Community Safety Report Card

2020-Q3

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)

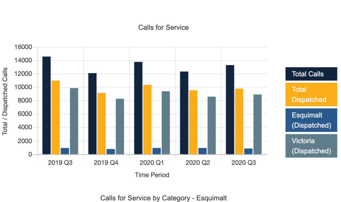
Calls for Service

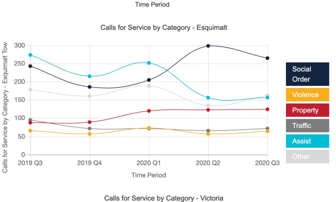
A Call for Service (CFS) is a request for services from or report to the police department that generates any action on the part of the police department or partner agency performing work on behalf of the police department (such as E-Comm 9-1-1).

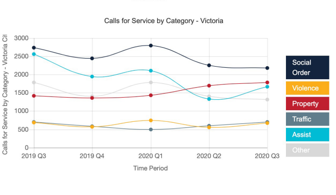
A CFS includes recording a crime/incident for reporting purposes. CFS is not generated for proactive activities unless the officer generates a specific CFS report.

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)

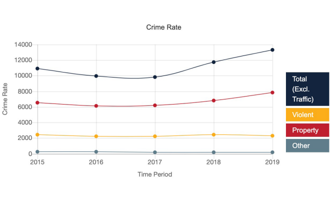
Crime Rate

Crime Rate/100,000 population (VicPD Jurisdiction)

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

(Data Source: Statistics Canada)

Data Updated | Statistics Canada updates their data from time to time as new information becomes available. On October 30, 2020 we updated 2018 numbers on this page to reflect the latest data update from Statistics Canada.

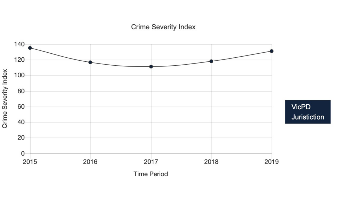


Crime Severity Index (VicPD Jurisdiction)

Crime Severity Index (VicPD Jurisdiction)

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

(Data Source: Statistics Canada)

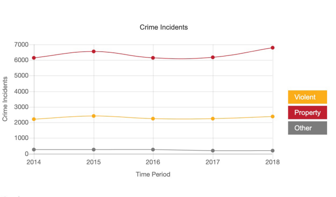


Crime Incidents (VicPD Jurisdiction)

Number of Crime Incidents (VicPD Jurisdiction)

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

(Data Source: Statistics Canada)



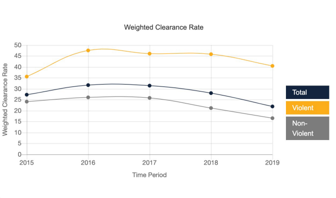
Weighted Clearance Rate (VicPD Jurisdiction)

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.

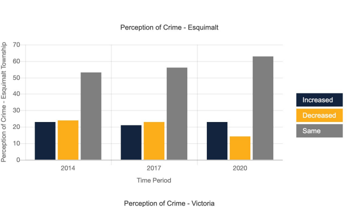
(Data Source: Statistics Canada)

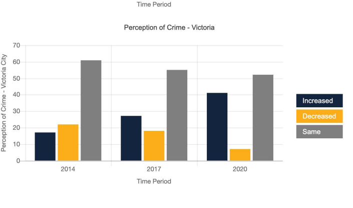


Perception of Crime (Esquimalt / Victoria)

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?".

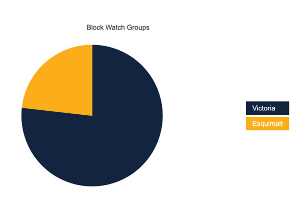




Block Watch (Esquimalt / Victoria)

Block Watch Participation

- Number of active blocks

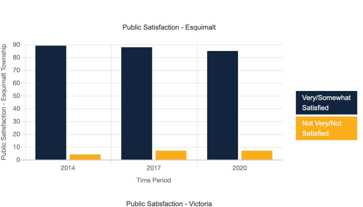


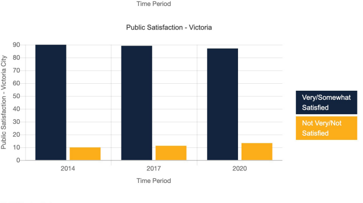
Public Satisfaction (Esquimalt / Victoria)

