



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2016 Fourth Quarter

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APPENDICES

EPS RECEIVES WOLF AWARD FOR WORK WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

In late October, Chief Rod Knecht was proud to accept the Wolf Award for the service's work with Edmonton's Indigenous community. EPS is the first law enforcement organization ever to be considered for this national award.

The Wolf Project is a grassroots Canadian initiative established to honour activities that serve to improve harmony between cultures. Winners are selected by a board of seven members located across Canada. EPS was recognized for the work of its Indigenous Relations Unit and the Oskayak Police Academy, a two-week program for youth between the ages of 14 and 18 who self-identify as Indigenous.

"We take great pride in the amount of support we have from our community," says Chief Knecht. "It's only because of our strong partnerships with community and government organizations that we're able to offer programs that help make our police service a leader in Canada."

The EPS is proud to work with Amiskwaciy Academy, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Métis Child and Family Services, Edmonton Public Schools, Edmonton Catholic Schools, REACH Edmonton and Metro Continuing Education to host the Oskayak Police Academy.



Front row: Elder Jeanette Lean; Chief Rod Knecht; Elder Don Langford; Elder Francis Whiskeyjack; Terris Mah; Kari Thomason; Elder Leif Campbell; Constable Tanis Koelsar; Acting Staff Sergeant Alanna Harrison; Andrea Levey. Back row: Fred Hines.

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REDUCED CRIME AND
VICTIMIZATION

INVESTIGATIVE EXCELLENCE

INCREASED EFFICIENCY
AND EFFECTIVENESS

APPENDICES

EPS WINS INTERNATIONAL HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD

In mid-October at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) annual conference in San Diego, the EPS was honoured to receive the IACP Human and Civil Rights Award for its Emerging Communities Framework.

As Syrian refugees began to arrive in Edmonton in 2015, the EPS Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Section developed a plan to reach out to this emerging community. Beginning in January 2016, Sergeant Gary Willits and Community Operations Coordinator Iman Saidi met with most government sponsored refugee families and some privately sponsored families that arrived in Edmonton. This initial engagement helped establish a relationship with the families and dispel fear and mistrust of police – an attitude that is common among those fleeing unstable political environments.

“Establishing police legitimacy in the community is what makes it possible for our members to do their job,” says Natasha Goudar, Manager of the Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Section. “And the community gives us that legitimacy because we earn it. We can’t demand it from them.”

With the full support of Chief Rod Knecht, the Syrian refugee outreach plan grew into an Emerging Communities Framework that will be applied across EPS to help build relationships with all new and emerging communities from around the world. As part of the work of this framework, the Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Section developed relationships with community partners who work closely with newcomer populations, coordinated staff training on the influences of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in refugee families, assisted partner agencies with presentations and orientation classes for newcomers, worked with community partners to offer a Police Youth Engagement Program for young people from newcomer communities, and helped with police investigations where a newcomer is directly or indirectly involved.

Chelsea Hawrelak, Natasha Goudar and Chief Rod Knecht accept the International Association of Chiefs of Police Human and Civil Rights Award alongside Will Johnson, Chief of Police of Arlington, Texas, and Chair of the IACP awards selection committee.



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VICTIMIZATION

INVESTIGATIVE EXCELLENCE

INCREASED EFFICIENCY
AND EFFECTIVENESS

APPENDICES

EPS MEMBERS TAKE INTRODUCTORY SIGN LANGUAGE COURSE

In late November, EPS tried out a new idea: an American Sign Language (ASL) course for police officers.

The initiative started when Constable Dave Castillo, a patrol officer in Southeast Division, brought forward a proposal to take ASL training. Iman Saidi, with the EPS Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Section discussed the idea with other frontline members, and it became clear that communicating with the deaf community is an issue service-wide.

Saidi worked with [Deaf & Hear Alberta](#), a non-profit society dedicated to removing barriers for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, to put together a two-day course tailored for police.

The course was taught by a facilitator from Deaf & Hear Alberta, and two patrol members from each division took part in the basic ASL and deaf culture training.



“What I learned is the deaf community has their own language and culture,” explains Saidi. “And with our efforts to build police trust within different communities in Edmonton, this course seemed like a perfect fit.”

OILERS RECOGNIZE MEMBERS FOR COMMUNITY WORK

In December, 12 EPS members were given a rare opportunity to hang out with the Edmonton Oilers.



After being appointed the first ever Ambassador for the Edmonton Police Foundation in November, Edmonton Oilers GM Peter Chiarelli began looking for ways to recognize EPS members who are exceptionally dedicated to their community. He approached Chief Knecht and asked if EPS could put forward names to take part in a fun, casual recognition event that included watching an Oilers practice session, a tour of Rogers Place and some light refreshments.

The participating members were recommended through their Divisional Management Teams based on their community involvement, with many being previously recognized by community leagues, schools, citizens and even the provincial government.

“Recognition is especially meaningful when it comes from our community partners,” says Chief Knecht. “The EPS is proud of the relationships we have built, and we appreciate this opportunity to acknowledge our members for their outstanding work.”

