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MEDICINE HAT
POLICE SERVICE
ANNUAL
REPORT



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

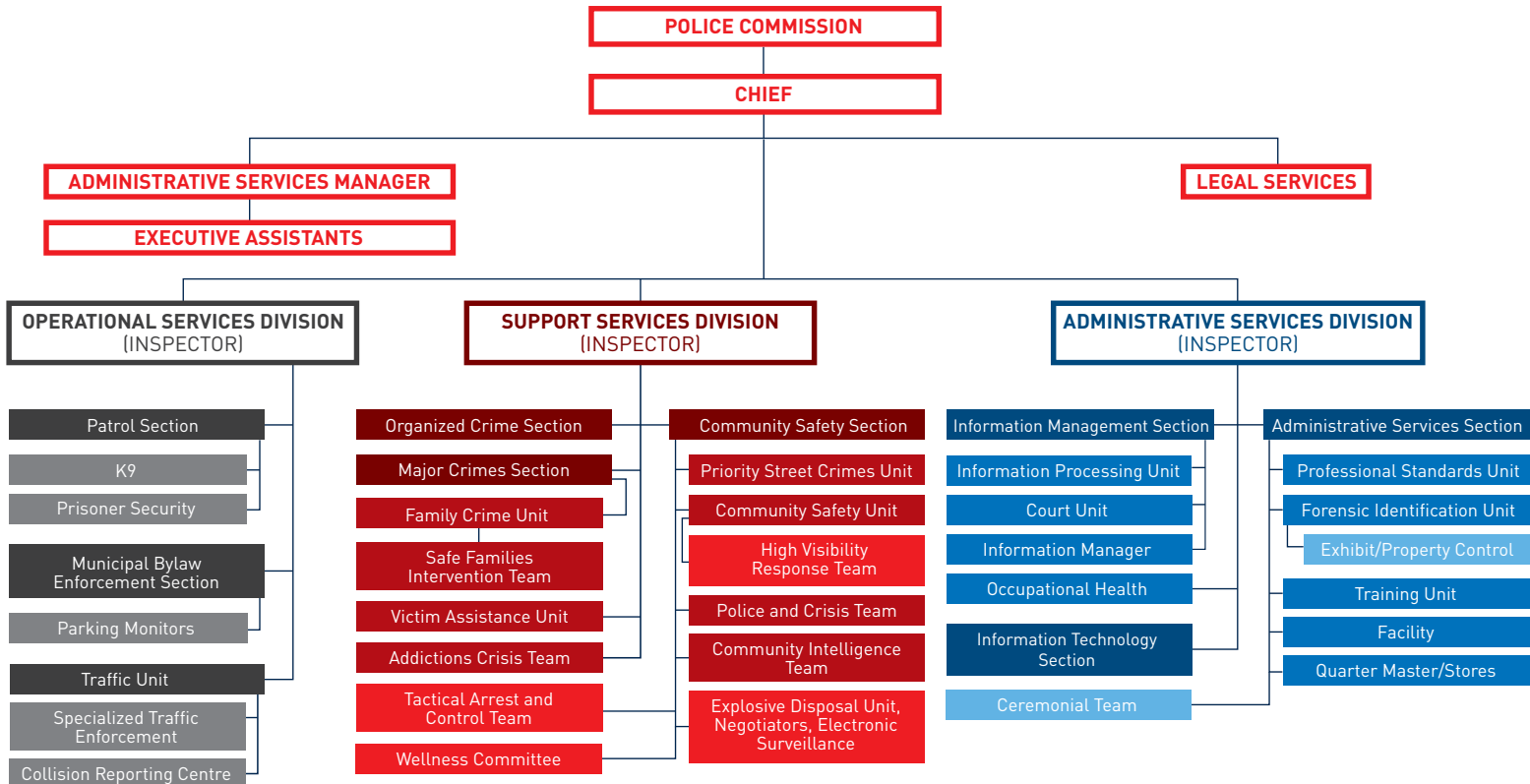




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OUR VISION

is to optimize the
safety and security
of our community

MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE COMMISSION

On behalf of the Medicine Hat Police Commission, it is an honour to serve our community's citizens in our role on the Police Commission, the duties of which are prescribed under the provisions of the Police Act. Comprised of five civilians from the community and two city council members, we meet with the Chief of Police and the Executive Team regularly to work together to provide governance and oversight of the Service's strategic objectives.

The Commission is an active member of the Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG), and as such, it hosted a meeting of the AAPG in the city in early May. The conference was attended by Police Commissions and Boards across the Province, meeting two of its key objectives by supporting excellence in civilian governance of police services and facilitating educational opportunities for members to acquire information and knowledge about their roles and responsibilities.



Mr. Dan MacDonald, our public-complaints director, whose duties also are outlined in the Police Act, played a key role in our oversight activities by working closely with the Service and Community on a number of public complaints. Dan's civilian status and arm's-length relationship enhanced public confidence as he navigated several complex matters throughout the year.

The Commission values the Chief and his Executive Team's dedication and efforts – as well as those of other employees, members and volunteers – as they successfully worked towards meeting all the objectives outlined in the Service's strategic plan. Finally, a special thank you to our past chair, Mr. Greg Keen, whose tenure expired after six years of dedicated service to the community through his role. Greg brought a very diverse skill set through his background in corrections and leadership from his pastoral duties. He will be missed as we journey forward.

Mrs. Sandy Redden, *Chair*
Medicine Hat Police Commission

L to R

Chair Mrs. Sandy Redden, Councillor Julie Friesen, Vice Chair Mr. Terry Meidinger, Mr. Miles Thorson, Mr. Ted Rodych, Councillor Robert Dumanowski and Mrs. Mandi Campbell. *Missing: Public Complaints Director Dan MacDonald*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am pleased to report another year of growth and success for the Medicine Hat Police Service. The annual report's purpose is to report our activities through the Police Commission to the community that we serve. In 2019, we created our first four-year strategic plan, which was aligned with a four-year budget. Previously, we budgeted annually or every two years, depending on what the City of Medicine Hat requested through the Council. Our environment rapidly changes in areas such as the economy, technology, legislative bodies, collective agreements and provincial and federal budgets. These factors can greatly affect our funding and our ability to plan and connect dollars to activities effectively.

I often have said that we essentially comprise two things: people and information. On the people side, we hired an experienced officer and seven civilian staff to replace those who left due to other opportunities or retirement. Hiring new people adds diverse experience and perspectives that only enhances our ability to serve the community.