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



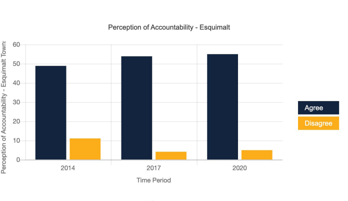


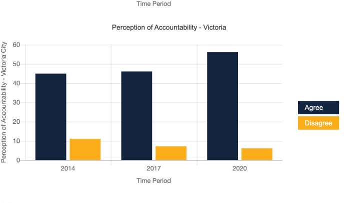
Perception of Accountability (Esquimalt / Victoria)

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

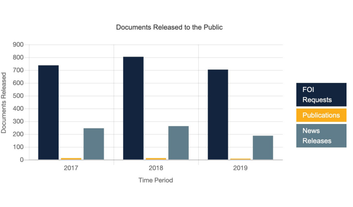




Documents Released to the Public (VicPD)

Documents Released to the Public

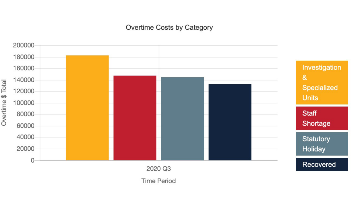
Number of documents released to the public (would include *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* requests, analytical reports, and any other community information documents).



Overtime Costs (VicPD)

Overtime Hours (Police)

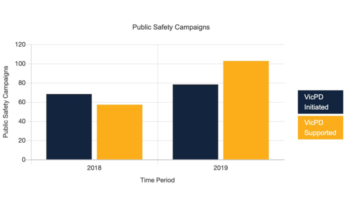
- Investigation and Specialized Units (This includes investigations, specialized units, protests and other)
- Staff Shortage (Cost associated with replacing absent staff, normally for last minute injury or illness)
- Statutory Holiday (Mandatory overtime costs for staff working Statutory Holidays)
- 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.

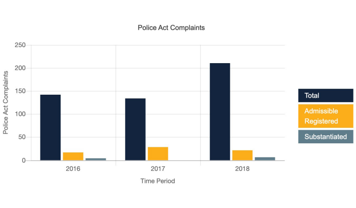


Police Act Complaints (VicPD)

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)

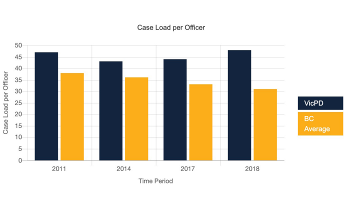
- Admissible registered complaints (complaints resulting in a formal *Police Act* investigation)
- Number of reported substantiated investigations (*Police Act* investigations that resulted in one or more counts of misconduct being established)



Case Load per Officer (VicPD)

Case Load per Officer

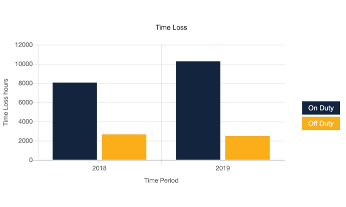
The average number of criminal files assigned to each officer. The average is calculated by dividing the total number of files by the authorized strength of the police Department (Source: Police Resources in BC, Province of British Columbia).



Time Loss Hours (VicPD)

Time Loss Hours

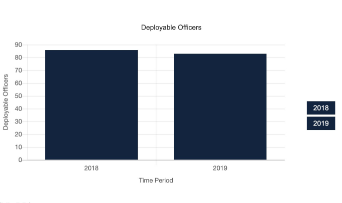
- On-Duty: Time loss as a result of injuries sustained by officers while on duty. This includes injuries sustained in training.
- Off-Duty: Time loss as a result of injuries sustained by officers while off duty.



Deployable Officers (VicPD)

Deployable Officers

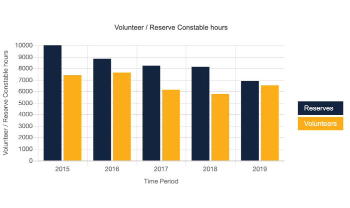
This is the percentage of officers who are fully deployable to policing duties with no restrictions.



