Community Safety Report Card

2020-Q2

These indicators, when used over time, provide some context to the degree that police services are effective at reducing criminal victimization and improving public safety and the feeling of safety in the community. These performance metrics partially reflect the outcomes and quality of police performance keeping in mind that there are various influences on crime and order beyond policing.

Printer Friendly Version

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Indicator

Chart Data (Esquimalt & Victoria)

Calls for Service (Esquimalt / Victoria)

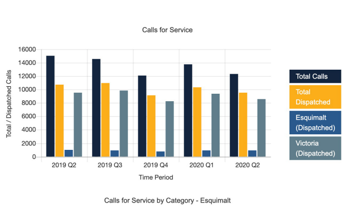
Calls for Service

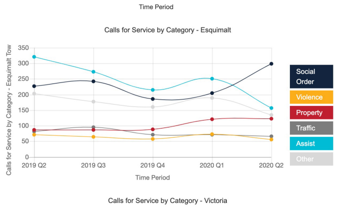
A Call for Service (CFS) is a request for services from or report to the police department that generates any action on the part of the police department or partner agency performing work on behalf of the police department (such as E-Comm 9-1-1).

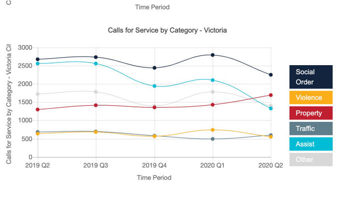
A CFS includes recording a crime/incident for reporting purposes. CFS is not generated for proactive activities unless the officer generates a specific CFS report.

The types of calls for service are broken into six main categories as follows:

- Social order – call types include disturbance, man down, unwanted person, etc.
- Violence – call types include assault, sexual assault, robbery, etc.
- Property – call types include break and enters, theft from vehicles, theft of vehicles, etc.
- Traffic – call types include collision response, impaired driving and other traffic offences.
- Assist – call types include requests to assist BC Emergency Health Services paramedics, Parole, other police departments, etc.
- Other – calls are those which do not fit into the categories above.







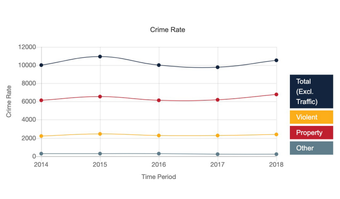
Crime Rate (VicPD Jurisdiction)

Crime Rate

Crime Rate/100,000 population (VicPD Jurisdiction)

- Total Crime (excluding traffic)
- Violent Crime
- Property Crime
- Other Crime

(Data Source: Statistics Canada)

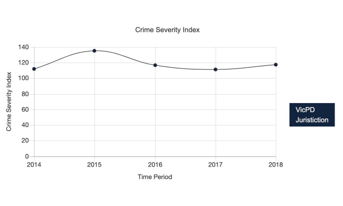


Crime Severity Index (VicPD Jurisdiction)

Crime Severity Index (VicPD Jurisdiction)

Crime Severity Index (CSI) by municipality will be reported when available from Statistics Canada.

(Data Source: Statistics Canada)

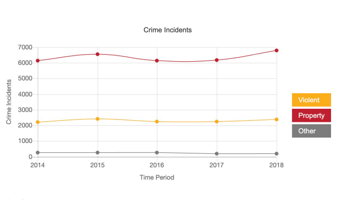


Crime Incidents (VicPD Jurisdiction)

Number of Crime Incidents (VicPD Jurisdiction)

- Violent Crime Incidents
- Property Crime Incidents
- Other Crime Incidents

(Data Source: Statistics Canada)



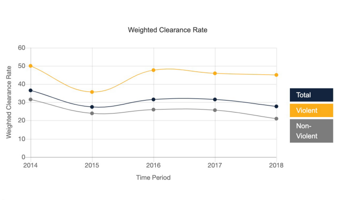
Weighted Clearance Rate (VicPD Jurisdiction)

Weighted Clearance Rate (VicPD Jurisdiction)

- Total Clearance Rate
- Violent Clearance Rate
- Non-Violent Clearance Rate

Clearance rates indicate the extent to which investigation into criminal offences resulted in an identified subject that may or may not have resulted in a charge. Weighted Clearance Rates are a calculation that places more emphasis on solving more serious crime. The Weighted Clearance Rate value permits monitoring of changes over time.

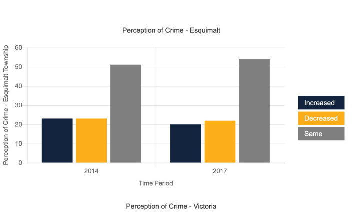
(Data Source: Statistics Canada)

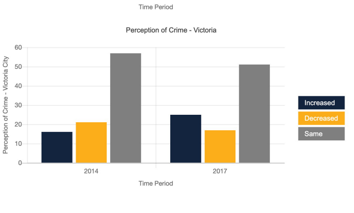


Perception of Crime (Esquimalt / Victoria)

Perception of Crime

Community and business survey data from 2014 and 2017 (and beyond): "Do you think that crime in Victoria and/or Esquimalt has increased, decreased or remained the same during the last 5 years?".

