford F350s remained the top targeted vehicle model for thieves, accounting for 20% of all thefts and attempts. Notably, 77% of stolen vehicles were recovered. Penticton South Okanagan Regional RCMP and Community Policing shared social media messaging with the community to bring attention to this trend, inform the public on strategies to deter this type of crime, while sharing the results of police efforts within the Regional Detachment area.

The Penticton Crime Reduction Unit, prioritizes Repeat Offenders not only within the municipality, but works collaboratively with the regional detachments of the South Okanagan Similkameen to prioritize

those believed to be responsible for Auto Theft in the region. During Q4, a designated Repeat Offender was arrested for Auto theft within the region, and is believed to be responsible for upwards of 50% of the Ford Truck thefts.

Frontline officers were able to locate and arrest this individual, who remains in custody. It is unknown at this time when he will be released back into community.

Reviewing the five-year average (2019-2024) for Auto Theft the city is 8% below the 5 year average.

Break & Enter – Residence & Other

This quarter saw a series of break-ins to apartment common areas, particularly parkades. The Penticton RCMP became aware of a prolific offender from the lower mainland, who recently relocated to the area. This offender was arrested in late December 2024 and is currently in custody, facing charges in relation to 10 property related offences, and remains a suspect in several others. The city may see the results of this remand impact Break and Enter trends during Q1 2025. In total, 68% of all break-ins to other areas were to apartment common areas. Additionally, 27% of residential break-ins involved offenders using the residence for shelter without stealing any property, essentially squatting.

Reviewing the five-year average (2019-2024) for Break and Enter the following was determined: Break and Enter to Business is 32% below the 5-year average. Break and Enter to residence is 13% below the 5 year average, while Break and Enter Other is 8% above the previous 5 year average. Further examination determined that there were a "series" of Break and Enters that targeted apartment parkades and common areas by different property crime groups throughout Q3 and Q4.

Using this intelligence Frontline Officer and the Crime Reduction Unit conducted proactive patrols and worked to identify the individuals responsible for these "series". Officers were able to successfully identify and charge two individuals responsible for a number of these offences, one individual remains in custody while the other subject has strict court-imposed conditions that are currently monitored by officers and community partner agencies. Officers leveraged social media and local media outlets to identify these trends, provide strategies to target harden businesses and storage facilities in an effort to reduce further incidents.

Theft from Vehicle

The increase in theft from vehicles may be related to the apartment parkade break-ins. Six incidents involved the theft of garage door openers, which may have been used later to access apartment parkades. Overall, 32% of all thefts from vehicles occurred at apartment buildings, including both secure and insecure parking areas. Seven buildings targeted for break-ins also reported thefts from vehicles. There may also be a correlation between the increase in theft from vehicles and the increase in auto theft, as license plates were the most commonly stolen property from vehicles, involved in 15% of thefts. Furthermore, 27% of vehicles from which items were stolen were left insecure, 24% involved

theft from the exterior of the vehicle (such as license plates and fuel), and 19% involved windows being broken to gain entry.

Reviewing the five year average (2019-2024) Theft from Vehicle is 45% below the previous 5 year average. Frontline Officers continue to patrol in hot spot locations, public messaging and collaboration with bylaws are strategies that remain a constant in community to address crime trends and deter additional criminal activities.

Utter Threats

Regarding utter threats, 29% of threats occurred while the victim was carrying out their employment duties. Additionally, 57% of threats involved parties previously known to each other. Four individuals were repeatedly involved in threats, resulting in multiple files created. Six incidents involved intimate partner violence, all between couples who were not together at the time the threats were made. There were also two additional incidents where an ex-partner threatened their ex's new partner.

DRIVE- Results Together Through Engagement and Partnership

Community Policing/Crime Prevention

During Q4 the Community Policing Team has been heavily engaged in crime prevention presentations within the South Okanagan Similkameen Regional Detachment and are inclusive of Penticton.

Presentations were completed to community groups, seniors and member of the Penticton Indian Band in relation to Fraud, Online Scams and Cyber crimes. Additional Inadmissible Patrons on boarding training was completed to support local hotels that recently joined the program.

Crime Reduction

Frontline officers remain dedicated to proactive hot spot patrols during Q4, conducting 232 hours of proactive patrols in identified crime hotspots throughout the city. Since the inception of the "hot spot" crime reduction strategy (April 2024) frontline officers have dedicated 626 hours of proactive patrols in identified hot spot crime areas within the city. As a result of dedicated hours in these "hot spot", data has shown that this approach has consistently decreased crime in these impacted areas.

In May of 2024 the Penticton South Okanagan Similkameen Regional RCMP created its first social media page, using RCMP approved social media platform, Facebook. This communication strategy was initiated after receiving significant feedback during community consultation that the RCMP needed to enhance its external communications with the community. Since it's inception there has been 192 social media posts, sharing crime reduction strategies, acknowledging community events/holidays, sharing RCMP media releases and providing public safety notifications. What was new this year for the RCMP was a collaboration with the City of Penticton Communications Team, under the Public Safety and Partnerships portfolio. This approach facilitated an opportunity to show

case through social media, the partnership and collaboration between the RCMP, Fire Department, Bylaw Services and other departments within the City of Penticton.