Volunteer / Reserve Constable Hours (VicPD)

Volunteer / Reserve Constable Hours

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



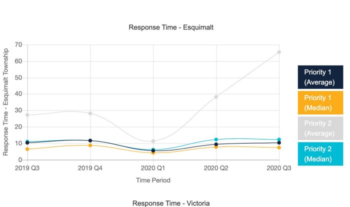
Response Time (Esquimalt / Victoria)

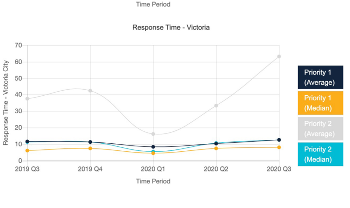
Response Times for Priority One and Two Calls

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.

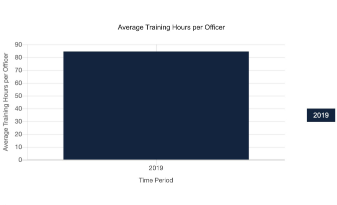




Training Hours (VicPD)

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

West Bay Marina Rescue

While patrolling the West Bay Walkway near the West Bay Marina in September, Community Resource Officers observed an individual swimming in the ocean far from the shore. A couple also observed the individual and informed the officers that the swimmer had entered the water from the shore about 15 minutes prior without a wet suit and appeared to be attempting to swim to a large barge that was moored. The officers continued to watch and noticed that the swimmer was slowing in their approach. Less and less arm movement suggested to the officers that that individual was likely suffering the effects of hypothermia and were at risk of drowning. Two rescue boats were dispatched to bring the swimmer to shore. Once ashore, the swimmer indicated that they were fine and did not require any medical attention.

Unsolicited Seed Packages

In early September, Patrol officers received a report that an individual had received an unsolicited suspicious package from Italy. Officers attended and retrieved the package. It was opened as part of the investigation and contained a packet of a dozen seeds in a small plastic straw labelled "CBD". After reports were received of similar seed packages arriving in Victoria and Esquimalt, officers contacted the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and a public notification was issued regarding what to do if similar packages were received.

Mental Health Apprehensions

Parents called for police assistance as their teenager left the house with a bag of weapons, including a knife and hatchet. Because the youth had a previous history of suicide attempts and violence, Esquimalt Division officers quickly arrived and deployed crisis intervention and de-escalation tactics. These techniques were unsuccessful resulting in the need for the officers to apprehend the youth under the *Mental Health Act*. As the officers attempted to do so, the youth violently fought the officers necessitating the deployment of OC spray which was successful in subduing the youth. The youth was then transported to the hospital and sustained no injuries other than the effects of the OC spray. The officers sustained minor injuries.

Firearms Seized in Mental Health Related Call

Police were called to a residence where an individual was experiencing a drug-induced mental health crisis and believed their life was in danger. Attending officers seized two firearms that were in the individual's possession. Once the officers determined that the individual was not a danger to themselves or others, they were released into the care of family members. An investigation into the firearms is ongoing.

Man Arrested After Assault and Barricade

Patrol officers were called to a multi-unit residential building for a report that an individual had been assaulted. When officers arrived, they located the victim suffering from non-life-threatening injuries. The victim was treated and transported to hospital by BC Emergency Health Services paramedics. Officers learned that the suspect was in a unit in the building and moved to arrest them but the suspect refused to leave the unit and began barricading themselves inside. Officers blocked off Esquimalt Road as they worked to resolve the incident safely. Additional officers responded to the call, as well as the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team, their Crisis Negotiators, and VicPD K9. Negotiations were successful a few hours later and the individual was taken into custody where they were held for morning court. This incident remains under investigation.

– Current / Emerging Crime and Community Safety Trends

Overall, Q3 saw a 3% decrease in incidents compared to 2019. Over the three months, July and August saw declines in occurrences by 11%; whereas, in September the trend was reversed to a 16% increase. Significant increases this quarter include an 85% increase in mental health and attempted suicide calls, 143% increase in missing persons calls, and an increase in check well-being calls (three in Q3 2019 to 48 in Q3 2020).

There was an 11% decrease in property crime, despite a 62% increase in break and enters (underground parking garages) and a 24% increase in mischiefs (e.g. smash windows, graffiti). There was a 48% decrease in residential break and enters, 18% decrease in thefts from vehicles, 50% decrease in fraud, and a 43% decrease in shoplifting over the same period.