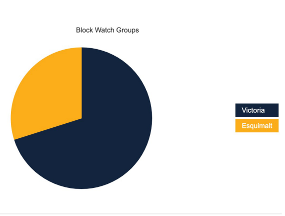




Block Watch (Esquimalt / Victoria)

Block Watch Participation

- Number of active blocks

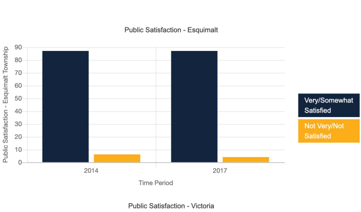


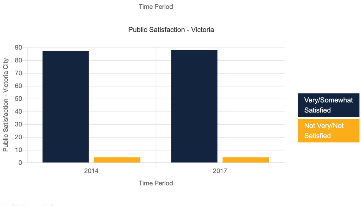
Public Satisfaction (Esquimalt / Victoria)

Public Satisfaction

Public satisfaction with VicPD (community and business survey data from 2014 and 2017 (and beyond): "Overall, how satisfied are you with the work of the Victoria Police?."

• Victoria City
• Esquimalt Township



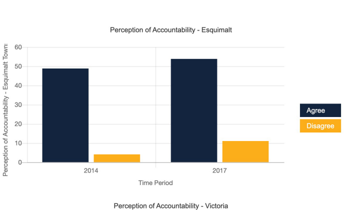


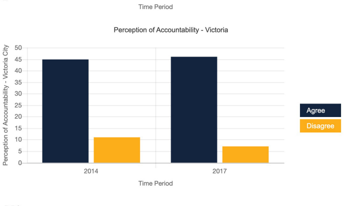
Perception of Accountability (Esquimalt / Victoria)

Perception of Accountability

Perception of accountability of VicPD officers (community and business survey data from 2014 and 2017 (and beyond): "Based on your own personal experience, or what you may have read or heard, please indicate whether you agree or disagree that the Victoria Police is accountable."

• Victoria City
• Esquimalt Township

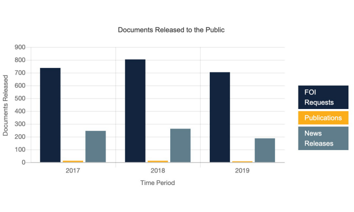




Documents Released to the Public (VicPD)

Documents Released to the Public

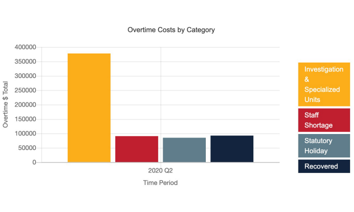
Number of documents released to the public (would include *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* requests, analytical reports, and any other community information documents).



Overtime Costs (VicPD)

Overtime Hours (Police)

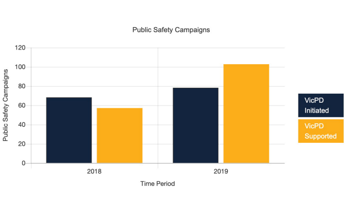
- Investigation and Specialized Units (This includes investigations, specialized units, protests and other)
- Staff Shortage (Cost associated with replacing absent staff, normally for last minute injury or illness)
- Statutory Holiday (Mandatory overtime costs for staff working Statutory Holidays)
- Recovered (This is related to special duties and overtime for seconded specialty units where all costs are recovered from outside funding resulting in no additional cost to VicPD)



Public Safety Campaigns (VicPD)

Public Safety Campaigns

The number of public safety campaigns initiated by VicPD and those local, regional, or national campaigns supported by, but not necessarily initiated by VicPD.

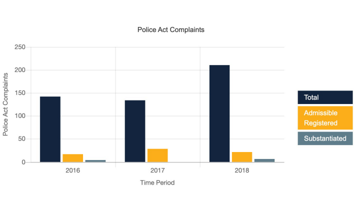


Police Act Complaints (VicPD)

Police Act Complaints

Total files opened by the Professional Standards office. Open files do not necessarily result in an investigation of any type. (Source: Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner)

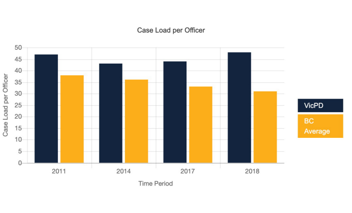
- Admissible registered complaints (complaints resulting in a formal *Police Act* investigation)
- Number of reported substantiated investigations (*Police Act* investigations that resulted in one or more counts of misconduct being established)



Case Load per Officer (VicPD)

Case Load per Officer

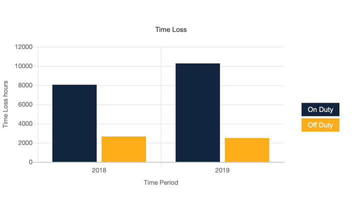
The average number of criminal files assigned to each officer. The average is calculated by dividing the total number of files by the authorized strength of the police Department (Source: Police Resources in BC, Province of British Columbia).



Time Loss Hours (VicPD)

Time Loss Hours

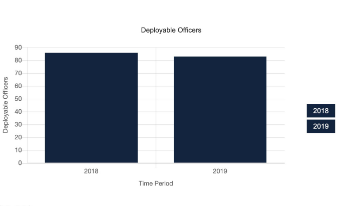
- On-Duty: Time loss as a result of injuries sustained by officers while on duty. This includes injuries sustained in training.
- Off-Duty: Time loss as a result of injuries sustained by officers while off duty.