After careful planning and technological integration, we successfully implemented electronic ticketing. This is the first significant change to the ticketing process since I started policing in 1980, and although no one likes to receive a ticket, electronic tickets save a great deal of time for officers, processing staff and those receiving a ticket at the roadside.

Resulting from changes to impaired-driving legislation that went into effect in December 2018, we observed an increase in the number of Immediate Roadside Sanctions (IRS) that have been issued to motorists with a blood alcohol level ranging from .05mg% to 0.1mg%. Detection rates more than doubled from the previous two years. As road safety is one of our strategic pillars, mandatory alcohol screening (MAS) will lead to safer roads, i.e., until those driving impaired believe they probably will be detected, rather than possibly be detected, the habit will not be weakened.

In an effort to communicate more effectively with our community, the Service launched a mobile app, which improved access to police resources and information, allowing residents to stay connected to the MHPS and informed about media-release information, alerts and community safety concerns.

One of our most effective initiatives was the initiation of dedicated downtown foot patrols. The Priority Street Crime Unit (PSCU) was temporarily disbanded to allow the Service to redeploy five officers to the downtown area to enhance safety and the feeling of safety in our downtown core, which had been experiencing a rise in crime, mostly due to the proliferation of illicit drugs, mainly methamphetamine. The downside was that the PSCU mandate was put on hold, and many of the successful initiatives that they completed had to be delayed through the

summer months. The Service is examining different ways to accomplish the same downtown goals without interrupting the PSCU's necessary work.

Methamphetamine continues to ravage our community. The amount of methamphetamine seized almost doubled, and the social disruption caused by those consuming the drug affected safety and the feeling of safety in the community immensely. The behavior exhibited by those using the drug can best be described as unpredictable, dangerous and outrageous. The increase in meth use is linked directly to crimes across the city, including reckless driving of stolen vehicles, break-ins and thefts.

Our environment's complexity has strained our staff, as they are responding to individuals who have complex needs that require a more intense and collaborative approach. I am very thankful for our staff and volunteers' efforts as I close out my tenure as the Chief of Police in November 2020. My most enriching memories will be of all those who worked so very hard on a purpose and calling far greater than simply receiving a paycheck. I only can describe our people as dedicated, outstanding professionals.



Andy McGrogan
Chief of Police





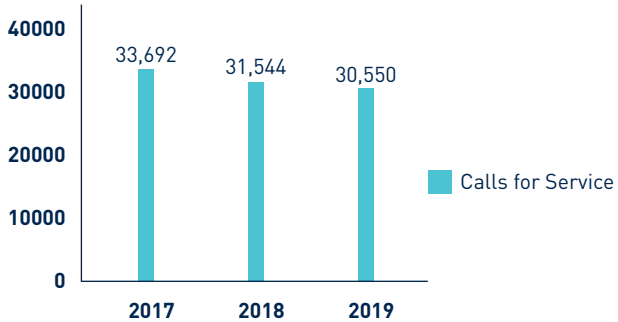
SERVING & PROTECTING

our community with pride
through professional and
progressive policing

PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY

Calls for Service

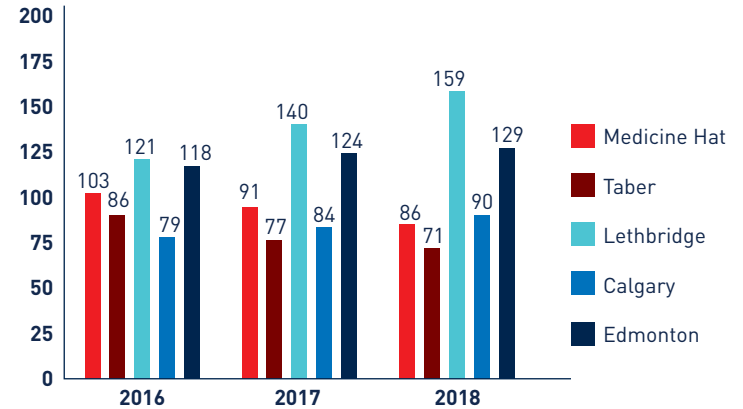
The total number of calls for service decreased by approximately 3%, from 31,544 in 2018 to 30,550 in 2019.



[Source: Versadex Records Management System]

Crime Severity Index

The crime severity index is calculated using incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) data.

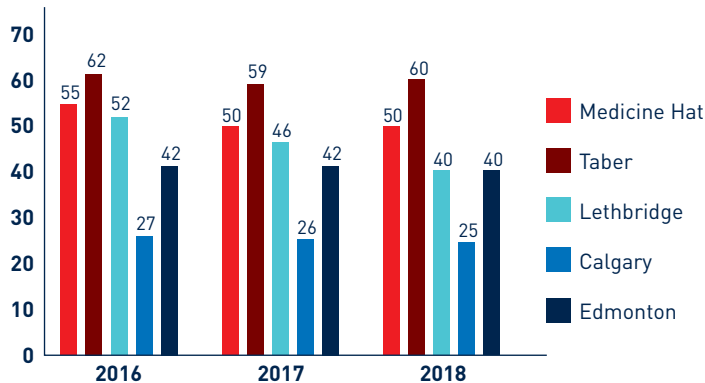


[Source: Statistic Canada CANSIM Table 252-0088]

PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY

Weighted Clearance Rates

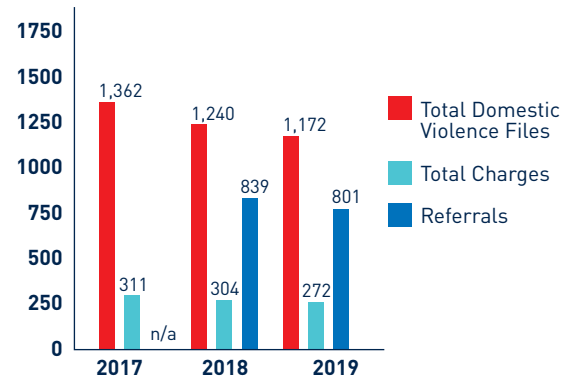
The weighted clearance rate is based on the same principles as the Police Reported Crime Severity Index (PRCSI), whereby more serious offences are assigned a higher “weight” than less serious offences. For example, the clearing of homicides, robberies or break-and-enters would represent a greater contribution to the overall weighted clearance-rate value than the clearing of minor theft, mischief or disturbing the peace.



[Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 252-088]

Safe Families Intervention Team

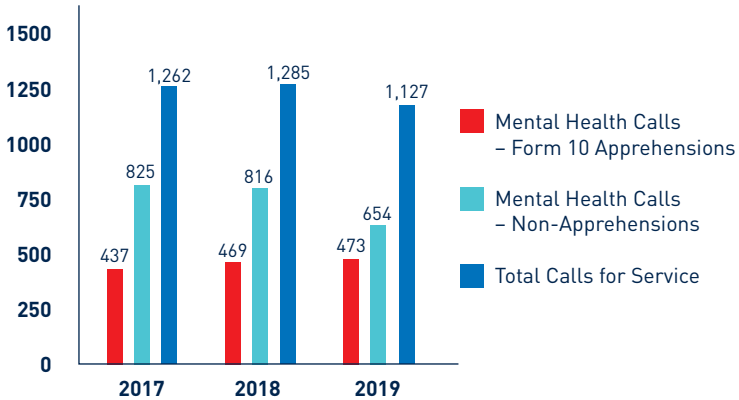
Family violence is a complex issue, and it is difficult to obtain a complete picture of the extent of family violence because it often goes unreported. Overall, in Medicine Hat, between 2017 and 2019, the MHPS has observed a downward trend in the number of domestic violence charges and domestic violence-related police files. While the trend is promising, the MHPS recognizes the importance of continuing efforts in the community through collaborative partnerships to further reduce the incidence of family violence and promote healthy relationships, attitudes and families.



[Source: Versadex Records Management System]

PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mental Health Diversion



[Source: Versadex Records Management System]

Addictions Crisis Team

The Addictions Crisis Team (ACT) is a partnership between the Canadian Mental Health Association and the MHPS. The team is comprised of two addiction workers and a police officer. ACT is responsible for responding to individuals who are experiencing crisis behavior due to addiction, stabilizing the individual's addiction through streamlined access to community resources and reducing reliance on emergency services. In 2019, ACT changed its focus to approaching clients in MHPS custody, which accounted for an increase in clients accepting ACT services.

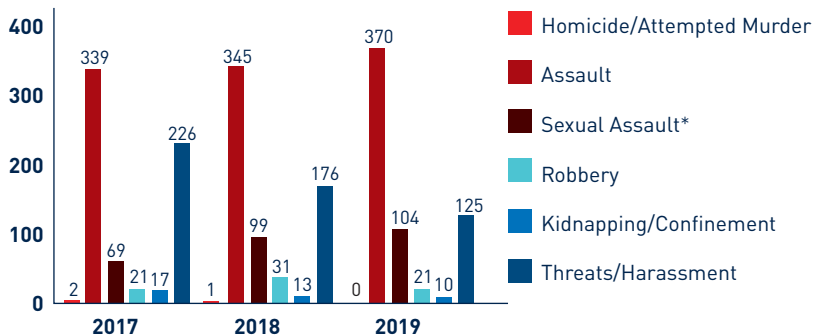
ACT Clients Assisted	2018	2019
Clients who accepted ACT Services from MHPS cells	40	106
Clients who accepted service from cold calls	16	2
Clients who accepted service from community engagement activities	37	62
Total Clients	93	170

PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY

Major Crimes Section

The Major Crimes Section (MCS) investigated numerous sexual assaults, robberies, arsons and serious fraud offences. Historical sexual assaults and child sexual assaults comprise the largest portion of the investigations received and completed by MCS members.

In December, MCS investigators charged a 53-year-old Medicine Hat man in connection with an attempted sexual assault against an adult female. The offender was believed to have given the female a drug to overpower her and commit the sexual assault. Further investigation into this offender led police to conduct inquiries into this male's background and to identify and interview other potential victims. This resulted in the male being charged with one additional count of attempted sexual assault, one count of administering an overpowering substance against a different female victim that occurred earlier in December, as well as two additional counts of sexual assault and two counts of administering an overpowering substance against two other females in July.



[Source: Versadex RMS Search * UCR code 13* "Reported"]

Sexual Assaults

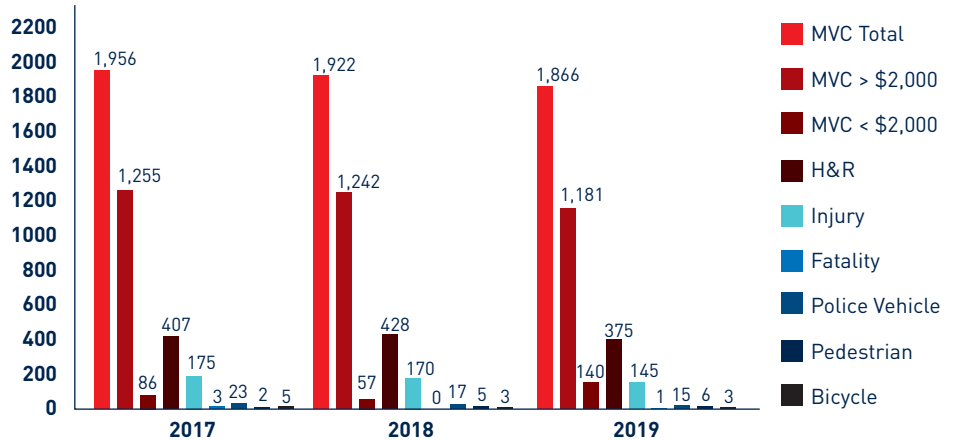
The MHPS experienced an increase in the number of reported sexual assaults year over year from 2017 to 2019. However, this rise does not necessarily reflect a rise in the prevalence of sexual assaults in the community, but likely is more attributable to an increase in the number of victims willing to report to police, due to victims being provided with more community support and encouragement to report a sexual assault. Furthermore, ongoing community conversations surrounding the #MeToo movement's viral nature since the fall of 2017 have helped encourage sexual assault victims to come forward.



PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY



Road Safety



Impaired Driving

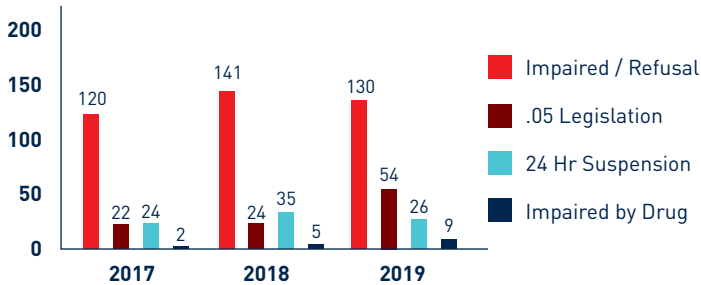
While year-to-date criminally impaired driving charges have remained rather consistent in recent years, the MHPS observed an increase in the number of Immediate Roadside Sanctions (IRS) issued to motorists with a blood alcohol level ranging between .05mg% and 0.1mg% since Mandatory Alcohol Screening (MAS) became law December 18, 2018. In 2019, the MHPS issued 54 suspensions under the Alberta .05 legislation, which is more than double the totals for previous years.