Violent crimes against persons increased by 10% in Q3 compared to Q3 2019. Harassing communications (e.g. emails, social media, etc.) was an important issue, as there were 10 more incidents than this time in 2019. Assaults in general decreased by 18% which included a 43% decrease in assaults with a weapon causing bodily harm.

Overall, public disorder decreased by 19% compared to 2019, despite a 35% increase in noise and by-law complaints, 6% increase in neighbor and domestic disputes, and a 40% increase in cause disturbance calls.

– Special Project Outcomes / Outputs

Graffiti Mischief Bait Wall Project

In response to a growing graffiti mischief problem faced by Victoria and Esquimalt, Community Resource Officers took up positions of concealment and monitored the south wall of 400 Catherine Street with the objective of catching a graffiti tagger. On the second night of this project, the officers were successful in apprehending a tagger immediately after they spray painted two large tags on the wall. A charge of mischief was recommended.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

In July, Community Resource Officers met with community representatives, including individuals from the Gorge View Society and the Pioneer Co-op, to talk about Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED is a crime prevention approach based on a theory that the building environment influences the behaviour of people. The proper design and effective use of the building environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, thereby improving the quality of life.

– Community Engagement Initiatives / Opportunities

Elders and Seniors Tea

Community Resource Officers participated in a Zoom meeting called "Elders and Seniors Tea", facilitated by the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. Following a presentation on scams by the Saanich Police Department, the officer and others from Saanich Police and the RCMP engaged in the topic of Indigenous and police relations.

Birthday Drive-by on Wilson Street

Officers attended Wilson Street for a birthday drive by for a big fan of the police. Happy 10th Birthday, Jericho!

Summer Action Plan - Beat the Heat

Public Affairs shared the story of how the Esquimalt Summer Action Plan saw officers help Esquimalt children beat the heat thanks to a generous donation by Country Grocer. Popsicles were given to the officers to hand out as part of their patrol when they spotted children in need of some summer refreshment. The Esquimalt Summer Action Plan ran from June 25 - September 25.

Bhangra at BC Legislature

On September 3rd, officers and staff from across Vancouver Island joined the Yukon's Gurdeep Pandher to dance bhangra on the law of the BC Legislature. This joyful workout was inspired by Gurdeep's use of dance to build community and foster inclusion and connection through sharing culture and music.

– Community Safety Campaigns

Summer Action Plan

Running from June 25 - September 5, the Esquimalt Summer Action Plan saw Esquimalt Division officers deployed on bicycle, on foot, and in vehicles, in an effort to proactively mitigate general disorder issues that tend to rise in frequency during the summer months. Three officers were deployed on week days and afternoons, with two of the officers deployed on many Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings.

These officers monitored the beaches, parks, recreation centers, and other areas where problems have traditionally occurred. The summer of 2020 had minimal issues in the core area of Esquimalt (Recreation Centre, Bullen Park, Esquimalt Plaza) as well as the parks, beaches and other areas that were patrolled.

Part of the objective of the Summer Action Plan was to engage with the community while officers were out on bicycles and as in the past, the public response was very positive with many thanking the officers for being present in the community.

Victoria

– Notable Crime / Community Safety Incidents

Firearms Call

On July 24th, VicPD Patrol officers were called to a multi-unit temporary residential facility for a report that an individual had discharged a firearm. When officers arrived, they located the suspect in a unit and found evidence indicating that a weapon may have been discharged. Several officers responded, including VicPD K9 and the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team (GVERT). Officers contained the suspect suite, evacuated nearby suites, and closed nearby roads to traffic. Officers contacted the suspect and GVERT Crisis Negotiators began to work with the suspect to have them exit the suite.

Over two hours later, the suspect unexpectedly exited the suite and refused to follow officers' commands. ARWEN less-lethal munitions were successfully deployed and the suspect was arrested without further incident. As is standard practice when less-lethal munitions are used, the suspect was assessed by BC Emergency Health Services paramedics. They were then transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries for further assessment.

Several aspects of this file, including the type of potential firearm used in the initial incident, remain under investigation.