Deployable Officers (VicPD)

Deployable Officers

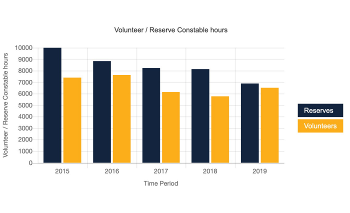
This is the percentage of officers who are fully deployable to policing duties with no restrictions.



Volunteer / Reserve Constable Hours (VicPD)

Volunteer / Reserve Constable Hours

This is the number of volunteer hours annually performed by volunteers and Reserve Constables.



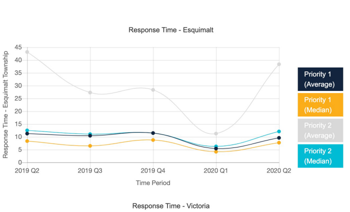
Response Time (Esquimalt / Victoria)

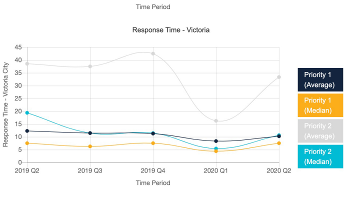
Response Times for Priority One and Two Calls

Time received to time on scene of the first officer

• Total (VicPD's total service area)
• Victoria Division
• Esquimalt Division

Average response time is the mean (average) off all responses under each priority. Since the average is calculated by adding up all response times and dividing by the number of responses, the calculation of average response times can be influenced by outliers - unusually quick to very long response times. Median response time is the middle response time on the list of all response times from lowest to highest. Reading the two measures together permits a better assessment of the overall central tendency in the data set.

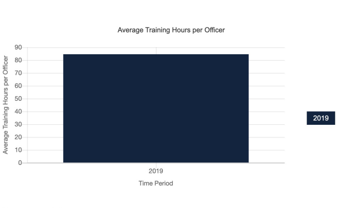




Training Hours (VicPD)

Training Hours

Average training hours is calculated by the total number of hours of training divided by the authorized strength. All training is accounted for including training related to specialized positions such as the Emergency Response Team, and off-duty training required under the Collective Agreement.



VicPD Community Information

Esquimalt

− Notable Crime / Community Safety Incidents

Break and Enter

In early April, Esquimalt Division received information that a break and enter had occurred overnight at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre. Thousands of dollars of gym equipment had been stolen. The stolen property was believed to have ended up at an individual's residence who is known to police. Officers attended the residence and recovered all of the property which was observed in plain view. Officers also spoke to a man occupying the basement suite who turned over a large rack full of weights. Further investigation and review of the surveillance video revealed that the occupant of the basement suite had been the person responsible for the break and enter and theft of the gym equipment. The man was arrested and charges were recommended.

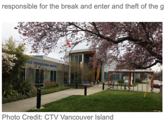


Photo Credit: CTV Vancouver Island

In mid-May, Community Resource Officers (CROs), while on bike patrol, received information from a citizen that a couple of people had climbed through an open window at École Victor-Brodeur. CROs attended the school and were provided access by janitorial staff. Esquimalt Division units attended and set up containment. CROs conducted a thorough search of the school for the suspects. Unfortunately, the suspects were not located and had likely left the building prior to police arrival. The insecure window of the library was closed and secured by police.

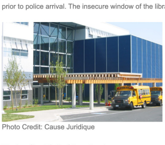


Photo Credit: Cause Juridique

Disobey Court Order / Drug Arrest

In May, while conducting bike patrol in Memorial Park, officers came upon an individual in the company of a man contrary to his Interim Protection Order. The officer placed the individual under arrest and a search incidental to lawful arrest revealed that the individual was also in possession of seven grams of a substance suspected to be methamphetamine. Charges for disobeying a court order and for drug possession were recommended.

Drug Dealing

Over the past six months, a number of complaints were received regarding suspected drug dealing from a residence in the 800-block of Esquimalt Road. During surveillance efforts over this time, several vehicles associated to drug trafficking were seen coming and going; however, no heavy foot traffic was recorded. On May 17, 2020 a covert drug operation was conducted and a woman was subsequently arrested for possession for the purpose of trafficking when a search confirmed that the drugs ordered by the officer through the operation were in her possession. A small amount of suspected heroin and meth, scales, and baggies were found during the search. The woman was released and a warrant was requested for her arrest.

Found Drugs

In early June, an Esquimalt Parks and Recreation employee attended the Esquimalt Division after finding a small plastic bag containing a purple coloured powder. Officers conducted a query in the Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME) database, an information database used by police across BC to access data that may help prevent and solve crime. Based on similar reports, the substance was believed to be heroin or fentanyl. Officers safely submitted the substance for destruction.

− Current / Emerging Crime and Community Safety Trends

Q2 saw a 12% decrease in the overall number of occurrences when compared to Q2 of 2019. April saw a 3% decline in occurrences. May saw a decrease of 23%, while June's decrease was just under 5%.