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APPENDICES

CRIME FREE MULTI-HOUSING PROGRAM CELEBRATES 300TH PROPERTY CERTIFICATION

On November 1, 2016, the EPS certified the 300th multi-family property in its Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) program that helps keep illegal activity out and residents safe.

The milestone came 15 years after the EPS launched the program in Edmonton, becoming the first city in Alberta to participate in the accredited North American safety program.

“The program’s longevity and success are due in large part to the cooperation and support of the property managers and residents,” said EPS Acting Sergeant Amanda Trenchard. “At one time, it was police going it alone to control crime at problem properties, now it’s the reverse where landlords and tenants are taking ownership and not tolerating criminal behaviour.”

The goal of CFMH is to reduce the likelihood of criminal activity by introducing crime prevention techniques to multi-housing properties.

The program has fostered positive relationships between property managers, residents and police, empowered individuals to take action in their community, created safer environments, and reduced the number of crimes reported.

The CFMH program is coordinated in partnership with the City of Edmonton Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board, and helps to identify civil processes under the Residential Tenancies Act that can be used to reduce crime or other nuisance activity.

[Click here for more information on the CFMH program, or if you are interested in having your property participate in the program.](#)

“I find that residents feel more secure, and as a manager, I know that I will not be dealing with any individuals that are drug impaired or have gang connections. Should a problem arise, I have the support of the Edmonton Police Service.”

– Edmonton property manager

Participating in the E'Scapes Condominiums certification was Acting Staff Sergeant Graham Blackburn; Dianna Morris, Manager, Star Property Managers; Acting Sergeant Amanda Trenchard; Judy Downey, Supervisor of the City of Edmonton Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board; Superintendent David Veitch; Acting Inspector Shawn Bula; and Constable John Beatson.



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APPENDICES

KIDS AND COPS LACE UP AND FACE OFF IN A FRIENDLY GAME OF HOCKEY

Several police officers from Downtown Division laced up to play a friendly game of hockey with youth in late December, in the 8th Annual McCauley Cup.

The hockey game was originally introduced by a Downtown Beat police officer who wanted to bridge the gap between themselves and the community. Since then, the game has grown in popularity. Youth from the neighbourhood are always ready to showcase their new skills to the police officers and spectators.

"Youth in the neighbourhood return every winter to play hockey against police officers," says Downtown Division Constable Andrew Melney, organizer of this year's McCauley Cup. "We are continuing to build on those positive relationships and are getting to know new kids and community members every year."

Participants brought donations for the Edmonton Food Bank and enjoyed a bonfire, hot drinks and some light refreshments.

Thank you to the gracious sponsors: [United Cycle](#), [Sport Central](#), K.I.D.S., [Elite Sport Awards](#), and Oilers Alumni.



Constable Brad Andrews warms up with a future Oiler's player at the 8th Annual McCauley Cup.

NOW YOU SEE ME

In 2016, there were 273 pedestrian-involved collisions, resulting in 10 fatalities.

The EPS and the City of Edmonton's Traffic Safety section teamed up to distribute reflective zipper tags to kids with the goal of reducing the number of pedestrian accidents in the city. The reflective tags which displayed the phrase "See Me", can be worn on things such as jacket zippers and backpacks.

It's the first time EPS has handed out reflective gear to the public. Close to 20,000 tags were distributed starting at Halloween, and tags are still available at divisional police stations.



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APPENDICES

WHAT SUPERVISED INJECTION SITES COULD MEAN IN EDMONTON

Supervised injection sites for addicted intravenous drug users are being proposed for Edmonton, with up to four facilities under consideration. While the mandate for current sites around the world varies, the focus is often on harm reduction, through offering sterile injection equipment, information about drugs, basic health care, and access to medical staff.

Advocates for supervised sites suggest they reduce overdose deaths and the spread of infection and communicable diseases associated with needle sharing. Detractors point to the negative impact on the surrounding community, such as open drug use, property and violent crime, as well as filth and squalor.

The Edmonton Police Service is advocating for the inclusion of additional proactive support services within Edmonton sites, which would provide an integrated approach to addressing some of the major contributing factors to addiction and the crimes directly related to illegal drug use. Suggested services include broader medical assistance, access to food, shelter, and hygiene services, mental health and addictions counselling, as well as income stability. Without such an expanded support structure, injection facilities can end up prolonging life-threatening drug use and related victimization, rather than attempting to assist users in managing their life and addictions.

As community support is paramount for the long-term success of such facilities, proposed Bill-37 calls for "appropriate consultation of the community" by the advisory group (Access to Medically Supervised Injection Services Edmonton), before any decisions are finalized.

In the months ahead, EPS will continue to advocate for available wrap-around support services for the proposed sites, with a primary focus on improving the lives of those with drug addictions.

OVERALL CRIME IN THE EIGHT CRIME INDICATORS 2015 AND 2016 YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISONS



By the end of the fourth quarter of 2016, property crimes increased by 10.1 per cent and violent crimes decreased by 3.2 per cent compared to the same time frame in 2015.