Partnerships






Members of the Penticton RCMP continue to collaborate with community partners to address issues in relation to (but not limited to) Mental Health, Addictions, the unhoused, seniors and youth. Members of the ICRT continue to engage with shelter operators and Interior Health in an effort to stay connected to those using shelter facilities with complex care issues.

Members of the Penticton RCMP Leadership Team meet regularly with the Penticton Indian Band Chief and Council, Regional District, Fire Department, By Laws, Penticton and Wine Country Chamber of Commerce, 100 More Homes, Penticton Industrial Association, Penticton Downtown Business Association, School District 67, the Ministry for Children and Family, the Foundry, South Okanagan Women in Needs, Interior Health, BC Prosecution Service and many other valuable partners within Community. Constant engagement and consultation are essential to ensure our officers are engaged in crime prevention, identifying community needs, addressing police transparency, service delivery and maintaining a sense of safety within community.

2024 Metrics

The following includes standardized indicators from the Canadian Police Performance Metrics Framework. All indicators relate to the City of Penticton:

<i>Calls for Service</i>	Q4 2023	Q4 2024	% Change 2023 to 2024
Total Calls for Service	3,846	4,044	 5%

<i>Violent Crime</i>	Q4 2023	Q4 2024	% Change 2023 to 2024
Assault (Common & With Weapon/Cause Bodily Harm)	115	114	 -1%
Sex Offences	42	33	 -21%
Uttering Threats	49	69	 41%
Intimate Partner Violence (Violent Crime Only)	49	57	 16%
Violent Crime - Total	241	259	 7%

Property Crime	Q4 2023	Q4 2024	% Change 2023 to 2024
Auto Theft	27	60	122%
Bicycle Theft	22	24	9%
Break & Enter - Business	35	28	-20%
Break & Enter - Residence	7	22	214%
Break & Enter - Other	10	37	270%
Mischief to Property	360	262	-27%
Theft - Other	88	117	33%
Shoplifting	112	116	4%
Theft from Vehicle	55	119	116%
Fraud	79	96	22%
Property Crime - Total	823	925	12%

Criminal Code & CDSA	Q4 2023	Q4 2024	% Change 2023 to 2024
Total Criminal Code & CDSA Files	1,410	1,591	13%

Top 10 Calls for Service - Penticton Detachment (Municipal)	
Initial Call Type	# of Calls
Unwanted Person	531
Check Wellbeing	346
Theft	323
Disturbance	275
Suspicious Circumstances	236
Assist Other Agency	198
Traffic Incident	195
Alarm	189
Abandoned 911	174
Suspicious Person	154

SELECTED ANNUAL CRIME STATISTICS – 2019 TO 2024

Violent Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average (2019 to 2023)	Sparkline (2019 - 2024)
Assault (Common & With Weapon/Cause Bodily Harm)	436	352	459	489	503	493	448	
Sex Offences	99	109	119	152	239	174	144	
Uttering Threats	236	223	294	219	239	286	242	
Intimate Partner Violence (Violent Crime Only)	169	165	144	139	168	169	157	
Violent Crime - Total	934	906	979	1007	1077	1112	981	

<i>Property Crime</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average (2019 to 2023)	Sparkline (2019 - 2024)
Auto Theft	311	178	171	172	131	178	193	
Bicycle Theft	202	149	127	161	108	112	149	
Break & Enter - Business	264	200	171	182	116	127	187	
Break & Enter - Residence	148	91	71	57	52	73	84	
Break & Enter - Other	123	78	88	71	39	86	80	
Mischief to Property	1477	1345	1867	1673	1675	1163	1607	
Theft - Other	491	411	413	401	378	438	419	
Shoplifting	460	394	394	470	435	484	431	
Theft from Vehicle	983	825	570	510	357	355	649	
Fraud	335	374	349	296	340	331	339	
Property Crime - Total	5061	4279	4410	4185	3796	3501	4205	

Conclusion:

The metrics and data presented in this report are continuously monitored and utilized by the Penticton RCMP to guide our evidence-based decisions and responses to crime and public safety. This includes advocating for systemic changes at both the Provincial and National levels. The Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Penticton RCMP is committed to driving transformative change, with a focus on sustainable workloads, appropriate staffing levels, modernizing police services, operational excellence and the well-being of all members of the Penticton Detachment. By prioritizing the welfare of our personnel and leveraging intelligence and data-driven enforcement to allocate limited resources effectively, the Penticton RCMP is committed to "Policing for Greater Impact" in our community.

Attachments

Attachment A – Quarterly Report

Attachment B- RCMP 5 Year Data

Respectfully submitted,

B.McAndie (0.3263)

Superintendent Beth McAndie
Officer in Charge

Penticton South Okanagan Similkameen Regional RCMP Detachment
Concurrence

Concurrence

City Manager

AH