Another increase related to the implementation of MAS is the number of daytime impaired-driving arrests, with 44 of the 130 impaired-driving arrests occurring between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. This is a significant concern, as over 33% of

PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY

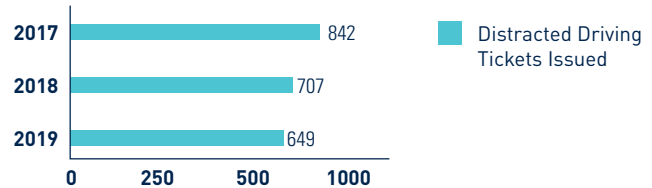
those stopped for impaired driving were operating during daytime hours, when roadways are at their busiest, and the risk to the public is at its highest. While the overall impaired numbers have remained consistent with pre-MAS numbers, the MHPS finds that MAS allows officers to better detect drivers who can mask their impairment.

Impaired by Drug charges have increased in the past three years, to a high of nine in 2019. The rise likely is due to an increased recognition of signs of drug-induced impairment. Most Impaired by Drug charges have come from enforcement by the Traffic Unit, which receives specialized Drug Recognition Expert training, as well as Standard Field Sobriety Testing.



Distracted Driving

The MHPS continues to educate and carry out enforcement to deter distracted driving. The Traffic Unit and the Patrol Section have employed strategies to assist in the detection of distracted drivers. Enforcement continues to be a challenge, as the offence can be difficult to prove. The number of distracted driving violations issued decreased by 8% in 2019 as compared to 2018.



Automated Traffic Enforcement

In the spring of 2019, the MHPS conducted an internal review of Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) operations to ensure that the program remains in compliance with the provincial ATE Guidelines. These guidelines outline the criteria for selecting ATE sites and state that enforcement sites must meet at least one of the following six categories: school/playground zone; area of public concern; regular patrol enforcement is unsafe or ineffective; history of collisions; history of documented speeding; or construction zones.

PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY

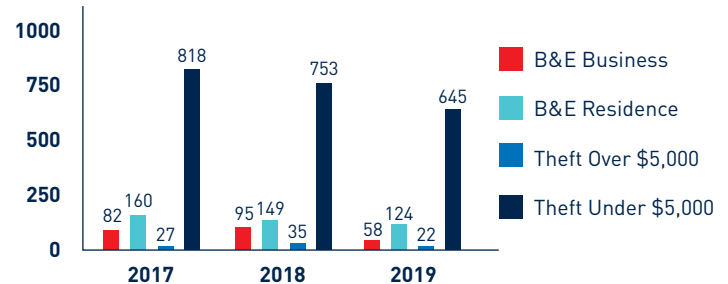
All 162 active photo radar sites were reviewed using the following considerations: school/playground zones; collision data; enforcement statistics (ATE and conventional enforcement); and public-complaints data. As a result, several active sites were eliminated, as they no longer met the criteria. In each case, this was due to the elimination of public concern and a lack of documented speeding and collisions. This indicates that ATE at these locations was effective in reducing the frequency of speeding and enhancing public safety. As ATE sites have become specific to areas of concern, the volume of vehicles monitored has decreased, but this focused activity has resulted in an increase in violations issued in these specific areas of concern.

	2017	2018	2019
Vehicles Monitored	1,026,030	956,725	926,316
Violations Issued	24,967	21,166	23,475
Average Speed Over the Limit	14 km/hr	14 km/hr	14 km/hr
Number of Sites Monitored	158	162	98

PROACTIVE DIRECTED PATROLS

Property Offences

A significant decrease in both residential and commercial break-and-enters has occurred. The decrease's exact cause is not known, but may be attributed to Patrol Teams' increased offender accountability checks, as well as the incarceration of specific prolific offenders known for these types of offences.



(Source: Versadex Records Management System)

PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY

Priority Street Crimes Unit

The Priority Street Crimes Unit (PSCU) was redeployed to the downtown foot patrol unit for a four month period to respond to community concerns relating to increased fear of crime in the area. As a result of the redeployment, a noticeable decrease in offender accountability checks and arrests occurred. Even though PSCU operated for only eight months in 2019, the Unit was successful in recovering an estimated \$358,191 in stolen property, seizing \$77,005 in illicit drugs and yielding 180 criminal charges from 28 criminal investigations. These investigations included property offences, break-and-enters, forgery, weapons offences, trafficking stolen property, trafficking methamphetamine and fentanyl, counterfeiting and crime proceeds.

	2017	2018	2019
Offender Accountability Checks	264	459	51
Offender Accountability Arrests	158	136	47
Offender Accountability Breach Charges	459	400	209
Criminal Charges Laid	151	178	180
Value of Drugs Seized	\$59,815	\$11,476	\$77,005
Value of Property Recovered	\$447,180	\$571,625	\$358,191



PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY

Municipal Bylaw Enforcement

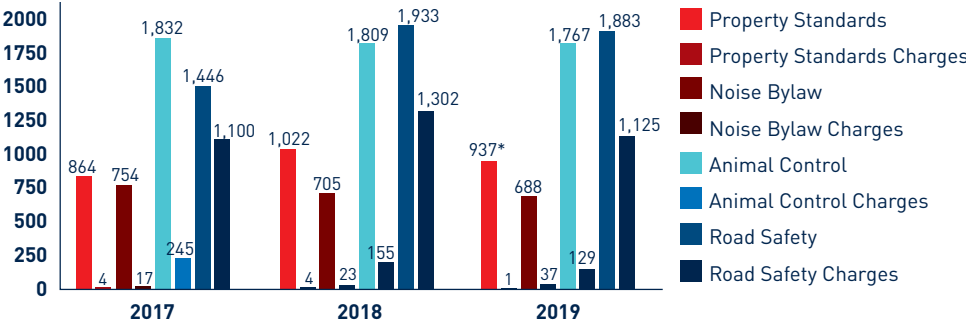
The Bylaw Enforcement Section attended to 6,978 complaints in 2019, 5,882 of which were bylaw complaints. Bylaw calls for service increased by 13% since 2016, and for the second year in a row, they also increased proactive efforts.