Multiple Officers Assaulted in Long Weekend Arrests

Multiple officers were assaulted in separate incidents over a long weekend.

On July 31st, Patrol officers were called to a multi-unit temporary housing facility for a report that a violent individual was being verbally and physically aggressive. Officers attended and located the individual who continued to be verbally aggressive and refused to leave the property. They were arrested, and once inside the police vehicle they attacked one of the arresting officers, kicking the officer in the body. The officer received non-life-threatening injuries and was able to complete their shift. The individual was transported to cells and faces recommended charges of assaulting a peace officer, mischief, and possession of a controlled substance.

On August 1st, Patrol officers responded to a report that an individual was in crisis and causing harm to themselves. Officers located the individual and took them into protective custody under the *Mental Health Act* to transport them to medical care. While being taken into custody, the individual spat in the face of one officer, and struck and spat on another officer. Both officers received non-life-threatening injuries and were able to complete their shifts.

On August 3rd, Patrol officers were called to a report of an individual using a metal pole to break a bus stop window near the intersection of Quadra Street and Hillside Avenue. Due to the risk to the public and officers, multiple officers attended the scene. As officers moved to arrest the suspect, the suspect began to fight with them and assaulted three officers before being taken into custody. Each of the three officers suffered non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect suffered non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to hospital for assessment after which they were transported to VicPD cells and held for morning court. The suspect faces recommended charges of three counts of assaulting a peace officer, resisting arrest, and mischief.

Centennial Square Undercover Drug Trafficking Investigation

Seventeen people face 18 drug trafficking charges after VicPD Strike Force, Community Services Division, and Patrol officers participated in an undercover operation in Centennial Square. On August 10th, officers were deployed to Centennial Square in response to increased violent crime linked to the drug trade in the area. The violent incidents included the shooting of City Hall windows with a compressed air gun, multiple assaults, and two stabbings.

From August 11-15, undercover officers posed as customers and purchased drugs from tents located in Centennial Square. These drugs included methamphetamine, cocaine, psilocybin and fentanyl.

Prolific Drug Trafficker Arrested

Members of the Community Services Division's Beat Section initiated an investigation into a prolific drug trafficker who was using a supportive housing venue as the base of his operation. This particular location is populated by members of our vulnerable population. Police obtained a search warrant under the *Controlled Drug and Substances Act*, arrested the suspect, and recovered illicit drugs including crystal methamphetamine, cocaine, and fentanyl. Investigators also recovered replica firearms, a machete, a small amount of cash, and other drug trafficking paraphemalia. Both the staff and residents of this supportive housing venue were appreciative of the responsiveness of the police and the quick resolution to the matter. Recommended charges include Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking.

Marine Rescue

On September 2nd, Patrol officers were called to the Selkirk Trestle where an individual was reported to have entered the Gorge Waterway and was in crisis. On scene, officers saw that a passerby had climbed down the trestle and assisted in getting the individual to the safety of a trestle piling.

Victoria Fire Department (VFD) attended with a marine rescue boat and worked with officers and the passerby to rescue the individual. VFD transported both of them to a nearby dock. Officers apprehended the individual under section 28 of the *Mental Health Act*, and transported them to hospital for assessment. The passerby who assisted was not physically injured in the incident.

Six Arrested after Kidnapping

On September 7th, Patrol officers were called to a suite in a multi-unit residential building for a report of a loud domestic disturbance. On scene, officers learned that there had not been a domestic dispute, but rather an individual had been assaulted with a weapon and kidnapped by six suspects.

The six suspects drove the victim outside of Victoria and continued to assault them with weapons during transport. Eventually, the suspects stopped the vehicle and the victim was able to escape and make their way to a safe location where they were able to contact police. The victim was transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

On September 8th, detectives with VicPD's Special Victims Unit, working with Patrol Officers, the Major Crimes Unit, and Strike Force, arrested six people.

– Current / Emerging Crime and Community Safety Trends

Violent Crimes against Persons

This quarter saw a 6% increase in violent occurrences compared to Q3 2019. While general assaults decreased by 10%, assault causing bodily harm increased by 53% as did sex-related occurrences (increase of 44%) and occurrences related to threatening the safety of or violence to another (increase of 46%). Sex trafficking also continues to be an emerging issue with two occurrences reported to police this quarter.