Q2 also saw a 9% increase in property crime compared to Q2 of 2019. This includes a 66% increase in break and enters (residences and underground parking garages), 7% increase in mischiefs (e.g. smash windows, graffiti), 102% increase in frauds (tap fraud, Revenue Canada scams, etc.), a 25% increase in shoplifting, and a 4% decrease in thefts from vehicles.

There was a 16% decrease in crimes against persons (violence) in Q2 of 2020 compared to Q2 of 2019. The percentage of harassing communication (e.g.: emails, social media, etc.) was unchanged, whereas there was a decrease in uttering threats and a 17% decrease in general assaults. However, assaults with a weapon causing bodily harm almost tripled from this same time last year.

There was a 12% decrease in public disorder occurrences in Q2 of 2020 compared to Q2 of 2019. This includes a 62% increase in noise and by-law complaints, a 26% increase in neighbour and domestic disputes (no violence) and a 180% increase in drinking in public and disturbances.

Q2 also saw a 200% increase in mental health/attempted suicide occurrences and a 14% increase in missing persons occurrences. Check well-being occurrences also increased from four in Q2 of 2019 to 45 in Q2 of 2020.

− Special Project Outcomes / Outputs

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

In June, CROs met with community representatives, including individuals from the Gorge View Society, to discuss CPTED for properties consisting of numerous homes. CPTED is a crime prevention approach based on a theory that the built environment influences the behaviour of people. The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, thereby improving the quality of life. A property consisting of numerous homes for 55+, a future 58 unit building not yet under construction, and a six-acre property consisting of 74 residential units were reviewed.

At-Risk Young Adult

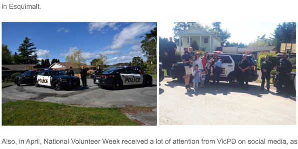
In June, CROs spoke with a representative for the Cool Aid Society regarding an at-risk young adult in Esquimalt who has been struggling with mental health issues, substance use, homelessness, and other challenges. For several months, the CROs have been working with numerous health and social service providers to identify specific, effective, and collaborative solutions to provide assistance to the young adult.

Constable Magee of the Esquimalt Division has consistently worked with Esquimalt's most at risk youth and highest call generators. Families and caregivers of assisted youth, and the youth themselves have expressed appreciation for Constable Magee's compassion and commitment. This quarter, Constable Magee supported a youth with a high number of police contacts to enroll in a recovery program.

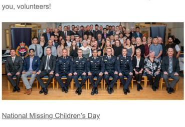
− Community Engagement Initiatives / Opportunities

Birthday Drive-By

In April, CROs represented the Victoria Police Department and Esquimalt Division, and joined members of Esquimalt Fire Department for two birthday drive-bys in Esquimalt.



Also, in April, National Volunteer Week received a lot of attention from VicPD on social media, as we highlighted the outstanding contributions of our volunteers each day throughout the week. Our 117 amazing volunteers and Reserve constables contribute over 14,000 hours to Victoria and Esquimalt annually. Thank you, volunteers!



National Missing Children's Day

During National Missing Children's Day, we re-shared the story of Michael Dunahee and asked anyone with information to come forward.

Lock out Auto Crime

Throughout the quarter, our volunteer Reserve Constables had an active and visible presence in our community and continued to conduct Lock Out Auto Crime patrols.

− Community Safety Campaigns

Summer Action Plan

Running from June 25th to September 5th, 2020, the Esquimalt Summer Action Plan sees Esquimalt Division resources deployed on bicycle, on foot and in vehicles, in an effort to proactively mitigate general disorder issues that tend to rise during the summer months. The three Esquimalt Division officers will be deployed to work days and afternoons, with two of the officers deployed on many Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. Officers are deploying with awareness of the need to practice safe physical distancing as we continue to respond to COVID-19.

The goal of the Summer Action Plan is to proactively reduce the incidents of crime and general disorder during the summer months in Esquimalt and Vic West. This is accomplished by having a highly visible uniformed presence before and during peak hours, having a zero tolerance for alcohol-related offences, and by targeting known offenders and problem areas. First launched in 2007, the Summer Action Plan has been effective in mitigating problems before they become more significant issues.

Road Safety and School Zones

During National Road Safety Week in May, we reminded drivers to slow down, leave their devices alone, and watch out for pedestrians and cyclists as more people used the roadways.

At the end of May, we reminded the public that school zones were back in effect, and to slow down to protect our young students, families, and school staff.

Information Sharing

VicPD shared crime statistics during COVID-19 in an effort to keep the public informed. After a dramatic increase in break and enters to residential storage sheds from March 15th to May 2nd, we released further crime stats and provided the public with information on how to prevent being victimized by property criminals.

We also shared information about Emergency Preparedness Week on social media in an effort to remind the community to be prepared and have a plan in the event of an emergency. After Strike Force conducted another successful investigation and seized cash, firearms, fentanyl, and stolen property, we reminded the public to record serial numbers and practice secure storage of their belongings.

Throughout the quarter, VicPD's Public Affairs team continued to support missing persons investigations by reaching out to the public for information.

Victoria

− Notable Crime / Community Safety Incidents

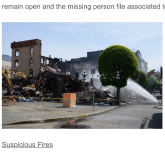
Plaza Hotel Fire Investigation Update

At the end of April, VicPD's Major Crime Unit Detectives announced that they exhausted all investigative avenues into the Plaza Hotel fire that took place on May 6, 2019.