In 2016, the Bylaw Section initiated a project aimed at inspecting every residential property in the City of Medicine Hat, with a goal of helping all neighborhoods comply with community standards. Three years later, this goal was fully achieved and several repeat

offenders were identified. This information has helped the Section fine-tune its approach, which has resulted in a more efficient process to remedy concerns. The community has recognized these efforts, and the Section has received positive feedback about the work that has been addressed and completed.

Additionally, in an effort to further improve relationships with community members, the Section introduced a consistent call-back process for every complaint attended to ensure that community members were aware of and satisfied with the response to concerns.

Bylaw Calls for Service



[Source: MHPS Records Management System]* In 2019, sidewalk enforcement moved to Public Roads Bylaw from Property Standards



6,168
Parking
Violations



1,900
Documents
Served



6,978
Total Calls
for Service



1,642
Fingerprints
Processed

[Source: MHPS Records Management System]

PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY

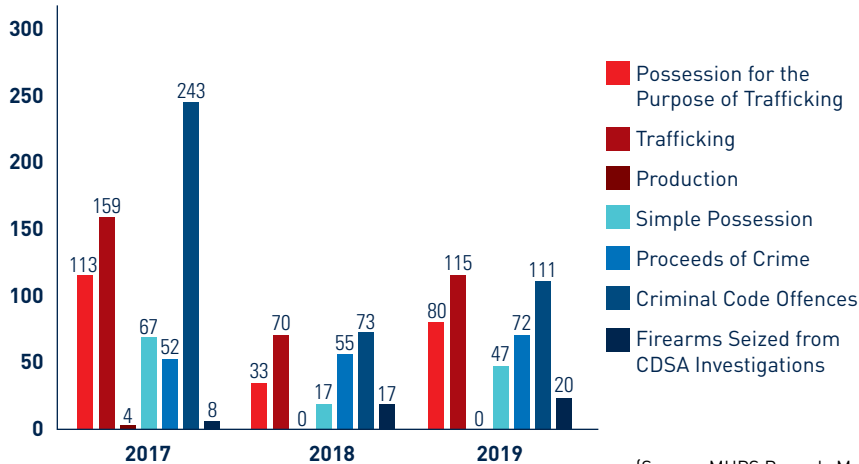
Organized Crime Section

The Organized Crime Section (OCS) is a joint unit comprising personnel from the MHPS and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). This team falls under the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT), which were established by Alberta in 2006 to combat organized and serious crime.



The OCS seized 20 firearms stemming directly from Controlled Drugs and Substances Act Investigations, and observed a 94% increase in methamphetamine seized, compared with 2018.

Methamphetamine use is becoming more common in communities across Western Canada, including Medicine Hat, due to its accessibility, affordability and the drug's addictive nature. The increase in methamphetamine use is linked to an increase in other crimes across the city, including reckless drivers of stolen vehicles, break-and-enters and thefts.

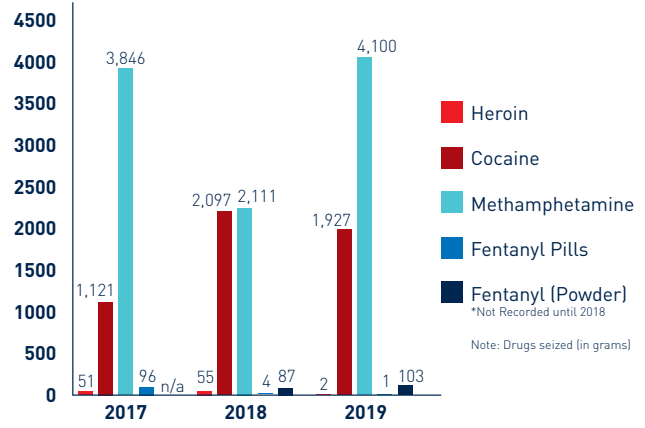


(Source: MHPS Records Management System)

PRIORITY #1: COMMUNITY SAFETY



Drugs Seized



	2017	2018	2019
Total Value of Drugs	\$492,577	\$396,787	\$545,807
Total Value of Cash	\$50,973	\$49,608	\$103,672

(Source: MHPS Records Management System)

PRIORITY #2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Foot Patrol Unit

A temporary uniformed foot patrol unit was added to the downtown core over the summer to address public behavior concerns and increase the feeling of safety for residents and businesses in the area. The unit was comprised of four constables and a supervisor, redeployed from the Priority Street Crimes Unit, providing an increased police presence in the area and enforcing laws and bylaws to address nuisance/disrespectful behavior and traffic and parking issues while building relationships with those who frequent the area and enhancing partnerships with other community service providers.

The unit was in operation from June until September inclusive and reported the following:

Bylaw Tickets Issued:	<u>19</u>
Provincial Tickets Issued:	<u>37</u>
Criminal Charges Laid:	<u>21</u>
CDSA Charges Laid:	<u>13</u>
Warrants Executed:	<u>34</u>

Although the Police Service has yet to determine the complete efficacy of the redeployment of resources, anecdotal information suggests that the temporary assignment was successful in addressing public safety concerns in the downtown core.



PRIORITY #2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Citizens' Police Academy

The MHPs hosted the fourth annual Citizens' Police Academy (CPA). The CPA's goal is to engage all sectors of the community and build positive police ambassadors through awareness and education. Nineteen community members participated in

the 10-week class. Topics included an overview of uniformed police operations, specialty teams, major crime investigations, the tactical team, explosives disposal unit, firearms shooting, community safety initiatives and emerging crime trends.



PRIORITY #2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Victim Assistance Unit

The Victim Assistance Unit's (VAU) provincial Victims of Crime grant increased from \$150,000/year to \$300,000/year for 2019/2020. The extra funding provided the unit with the ability to expand outreach services and build capacity to work from a trauma-informed lens while providing services to some of the most vulnerable crime victims in the community.

In 2019, MHPS VAU added a full-time licensed Registered Social Worker (RSW) as a Victims Assistance Navigation Specialist (VANS) to complement the VAU staff and volunteer base. This position provides the unit with the ability to improve client-centred care and trauma-informed practice in the unit when working with all crime victims, including those with complex needs.

A new file-management process was developed via a task-based list to streamline office procedures, utilizing the Victim Services Client Management database's capabilities. Three volunteers worked together over the summer months to resolve any problems and successfully implemented the new procedure in September. The new process provides clients with faster and more streamlined service with real-time information.