Replica Firearms

Replica firearms continue to be used in crimes across Victoria and Esquimalt. In Q3, VicPD attended to 22 files involving replica firearms. Replica firearms, which include "Airsoft" guns, air-powered pellet guns and other replica firearms have been used in numerous offences this year. Their close resemblance to actual firearms, as well as their capacity to cause physical and psychological injury, remain an area of concern when used irresponsibly.

This quarter, a number of replica firearms were seized, including:

- A pellet gun associated to two investigations relating to incidents in Centennial Square
- Two replica firearms after Patrol officers and CSD officers responded to a call that a man in the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood was seen in possession of a handgun
- A replica pistol during a drug investigation
- A replica firearm from the vehicle of a man near Quadra Elementary School
- Two replica firearms in Beacon Hill Park during a search for a man reported to be in possession of firearm; the two seized replica firearms are believed to be unrelated to the original incident

VICTORIA POLICE

VICTORIA POLICE

Bear Spray Attacks

There were 78 files involving incidents of bear spray, pepper spray, and/or mace. In September alone, officers responded to 24 incidents, including three separate incidents in which multiple people were assaulted and sprayed with bear spray. While this trend is not a significant increase from Q3 2019 which saw 75 incidents, bear spray attacks have increased significantly in other policing jurisdictions across Canada.

Break and Enters

From January 1 - September 14, 2019, there were 207 break and enters to underground parkades, detached sheds, garages, and construction site storage lockers. For the same time period in 2020 there have been 414 break and enters to the same areas. This is an increase of 38.5% from Q3 2019.

Break and enters to underground parkades have risen 40%. From January - September 14, 2019 there were 137 underground parkade break and enters. For the same time period in 2020 there have been 194 underground parkade break and enters. After entering an underground parkade, thieves often target storage lockers and vehicles.

– Special Project Outcomes / Outputs

Increased Presence in Burnside Gorge and Beacon Hill Park

In August, VicPD deployed extra officers to the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood and Beacon Hill Park. This month-long initiative was aimed at increasing consistent police visibility and engagement in response to an increase in assaults in the area as well as the concerns expressed by residents and businesses. Due to resource constraints, this initiative was staffed by officers from across the department on special duty assignment.

Beacon Hill Park

In mid-July, Patrol officers attended a secluded area within Beacon Hill Park to investigate tips from the public of a bicycle "chop-shop". The officers located a large number of bicycles in varying states, bicycle parts, and other property including power tools, industrial torches, and propane tanks.

In September, Patrol officers were called to Beacon Hill Park for a report that an individual was yelling for people to call 911. Several area residents heard the individual's cries for help and called police. Officers attended an area where unhoused people were camping and located the victim who was suffering from non-life-threatening injuries. The victim, who was camping in the park, reported to officers that they had been stabbed, but refused to provide additional information. They were transported to hospital and this file remains under investigation.

Burnside Gorge

On August 6th, Patrol officers were dispatched for a report that an elderly individual was assaulted while taking a photograph of a dog in Burnside Gorge's Cecilia Ravine. The victim reported to officers that that they were working in the gardens at the community centre when they spotted a dog sitting alone by the ravine. Concerned for the dog's safety and wondering if it was lost, they approached the dog and used their phone to capture images of it. While they were taking photographs, they were suddenly assaulted from behind. The victim reported that a man pushed them to the ground, took the phone, and threw it into the ravine. This file is currently under investigation.

On August 13th, the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team arrested an individual after two break and enters and a barricade situation in the Burnside Gorge area.

– Community Engagement Initiatives / Opportunities

Our Front Desk re-opened on July 6th, with new COVID-19 safety measures in place. Our re-opening initiative was coordinated by the team including Patrol, the Investigation & Support Unit, Records, IT, Community Engagement Division, and Volunteer Services. Several services, including portions of our Police Information Checks offerings, were moved to a new, convenient online format which reduces turnaround times, the number of visits required, and helps keep citizens and staff safer.

STOP
VICPD
Welcome to VicPD

In July, officers and staff donned the Pride flag and Pride patches in support of LGTBQ2S+ members of our department and the community we serve. The Public Affairs team also provided updates on a series of files, including the successful resolution of several high-risk missing person calls, and shared the story of the marked increase in calls involving replica firearms. On July 14th, Public Affairs released a video about a seized replica assault rifle was released and viewed several thousand times.