On May 13, 2019, detectives with VicPD's Major Crime Unit took control of the scene from Victoria Fire Department (VFD). VFD advised VicPD that the fire was suspicious. VicPD detectives executed a search warrant on the building site once the fire was under control and the scene was safe. The search took approximately 10 days to complete and required the use of excavators working in a grid pattern to search for evidence. Detectives determined that this fire was an arson.

The building was known to be unoccupied, except for the caretaker, Mr. Michael Draeger. Despite an exhaustive search, Mr. Draeger was not found, leading investigators to the possibility that he may have perished in the fire.

This file took an extraordinary amount of time, attention, and collaboration across agencies and there are currently no new leads to pursue. The arson file will remain open and the missing person file associated to Mr. Draeger will also remain an open and active investigation.

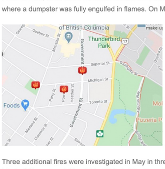


Suspicious Fires

Investigators reached out to the public for assistance in gathering information related to six suspicious fires which occurred over the Easter long weekend in Victoria.

On April 12th, Patrol officers were called to two dumpster fires, one in the 3000-block of Blanshard Street and another in the 2800-block of Irma Street. The same day, a Patrol officer observed a cedar hedge on fire in the 900-block of Topaz Avenue. The Patrol officer deployed a fire extinguisher to stop the spread of the fire and Victoria Fire attended to extinguish the remaining fire. The following day, Patrol officers were called to a shed fire in the 400-block of Parry Street. The fire spread to the garage of an adjacent property in the 500-block of Michigan Street. Both the shed and the garage sustained fire damage. The same day, Patrol officers were called to a report of a tent fire in the 500-block of Ellice Street. Although no one was injured, multiple tents sustained fire damage. On the night of April 13th, Patrol officers were called to a report of a large area of burned grass in the 500-block of Toronto Street. Investigators believe that the damage occurred within a twenty-four-hour period of the call for police service. A residential lawn sustained fire damage.

On May 14th, officers investigated three suspicious fires in James Bay including a suspicious construction bin fire near the intersection of Michigan Street and Powell Street, a fire in the 500-block of Government Street where a staircase of a heritage building was on fire, and a fire in the 200-block of Menzies Street where a dumpster was fully engulfed in flames. On May 29th, a 50-year-old man was arrested in connection to these fires.



Three additional fires were investigated in May in three separate locations: Johnson Street at Douglas Street, the 1000-block of Hillside Avenue, and the 700-block of Government Street. The Victoria Fire Department attended each fire and extinguished them. None of the fires spread to adjacent structures and there were no injuries. Each was determined to be suspicious and remains under investigation.

In June, the Victoria Fire Department requested officers attend for a report of suspicious fire at a storage unit and vehicle rental business in the 700-block of Topaz Avenue. Two storage units and two vehicles were damaged in the fire. These fires have also been determined as suspicious and remain under investigation.

Threats against COVID-19 Testing Facilities

On April 24th, VicPD Patrol officers attended various public health facilities across Victoria after receiving reports that a man had made threats against COVID-19 testing facilities after calling the 811 information line. Out of an abundance of caution, officers from departments across Greater Victoria attended and spoke with staff at various public health facilities to ensure they were safe.

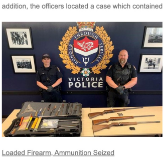
In Victoria, Patrol officers spoke with onsite staff and provided guidance and support. Officers continued to attend and check-in at the various facilities to ensure that staff and patients were safe.

Officers from across the region, including VicPD and Saanich Police Department officers worked to take the man into custody. He was arrested by Saanich Police Department officers just after noon the same day.

Firearms, Drugs, and Weapons Seized After Vehicle Stop

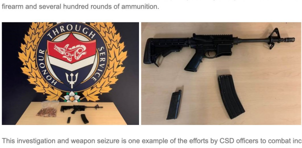
On May 26th, Traffic officers stopped a suspicious vehicle occupied by two men and one woman in the 200-block of Gorge Road East. Upon further inspection, the officers determined that the vehicle had critical vehicle defects and was not safe for the road.

Traffic officers conducted a safety search of the vehicle prior to it being towed. They located three firearms and approximately 300 hydromorphone pills. In addition, the officers located a case which contained approximately a dozen knives, swords, improvised weapons, and dischargeable flares.



Loaded Firearm, Ammunition Seized

On June 30th, officers with VicPD's Community Services Division (CSD), with the assistance of the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team (GVERT), executed a search warrant at a suite in a multi-unit temporary housing facility in the 3000-block of Blanshard Street. CSD officers located a loaded AR-15 style firearm and several hundred rounds of ammunition.



This investigation and weapon seizure is one example of the efforts by CSD officers to combat increases in both violent crime and property crime in the Burnside Gorge area. This file remains under investigation.

− Current / Emerging Crime and Community Safety Trends

Q2 saw a 17% decrease in the overall number of occurrences when compared to Q2 of 2019.