Training Unit

The Training Unit coordinated 89 different training courses, conferences, and workshops attended by MHPS staff in 2019. MHPS members participated in 5,698 hours of external training. In addition, there was an average of 42 hours/full-time employee (FTE) staff member, of in-service training, including bi-annual Firearms and Control Tactics/Officer Safety Training, as well as Emergency Vehicle Operations, K-9, Tactical Arrest Control Team, Explosive Disposal Unit, and Negotiator trainings. This does not include those courses offered through the Canadian Police Knowledge Network, which equate to an average of 39 hours/FTE staff member.

Year End Total 2019



Crisis Call out:
102



Information
Packages sent: **1,730**



In Station Visits: **139**
Home Visits: **69**



Community & Agency
Referrals: **351**



Court Prep &
Orientation: **87**
Trial Support: **81**



Files Opened: **2,074**
People Helped: **1,760**



Call-Out: **4**
Court Support: **23**
Testimonial Aid: **19**
In Station: **13**



Police/Forensic
Interviews: **114**
Community Outreach: **3,760**
Decline of Service: **25**

PRIORITY #3: HUMAN RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY



Electronic Ticketing Pilot Project

In March, the MHPS initiated an electronic ticketing pilot program for traffic-related offences. The new process utilizes card scan and printing technology mounted in the police officer's vehicle that adds driver's licence and vehicle information to the ticket. The technology also adds details about the offence, including fine amounts, court appearance and payment due dates. It is anticipated that the new system will speed up the ticketing process and decrease the number of tickets cancelled due to administrative errors.

Additional staff efficiencies are realized, as clerical staff are not required to enter ticket information into various record-management systems manually and could be redeployed to other areas of responsibility.

These e-tickets closely resemble those issued by specialized traffic enforcement, but without a photo attached, and enhance the legibility of offenders' copies. The police copy, including the issuing officer's notes, is saved in electronic form (as opposed to paper files), providing additional cost savings and a reduction in our environmental impact.

The pilot project involved four members of the MHPS Traffic Unit, who tested the new technology and provided feedback to the MHPS Information Technology Section. While the pilot program demonstrated success in meeting MHPS operational requirements, integration into the provincial system was delayed before it could be expanded to the remainder of the MHPS fleet. A full rollout is anticipated in the first quarter of 2020.

PRIORITY #3: HUMAN RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Mobile App

The MHPS was pleased to provide the community with improved access to police resources and information via a free mobile device application. The Mobile app consolidates all MHPS communication channels into a single-source, easy-to-navigate platform that allows residents to remain connected to the MHPS and informed about media-release information, alerts and community safety concerns. The app contains information about the City of Medicine Hat bylaws, what to do when a motor vehicle collision occurs, forms and applications, and a list of frequently asked questions.

Individuals can report six types of crimes online; view found property; submit tips relating to crime, drugs and bylaw offences; and help the MHPS locate missing and wanted persons, and identify criminals caught on camera.

To ensure that residents stay safe and are aware of city crime trends, the app provides links to calls for service and crime maps. Once downloaded by the user, the app will allow the MHPS to send push notifications directly to individual devices during emergency events.

The MHPS app is free to download and available for both Apple and Android devices by searching "Medicine Hat Police Service" on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



MHPS Mobile App
Downloads =
5,291

MEDICINE HAT POLICE SERVICE

MHPS MOBILE

STAY CONNECTED. STAY INFORMED. STAY SAFE.

News > Alerts > Report Crime > Submit a Tip > View Found Property

Download the Medicine Hat Police Service App for free @

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Download on the App Store

The promotional graphic features the Medicine Hat Police Service crest and logo at the top. Below the logo, the text "MHPHS MOBILE" is prominently displayed. A navigation menu lists "News > Alerts > Report Crime > Submit a Tip > View Found Property". The central image shows a hand holding a smartphone displaying the app's interface, which includes icons for "Crime Reporting", "Submit a Tip", "Crimes & Alerts", "Missing & Wanted", "Bylaw & Appeals", "Property Claims", "Vehicle Registration", "Forms & Applications", "Collision Guide", and "Police App Check". At the bottom, there are instructions to download the app for free, along with the Google Play and App Store logos.

PRIORITY #3: HUMAN RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Human Resources

Engagements

Laura Deschamps
Shari Gudlaugson
Ali Hutchinson
Cst. Chan Lee
Alastair Smith
Aime Snazel
Carrie Stober
Mike Wall

Resignations

Liz Burritt
Mark Fentiman
Cst. Joel Pullman
Cst. Cole Willier

Retirements

S/Sgt. Brian Christmann
Karen Eisenbarth
Tannis Henchel-Roth
Sgt. Tim Schottner
Cst. Craig Weich
Sgt. Byron Witkowski

Medals Received

30-Year Bar

S/Sgt. Brian Christmann *(from 2018)*
Sgt. Ernie Fischhofer

20-Year Alberta Medal

S/Sgt. Darcy Brandt *(from 2018)*
S/Sgt. Chad Holt *(from 2017)*
Cst. Roger Page *(from 2018)*
Cst. Brad Rivard
Cst. Jason Ross
Sgt. Tony Schmidt
Sgt. Gerald Sadlemyer
Cst. Kenton Shilka *(from 2018)*
Cst. Jason Van Mulligen *(from 2017)*

20-Year Canadian Medal

S/Sgt. Darcy Brandt *(from 2018)*
S/Sgt. Chad Holt *(from 2017)*
Cst. Darryl Hubich
Cst. Roger Page *(from 2018)*
Cst. Brad Rivard *(from 2018)*
Cst. Jason Ross
Cst. Kenton Shilka *(from 2018)*
S/Sgt. Rod Thompson *(from 2018)*
Cst. Jason Van Mulligen *(from 2017)*
Sgt. Carissa Witkowski

10-Year MHPS Medal

Cst. Rob Angstadt *(from 2018)*
Cst. Michelle Brunet *(from 2018)*
Cst. Noel Darr *(from 2016)*
Cst. Marie Guerard *(from 2018)*
Sgt. Darren Lole
Cst. Matt Sanders
Cst. Dominic Scrimger
Cst. Mel Seelye *(from 2018)*
Cst. Tyrell Vaughan *(from 2017)*
Cst. Kevin Weisgerber
Cst. Adrian Williams

City of Medicine Hat Milestones

10 Years

Cst. Blair Knight
Cst. Kurtis LaDouceur
Sgt. Darren Lole
Cst. Matt Sanders
Alycia Sas
Cst. Dominic Scrimger
Cst. Kevin Weisgerber

15 Years

Cst. Marshall Armstrong
Sgt. Brian Bohrn
Katherine Moch
S/Sgt. Ryan Thorburn
Sgt. Clarke White