The Public Affairs team warned the public after a ball python was discovered missing in Burnside Gorge on August 4th. The python was located by VicPD officers on August 12th, and the public warning was cancelled, much to the relief of many.

On August 8th, a local Facebook group organized a barbeque to say thank you to VicPD members. Howie Allan and members of the "What The Hell Just Happened" Facebook group treated VicPD officers to an afternoon barbecue at VicPD headquarters. The 27,000 member Facebook group raised money through donations to feed VicPD officers a lunch from Artisan Kitchen and Smokehouse. This heartwarming gesture came at a good time for VicPD officers; in the previous two weeks, six officers were injured in on-duty assaults. Moments like this help our officers see the support that we enjoy and appreciate from Victoria and Esquimalt.

On August 20th, the Public Affairs team updated the community that a local tattoo artist had been charged in a series of sexual assaults. Public Affairs provided direct support to the investigation and assisted in the identification of additional victims and witnesses, resulting in additional charges.

In September, back to school was an all-hands-on-deck effort as VicPD Volunteers, VicPD Traffic, VicPD Block Watch and Public Affairs connected with the community to remind them that students had returned to schools. Several different engagement events and efforts were undertaken, including a video shoot with a VicPD Traffic Section officer, which had over 30,000 views.

VicPD Civic Service Awards returned after a citizen assisted in rescuing an individual who had leapt from the Selkirk Trestle. Humble hero, Devin Waugh, was honoured in a small, socially distanced ceremony in VicPD's Hall of Honour.

On September 3rd, officers and staff from across Vancouver Island joined the Yukon's Gurdeep Pandher to dance bhangra on the law of the BC Legislature. This joyful workout was inspired by Gurdeep's use of dance to build community and foster inclusion and connection through sharing culture and music. VicPD also supported this year's BC Law Enforcement Memorial which was live broadcast online in a COVID-19 adjusted format.

We issued a series of public notifications, including a VicPD Connect alert for Scott Jones, a court designated dangerous offender who was unlawfully at large. Jones was located by local taxi driver, Fadil Rashead, who called 911 and directed RCMP to Jones. Mr. Rashead was honoured at a VicPD Civic Service Award ceremony on October 2nd.

We shared the story of the origins of Orange Shirt Day, and used our social media platforms to share stories of residential schools and calls to support residential school survivors and their families.

– Community Safety Campaigns

In July, VicPD's Public Affairs team continued to support missing persons investigations by reaching out to the public for information. We also shared information frauds related to COVID-19 in order to keep the public informed, continued to support the transition of some services to online delivery, and supported a BC wide traffic safety campaign which was aimed at impaired driving.

In August, we supported additional anti-fraud messaging related to COVID-19 and resurgent Canada Revenue Agency scams. August was national Prescription Drug Drop-off month and we supported it by sharing their messaging.

In September, Back to School traffic awareness was the focus of a multi-week campaign that brought together VicPD Volunteers, VicPD Traffic, and the Community Engagement Division. We supported keeping kids safe online through Cyber Tip awareness month. We also supported the Traffic Injury Research Foundation which launched a traffic awareness campaign towards commercial vehicles.

VicPD

– Current / Emerging Issues Impacting Efficiency or Effectiveness

Over the past several months, the number of encampments in City of Victoria parks have grown significantly. This has created a demand for increased service from from the police and City Bylaw. In order to assist Bylaw Officers with their daily work in the encampments, VicPD created a new special duty. Two call-out police officers now work side-by-side with Bylaw, seven days a week for a four-hour morning shift. Community Services Division has also increased collaboration with Bylaw and other City departments through participation in the recently formed "Sheltering Committee." This group meets weekly to discuss pertinent issues, strategize, and bring a consistent approach to the encampments.

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

Project Burnside Gorge Connect

In order to address some of the challenges posed by the increase in supportive housing units in the west side of the City, the Community Services Division recently launched project "Burnside Gorge Connect." The goal of this project was to increase police visibility in this community in an effort to curb increased crime and disorder. Led by our Community Resource Officers, members of the Beat and Bike Sections conducted increased patrols, interacted with local residents, and liaised with business owners and their staff in these suburban areas. Community Services Division members listened to the concerns of the residents and businesses and provided advice on ways to improve personal, residential, and commercial safety. The enhanced visibility of these officers has also been complemented by increased patrols from our Reserve constables and a re-energized Block Watch Program.