Q2 of 2020 also saw a 17% increase in property crime compared to Q2 of 2019. This includes a 117% increase in arson, a 133% increase in business break and enters, and a 66% increase in residential and other (sheds, underground parking garages) break and enters. In 2019, we were averaging less than two break-ins per day in Victoria. In 2020, that has increased to just under four break-ins per day. Frauds decreased by 38%, primarily due to businesses being closed. Theft of mail was a newer trend, increasing from one call in Q2 of 2019 to eight calls or an 800% increase in Q2 of 2020. Theft of vehicles increased by 33%, whereas theft from auto calls decreased by 33% and bike theft decreased by 55%.

There was a 3% increase in crimes against persons (violence) in Q2 of 2020 compared to Q2 of 2019. This includes a 5% increase in assaults, an 107% increase in robberies and extortion, and a 33% increase in calls related to threatening the safety of or violence to another. Sex-related occurrences decreased by 33%. Sex trafficking continues to be an emerging issue, although no occurrences were reported to police this quarter.

There was a 29% decrease in public disorder occurrences in Q2 of 2020 compared to Q2 of 2019. Overall, there was a 41% decrease in public drinking/intoxication, by-law complaints, and unwanted persons calls. Q2 of 2020 also saw an 176% increase in disturbances and a 20% increase in civil and domestic disputes (no violence) compared to Q2 of 2019. Breaches of bail, probation, and peace decreased by 28%.

Q2 of 2020 saw a 7.4% increase in mental health related calls and a 22% decrease in missing person calls. This quarter, there were over 400 check well-being occurrences, up from 45 in Q2 of 2019.

− Special Project Outcomes / Outputs

Project Burnside Gorge Connect & Topaz Special Duty

Since mid-March, CSD officers have been focused on "Project Burnside Gorge Connect", an initiative aimed at increasing police visibility and engagement in the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood. The project includes increased patrols, community consultation, participation in virtual "town hall" meetings, trend monitoring, intelligence driven enforcement, and the promotion of VicPD's Block Watch program.

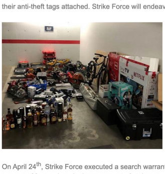
A special duty was organized in response to a marked increase in property, drug, and violent crime in the area around Topaz Park. This special duty involved two members per night for eight hours in the area. A secondary plainclothes and uniform project was launched in the surrounding Topaz area.

In May, officers were deployed as part of our response to rising property crime in the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood and to concerns in the Topaz Park area. On May 8th, at approximately 10 p.m., officers spotted a vehicle driving erratically after failing to stop for a traffic control device in the 2900-block of Douglas Street. Officers pulled over the vehicle and immediately noted evidence that the driver was impaired by drugs. The driver was taken into custody and searched which revealed a loaded handgun in his pocket.

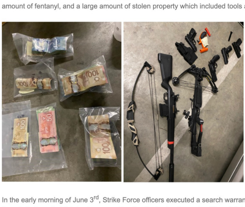
The driver initially tried to convince the officer who discovered the handgun that it was a lighter. An additional search of the vehicle revealed stolen property. The driver was arrested and issued a 24-hour driving prohibition. This file remains under investigation.

Strike Force

On April 14th, Strike Force officers began an investigation into a man suspected to be in possession of a large amount of stolen property. Strike Force officers executed a search warrant on a storage locker located in the 3900-block of Quadra Street where they recovered approximately $30,000 worth of stolen property. The recovered property included a variety of power tools, liquor, and other items. Many of the recovered items are traceable and some still have their anti-theft tags attached. Strike Force will endeavor to return this property to its rightful owners.



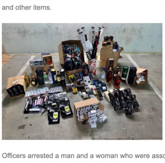
On April 24th, Strike Force executed a search warrant at a residence in the 1100-block of Kings Avenue. Officers seized over $40,000 in cash, a significant amount of fentanyl, and a large amount of stolen property which included tools and bicycles. Three people were arrested and charges have not yet been sworn.



In the early morning of June 3rd, Strike Force officers executed a search warrant at a business in the 400-block of Gorge Road East. Their investigation led them to believe that this business was involved in the buying and selling of stolen property. This is known as a "fencing operation", in which the business acts a fence, or middleman, that takes in stolen property from thieves and re-sells it for profit. The existence of a "fencing operation" serves as a marketplace for stolen property to be bought and re-sold.

The Burnside Gorge neighbourhood has seen an increase in property crime over recent weeks. Strike Force, along with other VicPD resources, have been tasked with targeting this issue. By focusing on the business, Strike Force effectively disrupted a marketplace for stolen goods within the neighbourhood.

Strike Force officers searched the business and seized a number of stolen items. The recovered stolen property included alcohol, perfume, electronics, coffee, and other items.



Officers arrested a man and a woman who were associated to the business. Both face charges of trafficking in stolen property, possession of stolen property, and laundering the proceeds of crime.

This was a coordinated investigation that was led by Strike Force; however, the investigation involved officers from Patrol, the Community Services Division, and Detectives from the Major Crime Unit.

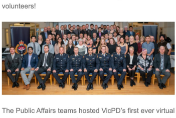
− Community Engagement Initiatives / Opportunities

In early April, the Public Affairs team shared many good news stories during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Patrol officers located a missing four-year-old child and reunited him with his family after he had exited through a window in his home. The Patrol officers went beyond the call when they recognized the family needed assistance. They went to a hardware store where they purchased a wooden dowling and lock and then returned to the home to secure the window. We also shared the story of Patrol officers recovering a stolen vehicle, seizing a loaded, improvised firearm, and returning that vehicle to the owner who was a healthcare worker who needed to get to work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

VicPD and the community came together to bring positive resolutions to a number of files. After the community heard of a stolen bike investigation, Shep's Moving, Vic City Exteriors, and Marty's Mountain Cycle provided a twelve-year old boy with a new bike.