20 Years

Cst. Brad Rivard
Cst. Jason Ross
Sgt. Gerald Sadlemyer
Sgt. Tony Schmidt
Insp. Brent Secondiak

25 Years

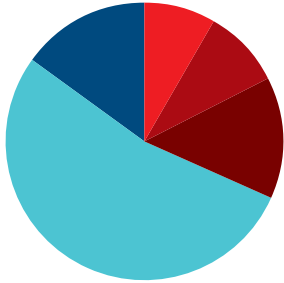
Bev Enslin

30 Years

Tina Dattenberger
Cindy Opalinski

PRIORITY #3: HUMAN RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Years of Service



- 9** Less than 2 years
- 10** 2-4 years
- 15** 5-9 years
- 57** 10-19 years
- 16** 20+ years

Authorized Strength

113

Actual Strength

107

Gender Demographics of Police Officers

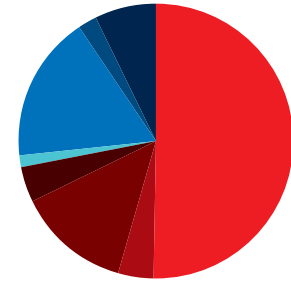
94

Male

13

Female

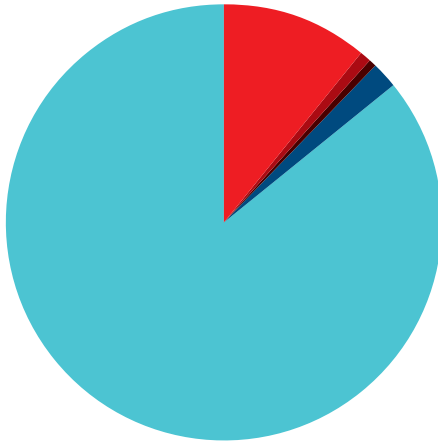
Medicine Hat Police Service Staff



- 107** Police Officers
- 9** Community Peace Officers
- 28** Civilians
- 9** Casuals
- 3** Contracts
- 36** Victim Assistance Volunteers
- 5** Auxiliary Volunteers
- 15** Parks & Trails Ambassadors

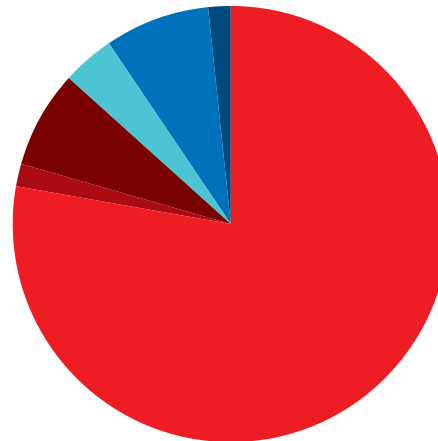
BUDGET

Funding



\$ 2,715	Government Grants
\$ 191	Internal Recovery
\$ 122	Sale of Goods and Services
\$ 520	Other Misc. Revenue
\$21,076	Tax Supports
\$24,624	Total <i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>

Expenditures



\$19,217	Salaries and Benefits
\$ 397	Other Personnel Costs
\$ 1,789	Contracted Services
\$ 948	Materials and Supplies
\$ 1,893	Internal Charges
\$ 380	Interest and Amortization
\$24,624	Total <i>(in thousands of dollars)</i>

POLICE ACT AND CRIMINAL COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

Internal Investigations

The Service investigates complaints received from the public, as well as those that are initiated internally. Complaints can be Criminal/Statutory in nature and/or identified as officer misconduct or a complaint about policy under the Alberta Police Act. The Professional Standards Unit (PSU) is responsible for investigating complaints against the Service, its policy and its members in a fair, thorough and unbiased manner. Serious allegations are forwarded to the Solicitor General for review and determination of file assignment to the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT). PSU's mission is to safeguard public trust and confidence in the Service, while resolving all complaints on policy, service delivery and employee conduct in a timely and transparent manner.

Total Complaints (Police Act and Criminal Complaints)

Altogether, 30 files were active in 2019, of which 19 new files were received and 11 were carried over from previous years:

- Of the 11 carried over
 - 3 are criminal investigations
 - 8 are Police Act complaints in abeyance
- Of the 19 new files
 - 1 is a criminal investigation
 - 9 are Police Act complaints that are being investigated
 - 9 are Police Act complaints that are in abeyance pending criminal completion or court matters
- Additional Information
 - 2 were withdrawn by the complainants
 - 1 Police Act complainant appealed to the Law Enforcement Review Board
 - 2 Police Act investigations were completed, and all allegations were dismissed under the Police Act
 - 4 complaints are being investigated criminally by MHPS

Informal Resolution

- There were 22 instances when members of the community brought forward complaints or concerns that were resolved by informal means.

POLICE ACT AND CRIMINAL COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS



Police Act Dispositions by Year

	2017	2018	2019
Formal Complaints	9	12	19
Misconduct Sustained	1	3	2
Appeals Filed to Law Enforcement Review Board	1	1	1

Motor Vehicle Collision Reviews

The Service initiated 12 motor vehicle collision reviews to ensure compliance with policy and/or determine any potential misconduct under the Police Service Regulation.

Dispositions	2017	2018	2019
Total MVCs	23	17	15
No Further Action	8	5	5
Officer Received Counselling/Sanction/Ticket	3	6	1
Remedial Training	10	3	6

SERVICE RECOGNITION

Chiefs Commendation

Sergeant Kesler and Constable Dola

Sgt. Stacey Kesler and Cst. Jason Dola received a Chief's Commendation in recognition of their actions, which, in all likelihood, saved the life of another.

On November 26, 2019, the MHPS received a call from Alberta Health Services advising that a 50-year-old suicidal male had left the hospital and was on the Trans-Canada Bridge deck, threatening to jump. Cst. Dola and Sgt. Kesler arrived on the scene and found the male in distress, hanging onto a lamp standard and dangling over the river. The temperature was well below zero, with extremely icy and slippery conditions. As police approached, the male became more agitated and moved north on the bridge, further over the river. Cst. Dola successfully negotiated the subject into custody, while Sgt. Kesler managed the scene and relayed information effectively to the Patrol Team and aided Cst. Dola during negotiations. After negotiating for approximately 25 minutes, the male complied with police directions and was returned to the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.



SERVICE RECOGNITION

Inspector's Compliments

Traffic Unit

An Inspector's compliment was awarded to Sgt. Clarke White for his leadership and to the entire Traffic Unit in recognition of their exceptional work ethic and customer service in ensuring a smooth transition to the new Impaired Driving Laws.

