

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Commanding Officer
Alberta

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Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Commandant
de l'Alberta

Good day,

As we begin a new year, I would like to take the opportunity to share an update on the work the Alberta RCMP is doing to support safe, resilient communities across the province.

Like you, and the communities you serve, crime remains a primary concern for the Alberta RCMP. We recognize the significant impacts crime has on residents, businesses, and overall community well-being. Policing in Alberta presents unique and real challenges, including vast geographic areas, long response distances, and a relatively small number of repeat offenders who cause a disproportionate amount of harm. Addressing these challenges requires responses that are intelligence-led, fiscally responsible, and built on strong partnerships.

We remain focused on addressing crime through continual reassessment of operational approaches, responsible deployment of resources, and close collaboration with municipal and community partners. We also recognize the significant cost of policing for communities and remain committed to ensuring available resources are deployed strategically and efficiently to deliver effective policing services to Albertans.

As part of this commitment, we are investing in modernization initiatives, including the development of the Real-Time Operations Centre, the expansion of the Emergency Response Team, increased investigative capacity and resources focused on working in partnership with communities and government on prevention initiatives and address the root causes of crime.

I want to highlight for you some of the initiatives we have underway, some of the results we've realized and some of the opportunities we remain focused on.

Despite fiscal pressures, we continue to focus resources where they will have the greatest impact. One of our key strategies is concentrating on the relatively small number of offenders responsible for the greatest harm across the province through tracking and prioritizing the Top 100 offenders. Using data compiled from RCMP and municipal police services across Alberta our Strategic Research and Analysis Unit, has assessed nearly 100,000 unique offenders and ranked them to identify those causing the most significant harm. This intelligence directly informs the work of Crime Reduction Units located across the province that can be deployed where and when emerging crime trends demand to target those offenders causing the most harm. These units work in close coordination with local detachments and partner agencies, including municipal police services and Alberta Sheriffs.

We have countless examples of successful operations targeting property crime offenders across Alberta where significant seizures of stolen property including vehicles, ATV's, heavy construction equipment, and copper wire, have been recovered and offenders have been arrested to face prosecution. This includes well coordinated investigations involving teams of investigators located strategically throughout the four districts working in concert and utilizing sophisticated investigative techniques and tools including the leveraging of cutting-edge surveillance assets from our federal RCMP partners.

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We know that addiction to illicit drugs is a huge driver of the types of crime that victimize Albertans. To that end, we have also utilized enhanced investigative resources to compliment local detachments in combatting the drug trade in communities across the province. We have made significant seizures of fentanyl, methamphetamines, cocaine and illegal firearms in numerous investigations across the province. These successes impact the availability of these harmful drugs through disruption of supply and act as a deterrent by holding accountable those who are profiting from the distribution of substances that deprive Albertans of their safety and security.

We are embracing technology to make policing more effective, efficient, and safer for both the public and police. The policing landscape is changing; yesterday's solutions won't solve today's challenges. As such, modern policing requires that frontline officers be supported by layers of expertise, coordination, and technology. The Real-Time Operations Centre does exactly that and is a critical component of police modernization. Operating twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the Real-Time Operations Centre provides operational support to every Alberta RCMP officer in the province. It enhances officer and public safety, coordinates specialized resources, and ensures informed decision-making during complex and evolving incidents. For our officers, the Real-Time Operations Centre ensures they are never working alone, regardless of location. For Alberta communities, this means every officer on their street is supported by a robust network of specialized units ready to respond at any moment. Ratepayers aren't funding just one uniformed member, but a comprehensive system of expertise and technology working behind that officer to keep their community safe.

Advanced investigative resources and practices represent another essential component of modernized policing as do resources such as the Emergency Response Teams. Emergency Response Teams are teams of highly skilled and trained individuals, bringing together experienced members, specialized tactics, advanced technology, and trained negotiators as a complete operational package, essentially bringing the right resource to the most volatile and dangerous calls. Their role is to safely resolve high-risk incidents involving armed or barricaded individuals, hostage situations and high-risk arrests. By deploying the appropriate expertise, equipment, and techniques, Emergency Response Teams have consistently led to safer outcomes for community members, suspects, and police officers. Demand for these specialized responses has increased significantly, with a sixty-one per cent increase in calls requiring Emergency Response Team involvement over the past four years. In response we have increased our capacity in this area enhancing overall public safety throughout the province. These specialized units place the Alberta RCMP on the leading edge of modern policing in Canada and directly support community safety. Combined with the dedication of our employees and the partnership of the communities we serve, these efforts have helped reduce crime rates in Alberta to the lowest in five years.