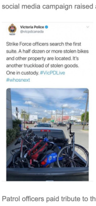
In another file, a wagon that was stolen from a young family was returned after the public and police teamed up to generate significant attention to the file. The family was very happy to have the wagon returned.

National Volunteer Week received a lot of attention from VicPD on social media as we highlighted the outstanding contributions of our volunteers each day throughout the week. Our 117 amazing volunteers and Reserve Constables contribute over 14,000 hours to Victoria and Esquimalt annually. Thank you, volunteers!



The Public Affairs teams hosted VicPD's first ever virtual press conference to update the public about the investigation into the Plaza Hotel fire. The Victoria Fire Department's Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention, Brad Siefert, attended and spoke alongside VicPD's arson investigator, Detective Andre Almeida.

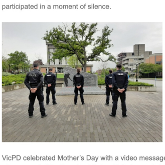
The Public Affairs team kicked off May with a live tweet-a-long with VicPD's Strike Force Unit. Using the hashtag #VicPDLive, the team followed Strike Force through the execution of search warrant which targeted a prolific property offender in Victoria. Strike Force recovered a truckload of stolen property and the social media campaign raised awareness of VicPD's efforts to combat property crime.



Victoria Police
@vicpdcanada

Strike Force officers search the first suite. A half dozen or more stolen bikes and other property are located. It's another truckload of stolen goods. One in custody. #VicPDLive #whosnext

Patrol officers paid tribute to the Canadian Armed Forces members lost in a tragic helicopter crash. The officers attended the Afghanistan War Memorial and participated in a moment of silence.



VicPD celebrated Mother's Day with a video message from the Chief in appreciation of moms and also celebrated National Police Week on social media. VicPD also supported the launch of Out on Patrol, a society to support police officers and civilian staff who identify as LGBTQ2S+, and their allies. VicPD also coordinated with Westshore RCMP on a joint press release and media interviews regarding a recovered stolen bike that held special significance to the owner.

Chief Manak, along with VicPD Traffic's motorcycle team, made an appearance in the virtual Victoria Day parade. In June, Chief Manak, Deputy Chief Laidman, and Cst. Haire participated in the virtual BC Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics BC event. The Public Affairs team also conducted another tweet-a-long with Strike Force while they executed a search warrant on a business buying and selling stolen property.

Following the in-custody death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25th, Victoria saw a number of rallies and protests against systemic and institutionalized racism. VicPD supported public safety during these events and provided regular updates and information about traffic disruptions.

Throughout the quarter, the Public Affairs team continued to support ongoing investigations by posting information online for the public to assist with identifications and information. In one example, a media release and social media information resulted in the arrest of a suspect after an arrow was shot into a vehicle downtown.

− Community Safety Campaigns

Decampment Efforts

On April 25th, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, issued an Order which required the evacuation of camping sites at Topaz Park and the Pandora Avenue corridor. The original deadline of May 9th was later extended to May 20th. On May 20th, Minister Farnworth issued an enforcement order which authorized police to enforce the evacuation Order.

VicPD officers, City of Victoria Bylaw officers, BC Housing staff, and social services agency staff provided every opportunity for those encamped in this area to depart without enforcement action.

Decampment is part of a province-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Province of B.C. and City of Victoria have provided housing in the way of motel and hotel rooms in the region as well as modular accommodations in the Save on Foods Memorial Centre Arena. More than 300 people have been housed with improved access to hygiene facilities, healthcare, and social supports.

The Province (specifically BC Housing) and the various service providers took a lead role throughout the process of the evacuation order, allowing VicPD's Community Services Division (CSD) to take on a supporting role by keeping the peace and ensuring a safe work environment for support workers and contractors.

VicPD took the lead when it came to enforcement of the Order, working in collaboration with Victoria City Bylaw and the Province. While eight individuals were arrested in violation of the Order during the decampment efforts, no charges were laid.

Road Safety and School Zones

During National Road Safety Week in May, we reminded drivers to slow down, leave their devices alone, and watch out for pedestrians and cyclists as more people used the roadways.

At the end of May we reminded the public that school zones were back in effect, and to slow down to protect our young students, families, and school staff.

Lock out Auto Crime

Throughout the quarter, our volunteer Reserve Constables continued to conduct Lock Out Auto Crime patrols, with an active and visible presence in our community.

Information Sharing

VicPD shared crime statistics during COVID-19 to keep the public informed. After a dramatic increase in break and enters to residential storage sheds from March 15th to May 2nd, we released further crime stats and provided the public with information on how to prevent being victimized by property criminals.

We also shared information about Emergency Preparedness Week on social media regarding the importance of being prepared and having a plan in the event of an emergency. After Strike Force conducted another successful investigation and seized cash, firearms, fentanyl, and stolen property, we reminded the public to record serial numbers and practice secure storage of their belongings.

Throughout the quarter, VicPD's Public Affairs team continued to support missing persons investigations by reaching out to the public for information.