On December 18, 2018, part two of federal Bill-C46 came into effect, which introduced substantial changes to current impaired-driving laws. In the months leading up to the new laws coming into force, the Traffic Unit worked diligently to ensure that the Service and the community were prepared for the new legislation. Their efforts included ensuring that training, equipment and processes were in place and that information was shared with the community.

Constable Rasmussen

Cst. Perry Rasmussen was recognized with an Inspector's compliment for his diligence and commitment to investigational excellence, demonstrated during a hit-and-run motor vehicle collision investigation. Cst. Rasmussen's efforts to team up with a member of the community to complete this investigation were an excellent example of community policing.

On November 28, 2018, a 12-year-old was struck by a truck while using a crosswalk. The female driver of the truck hastily picked up the injured boy before witnesses could intervene and drove him

home, where he was dropped off without any communication with the parents or police. The boy suffered head injuries, including a serious concussion, as a result of the collision.

Cst. Rasmussen attended the scene and the home of the injured boy and collected several witness statements, all of which only could provide a vague description of the driver and the truck. While conducting neighbourhood inquiries at homes with video surveillance, Cst. Rasmussen met a homeowner who let him access the home's surveillance system. The homeowner also studied the security camera footage and caught a glimpse of a truck matching the description of the suspect's vehicle driving between two houses around the time of the offence. The homeowner contacted Cst. Rasmussen to report these observations.

On December 9, 2018, the homeowner observed a truck matching the one seen in the video and recorded the licence plate, which was provided to Cst. Rasmussen, who conducted surveillance on the suspect's residence. During this time, he observed a female matching the description of the suspect driving the truck. Cst. Rasmussen interviewed the woman, who confessed to the hit-and-run and subsequently was charged with six violations under the Traffic Safety Act.

SERVICE RECOGNITION

Constable Smith, Constable Rasmussen and Constable Williams

Cst. Smith, Cst. Rasmussen and Cst. Williams received an Inspector's compliment for their quick, decisive actions and life-saving response to a motor vehicle collision.

On July 26, Cst. David Smith observed a vehicle driving erratically and attempted to stop the vehicle using emergency equipment, but the vehicle continued to drive in a dangerous manner, ignoring the presence of police. Cst. Smith discontinued the pursuit of the vehicle, which continued to drive in an increasingly more dangerous manner, even becoming airborne and proceeding against the flow of traffic at one point.

Cst. Perry Rasmussen and Cst. Adrian Williams proceeded to set up static containment points to monitor the vehicle, at which time, the offending vehicle failed to stop at a red light at an intersection, where it collided with a transit bus, nearly missing a pedestrian. The collision caused a secondary collision with a small SUV occupied by four people.

As the offending vehicle came to rest, it was apparent that the driver was severely injured and non-responsive to commands. The vehicle began to smoke intensely, and it was clear that the occupant of the vehicle had to be removed immediately. Police officers and civilian bystanders at the scene attempted to extract

the accused from the vehicle and were aided by Fire and EMS first-responders. The accused was rescued from the vehicle and transported to MHRH with serious injuries. MHPS members also were treated at the hospital due to the intense smoke at the crash scene.

Alberta Attorney General Compliment to Staff Sergeant Thorburn, Sergeant Garrecht, Constable Clarke and Sergeant Klick

The MHPS received a compliment from the Alberta Attorney General (AAG) about the exceptional evidence provided by officers during a voir dire proceeding in a homicide investigation. Following the proceeding, Justice Poelman made a point to inform the AAG about the outstanding conduct and excellent testimony provided by MHPS Staff Sergeant Ryan Thorburn, Sergeant Darlene Garrecht, Constable Keegan Clarke and Sergeant Jeff Klick. Justice Poelman was impressed by the officers' "confidence and credibility." In addition, AAG Ryan Antsey commented on the commitment of all the officers involved and how vested they were in contributing to a successful outcome.

The comments from Justice Poelman and Mr. Antsey are a testament to the integrity, commitment and teamwork of all the officers involved in this investigation from the outset.

SERVICE RECOGNITION

RCMP F Division Compliment to Members of the Organized Crime Section

Members of the MHPS Organized Crime Section and Medicine Hat ALERT team received an Inspector's compliment for their role in the successful investigation of a homicide that took place in Saskatchewan in 2015. RCMP F Division requested that MHPS team members assist in the investigation in a covert capacity, which led to an accused being charged with first-degree murder and with causing indignity to human remains.

The Major Crimes Unit of F Division RCMP passed along its sincere appreciation for the Medicine Hat team's assistance, as it substantially contributed to the 130 scenarios required to file the charge. The RCMP's primary investigator on the case advised that its contributions were exceptional.

The RCMP's comments are a testament to the skills and professionalism of all the officers involved in this investigation. These types of complex, long-term investigations require persistence, vigilance and dedication.

Cpl. Cummings Award to Constable David Smith and Constable Noel Darr

On March 25, Csts. David Smith and Noel Darr received awards at the Cpl. Cummings Watch at K Division for their diligent enforcement of impaired drivers throughout the year. The Cpl. Cummings Watch is a collaborative effort between Alberta RCMP, MADD Canada and Alberta Transportation to support police efforts in the detection and apprehension of impaired drivers on Alberta's roadways. The program is named in honour of Cpl. Graeme Cumming, a member of the RCMP who was killed on duty by an impaired driver while attending to a traffic incident on Highway 3 near Lethbridge, Alberta, on August 12, 1998. Impaired driving enforcement is important to the community and is a significant part of community and road safety.

SERVICE RECOGNITION

Upper Red River Valley Crisis Negotiations Competition and Conference

The MHPS Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) organized and hosted the Upper Red River Valley Crisis Negotiations Competition and Conference on June 3-5, which was very well-attended by police and corrections teams from across Western Canada. Organizing and hosting a three-day event of this magnitude is a considerable commitment of time and effort.

The excellent reviews received on all aspects of the conference, including the elaborate testing scenarios, reflected positively on both the CNT and MHPS as a whole. The MHPS recognized and thanked all staff who helped organize the conference – particularly Cst. Dave Allen, who demonstrated leadership in bringing this event to Medicine Hat and for overseeing the event.

120th Anniversary Pin

MHPS celebrated the 120th anniversary of the Service with an anniversary badge pin that depicts the King's Crown and is a recognizable sign of legal authority that was worn by officers in the 1920s and 1930s.





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