We recognize that police visibility and staffing levels remain key concerns for our clients and stakeholders. We continue to focus on recruiting Albertans to serve Albertans, strengthening experienced police officer recruitment. Since April 1, 2024, we have seen 5,450 applications in Alberta and 22 Experienced Police Officers have joined the Alberta RCMP since April 1, 2025. While these recruiting numbers are encouraging, we recognize the ongoing urgency to fill vacancies which is why we continually look inward at our hiring processes to remove barriers, find efficiencies and ensure the most qualified applicants are finding their way to service in communities across Alberta as quickly as possible.

Like all police services, we experience short-term human resource pressures at frontline detachments and have developed several strategies that enable a flexible response to these pressures. We have established a Relief Team based out of Leduc and Cochrane that is comprised of 30 members who

support detachments throughout the province. Since the start of 2026, the Relief Team has deployed 34 times to various detachments in the province. In addition, we currently have 33 Reservists who are retired police officers available as and when required to deploy where the greatest needs are. This provides another option of flexible deployment of highly experienced resources.

We are continually assessing our service delivery models to ensure our resources are deployed in the most effective and efficient way. This includes assessing resource levels at detachments, monitoring our response times, reviewing and adapting our policies and piloting initiatives to improve member visibility in communities. Just recently, we approved a pilot project that leverages technology to reduce the administrative burden placed on our front-line members, so that they can spend more time engaged in proactive patrolling and community engagement.

We continually engage in consultation with our community partners and stakeholders to identify whether changes to service delivery are needed. We assess and discuss impacts with our stakeholders and prioritize flexibility to ensure we are responsive to community priorities and needs.

Municipal leadership plays a critical role in advocating for safer communities. Your collective voice—grounded in firsthand knowledge of how crime affects residents, businesses, and community well-being—is essential in advancing meaningful change related to bail practices and court capacity.

I would like to highlight some of the broader challenges we encounter in this space.

First, let me share an example of a single prolific offender whose repeated releases resulted in significant harm across multiple communities:

- In February 2025, he committed a firearm-related robbery and stole a vehicle containing a one-year-old child, receiving a 90-day sentence.
- In June 2025, he was sentenced to 21 days time served after being located in a stolen vehicle.
- In July 2025, he was arrested again in a stolen vehicle, charged with 11 offences, and released on bail with conditions.
- In September 2025, he pled guilty to theft under \$5,000 and served 30 days.
- In November 2025, he rammed an unmarked police vehicle with a stolen vehicle and was taken into custody.
- He now faces 11 charges, including failure to comply and assaulting a police officer with a weapon, and remains in custody.

This individual committed offences across Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Parkland County, Lac Ste. Anne County, and Sturgeon County. His apprehension was the result of coordinated efforts between the Central Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit, a Community Response Team, and Parkland Detachment resources.

Examples such as this are not isolated. They demonstrate how a single prolific offender, repeatedly released back into the community, can cause significant harm to multiple municipalities in a short period of time. These cases underscore rural Albertans' concerns around repeat offending, bail, and court capacity.

We work closely with Crown Prosecutors to address repeat offending by ensuring priority offenders are supported by comprehensive bail packages that clearly outline criminal history, risk to public safety, and the broader community impacts of continued release. We also actively support the use of Community

Impact Statements, which allow communities and municipal leaders to articulate the cumulative harm crime causes beyond individual victims.

We remain compassionate toward individuals experiencing mental health challenges, addictions, and social vulnerability, and we continue to support partnerships that improve access to treatment and recovery services. This requires that adequate treatment be available and accessible. At the same time, there are individuals whose repeated, violent, or high-risk behaviour necessitates incarceration. Some people simply need to go to jail in order to protect the public and prevent further victimization.

Court capacity remains a significant challenge across the province, especially in rural Alberta. Limited court time, shortages of judges and clerks, and resulting delays undermine the effectiveness of the justice system. We will continue to advocate for improvements through multiple forums, consistently raising the impacts these pressures have on victims, communities, and frontline policing.

When policing data, operational experience, and municipal advocacy align, they provide a powerful foundation for justice system reform. Effective crime reduction cannot be achieved by policing alone. Long-term success depends on strong partnerships with municipalities, community organizations, government, and social service providers. We value our relationship with you and those you represent and recognize the essential role you play in shaping community safety priorities.

Modernization, fiscal responsibility, and collaboration will continue to guide our efforts. We are committed to leveraging technology, applying best practices, and deploying the right resources in the right places to support shared public safety goals.

Effective policing depends on strong partnerships, and I want to assure you that we remain committed to working closely with elected officials, municipal administrators, and community leaders to ensure policing services align with local priorities and needs. That is why I encourage you to reach out to your local Detachment Commander to discuss your policing services and explore opportunities to strengthen collaboration in support of your community priorities.

Sincerely,



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