VicPD

− Current / Emerging Issues Impacting Efficiency or Effectiveness

Alternative Responses to Mental Health Calls

After the in-custody death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25th, there were calls for the defunding and disbanding of the police as well as a number of rallies and protests against systemic and institutionalized racism. Chief Manak welcomed a discussion on improvements in the way we manage addiction, homelessness, and mental health.

Ministerial Order

As a result of the Ministerial Order, approximately 300 people were transitioned to shelters from two camp sites – the majority of which are in the Burnside Gorge area. The subsequent significant increase in crime caused concern amongst the community association. In response to the increase in crime, the Community Services Division (CSD) has proactively implemented the following strategies:

1. Assigned specific CSD Liaison officers to each shelter.
2. Hosted community forums (Zoom) meetings with the CRO for the Burnside Gorge.
3. High visibility, proactive, uniformed presence in the Burnside Gorge area via the CRO, Beat, Bike, and Traffic sections.

CSD liaised with businesses downtown and increased patrols in order to ensure break and enters and property crime did not spike. This included target hardening and CPTED advice being given to business owners who had closed their stores as a result of COVID-19.

− Notable Community Harm Prevention Initiatives (VicPD, Victoria/Esquimalt)

VicPD Connect Mobile App

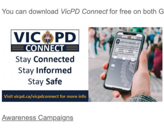
With the recent tragic events in Nova Scotia as well as the ongoing need to issue alerts about high-risk missing persons, area-specific rising crime and COVID-19 related updates, VicPD re-launched our updated, rebranded mobile app *VicPD Connect* to help you stay connected, informed, and safe.

VicPD Connect provides push-based notifications. In the event of an active public emergency, we will use *VicPD Connect* in concert with other public notification systems and social media, including our VicPD Twitter account, to notify you about how to stay safe. We also use *VicPD Connect* for high-risk missing person alerts.

VicPD Connect provides you with a one-stop application that provides online service including the ability to submit crime reports and traffic complaints, get our most recent community updates, and submit tips to Greater Victoria Crime Stoppers. *VicPD Connect* is a privacy-by-design style app. It does not collect personal information and does not track your location.

The original mobileVicPD app was developed in concert with MobilePD. After several years of offering mobileVicPD, we turned to internal experts to develop this latest version which resulted in cost savings.

You can download *VicPD Connect* for free on both Google Play and the Apple store. For more information about VicPD Connect visit vicpd.ca/vicpdconnect.



Awareness Campaigns

Throughout the quarter, we shared Island Health's information about drug toxicity and overdose concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also shared messaging from the BC CDC about masks, social distancing, and good hygiene practices. We reminded the public that despite the ongoing pandemic, there are safe spaces in our community for victims of domestic violence.

As more children are spending time at home, we provided the public with strategies for keeping children safe online and resources for dealing with anxiety and depression during these challenging times.

− New / Revised / Reduced Programs or Services

Project No More

In June, Detectives with VicPD's Special Victims Unit raised awareness with "Project No More" in an effort to combat human trafficking in Victoria. The goal of "Project No More" was to combat human trafficking by connecting with victims and potential victims of human trafficking to offer safety, resources, and assistance. The project also focused on gathering information related to human trafficking in Victoria. As the project was a covert operation, officers did not disclose this project to outside support agencies prior to the investigation.

The officers, working alongside a social worker, wore plainclothes and met with sex-trade workers at a local hotel. The officers contacted sex-trade workers through a website advertising escort services while posing as a "John". The officers, who are trained in human trafficking investigations, focused on victims and potential victims of human trafficking. Over one hundred advertisements were reviewed and the officers did not attempt to contact sex-trade workers who were not believed to be involved in human trafficking. In total, the officers met with eight women, the youngest being 18 years-old.

Upon arrival, the women were immediately advised that they were under no obligation to speak with police and were free to leave. The majority of these women remained in the hotel room and spoke with the officers. The officers provided information about support resources and provided bags containing toiletries, clothes, and gift cards to obtain basic items.

Human trafficking is underreported and victims are under the control of the trafficker. They are subject to physical and psychological constraints which often prevents them from accessing help. As a result, despite strong relationships with outreach organizations who support those in the sex industry, VicPD investigators often learn about human trafficking through related investigations into fraud or drug trafficking. Officers have confirmed numerous instances where human traffickers have operated in Victoria, and officers have spoken with numerous victims who have endured physical and psychological abuse. VicPD's Special Victims Unit will continue to target human trafficking in Victoria.

− Extraordinary Expenditures (VicPD, Victoria/Esquimalt)

Unexpected expenditures related to personal protective equipment and sanitation services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have been largely offset by a combination of recoveries from the Province or savings due to cancelled events such as training and conferences. Capital expenditures are below budget due to delays in projects and the delivery of vehicles, although we expect to be back in line with the budget going into Q3.

− Financial Services Division Update

At the end of Q2, the net financial position is in line with the budget. Revenues are approximately $151,000 below budget due to the impact of COVID-19 on special duties and we expect this to continue for the remainder of the year. The net impact is negligible as reduced revenue is offset by reduced overtime expenditures. Salary and benefits are slightly below budget at this time, offset by higher overtime related to a number of public protests within the capital. Other expenditures, with the exception of retirements, are generally in line with the budget.