Drug Toxicity and Overdoses

Similar to Q2, throughout Q3, the Community Engagement Division continued to share Island Health's information about drug toxicity and overdose concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Community Engagement Division also continued to share messaging from the BCCDC about masks, social distancing, and good hygiene practices. In addition, the public were reminded that despite the ongoing pandemic, there are safe spaces in our community for victims of domestic violence.

Locating Dangerous Offenders

Much of our community harm prevention outreach this quarter was linked directly to active files and investigations where we relied on partnerships with the public to help locate dangerous offenders. These partnerships have prevented additional harms in many circumstances.

– New/Emerging Pressures on Efficiency / Service Levels

2020 has been a challenging year for the Community Services Division (Beat Section, Bike Section, Traffic Section and Community Resource Officers), particularly from a staffing perspective. Due to injuries, illness, and other factors, the division has operated at a 60% capacity for most of the year. Despite this challenge, members of the division remain positive and are highly engaged in their mandate. Through some internal reorganization and teamwork, the sections within the division have supported one another to maintain high visibility in the community, conduct pro-active work, and provide an agile response to spontaneous situations as they arise.

– New / Revised / Reduced Programs or Services

COVID-19 Related Measures Act - New Powers to Ticket

On August 21st, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, announced new penalties and requirements under the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act* (*CRMA*) regarding safe physical distancing and public gatherings. This announcement was timely as that night, VicPD officers issued the first $2,300 violation ticked under the new measures. This ticket was issued to the host of a party that who was in egregious violation of the requirements under the *CRMA* as they were holding a large party of between 40-60 teens and young adults in a one bedroom apartment. A second party the following night at the same location saw one party goer arrested for obstruction of a peace officer and being served a $230 ticket under section 6 of the *CRMA* for abusive or belligerent behaviour at a social gathering.

Open VicPD

VicPD is always striving to be as transparent and accountable as possible. This quarter, we launched Open VicPD as a one-stop hub for information about the Victoria Police Department. Open VicPD is comprised of seven key elements designed to invite citizens to learn more about VicPD and how we deliver community policing:

- New VicPD Community Dashboard
- New Quarterly Reports
- New 2020-2024 Strategic Plan
- Community Surveys
- Community Updates
- Publications
- Crime Maps

OPEN VICPD

The VicPD Community Dashboard, a component of Open VicPD, is an integral component of the VicPD 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. Through this proactive and interactive sharing of information, it is hoped that citizens can learn more about VicPD and how we deliver policing services, while starting conversations about additional opportunities and challenges that deserve greater attention.

Our VicPD Community Dashboard and the Quarterly Reports provide data and analysis at different levels of depth, and over different time periods. Some of this information comes directly from VicPD, while other information, like the Crime Severity Index for Victoria and Esquimalt, is produced by outside agencies like Stats Canada. All of the measures are drawn from our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and from reports created at the direction of the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board and/or through municipal, provincial and federal data and information sharing agreements

Our VicPD Community Dashboard is organized through the three goals of our Strategic Plan 2020: **Support Community Safety**, **Enhance Public Trust** and **Achieve Organizational Excellence**.

VICPD Community Dashboard

– Extraordinary Expenditures (VicPD, Victoria/Esquimalt)

Cost reductions in travel and training due to COVID-19 travel restrictions have been largely offset by increased costs for janitorial services and personal protective equipment due to the pandemic. Savings in personnel costs have also been offset by higher overtime costs related public protests in Q1 and unexpectedly high costs to maintain Patrol shift minimums due to a continued increase in time loss from work related injuries. The number and cost of retirements have also been higher than anticipated in 2020. Other expenditures, with the exception of retirements, are generally in line with the budget. Capital expenditures are slightly below budget at this time.

– Financial Services Division Update

At the end of Q3, the net financial position is slightly above budget; however, we expect to be close to budget by the end of the year. Revenues are below budget due to the impact of COVID-19 on special duties and an increase in online records checks. We expect this to continue for the remainder of the year.