THE EIGHT CRIME INDICATORS ARE:

VIOLENT CRIMES

- Homicide
- Assault
- Sexual assault
- Robbery

PROPERTY CRIMES

- Break and enter
- Theft from vehicle
- Theft of vehicle
- Theft over \$5,000

The eight crime indicators are measured daily and the data is used to focus on criminal activity and identify trends, patterns, and hot spots in Edmonton. Police resources are then deployed to address emerging and enduring crime and disorder issues. Violent crime statistics are based on the number of victims of crime, rather than the number of incidents of crime.

Source: Cognos CSR-12 8 Crime Indicators, generated January 18, 2017

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INVESTIGATIVE EXCELLENCE

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AND EFFECTIVENESS

APPENDICES

EPS CHARGE THREE SUSPECTS IN RELATION TO COUNTERFEIT MONEY

In mid-October, West Division received a complaint regarding counterfeit Canadian currency and Constable Zachary Jansen stepped up to take on the investigation. During the investigation, police found several \$100 and \$20 bills with the same serial number.

On November 19, 2016, police conducted a search warrant in the area of Winterburn Road and West View Boulevard. The EPS found numerous identity documents, a debit and credit card reader, ID maker and counterfeit money. Two individuals were arrested on site.

A second search warrant was conducted in the area of 154 Street and 84 Avenue, where a third individual was arrested. Police seized scanners, printers, counterfeit bills and other supplies relating to counterfeiting at this location.

"We believe there are still numerous counterfeit bills in circulation in the Edmonton area," says Acting Staff Sergeant Scott Abbott with West Division.

Three individuals were charged with several offences including possession of counterfeit money, uttering counterfeit money, fraud, and possession of identity documents.



Constable Zachary Jansen holds counterfeit \$20 bills seized during a search warrant.

EPS LAYS FIRST DRONE-RELATED CHARGE

An investigation by EPS officers in consultation with Transport Canada and the Crown Prosecutors Office, led to EPS laying their first drone-related charge.

In early September, a constable trained as an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) operator for the EPS observed a UAV (commonly known as a drone) operating in a dangerous manner in downtown Edmonton. The drone was reportedly being operated over buildings, roadways, the MacEwan LRT Station, and Rogers Place. The subsequent investigation resulted in a 23-year old man being charged in relation to the unsafe and dangerous operation of a UAV.

Guidelines issued by Transport Canada deem this type of operation to be hazardous to persons on the ground. The UAV was operating too close to the Royal Alexandra Heliport, which STARS uses for transporting patients for medical emergencies.



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INVESTIGATIVE EXCELLENCE

INCREASED EFFICIENCY
AND EFFECTIVENESS

APPENDICES

OPERATION 24 HOURS - RESULTS FOR 2016

There were a total of six *Operation 24 Hours* blitzes which took place in 2016. In conjunction with automated enforcement, run by the City of Edmonton's Traffic Safety Section, there were 17,658 traffic violations issued throughout the year. Violations were not limited to speeding, but ranged from seatbelt infractions to impaired driving charges.

August was the busiest month for *Operation 24 Hours*, with 3,582 traffic violations issued. During that month, a traffic stop was conducted in the city's west-end after officers identified a vehicle with a mismatched license plate. The male driver of the vehicle provided a false name and further investigation revealed he had 41 outstanding warrants. He was also in possession of multiple identity documents. The man is now facing more than 20 new charges as a result of the hard work conducted by Traffic Section officers.

For 2017, Traffic Section will be focusing extra efforts on pedestrian enforcement to ensure both pedestrians and drivers are obeying the rules of the road.

EPS GRADUATES CLASS #135



In early November, 30 recruits (24 males, six females, and two police service dog teams) graduated at a prestigious ceremony held at Edmonton City Hall. Class 135 included Constable Amal Abdi, the first Somali-Canadian recruit to graduate from the EPS, and Constable Lauren Croxford and PSD Bender, the service's second female dog handler.

CITIZENS' ACTS OF BRAVERY RECOGNIZED



The Royal Canadian Humane Association (RCHA) recognized citizens for exceptional acts of bravery and lifesaving while under duress at a special ceremony at EPS Headquarters on November 4, 2016. The Honourable Lois E. Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and EPS Chief Rod Knecht presented the awards to 27 people, including Ryan Colton who received the RCHA Bronze Medal for Bravery for risking his life to assist Sergeant Jason Harley who had been shot along with his partner Constable Dan Woodall while executing a warrant on June 8, 2015. Constable Woodall died in the line of duty.

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REDUCED CRIME AND
VICTIMIZATION

INVESTIGATIVE EXCELLENCE

INCREASED EFFICIENCY
AND EFFECTIVENESS

APPENDICES

FINDING EFFICIENCIES IN THE 2016 BUDGET

With the approval of the 2016-2018 funding formula, the EPS and the Edmonton Police Commission were tasked with finding ways to support unfunded needs. Throughout 2016, EPS continued to review all programs, projects and services to ensure they were relevant, efficient and effective.

Bureaus were challenged to identify a total of \$9 million in efficiencies. As a result of this exercise, EPS identified \$4.3 million in efficiencies that could be reinvested into priority positions. A further \$5.6 million in efficiencies were also put into effect that would save time for frontline officers.

Changes that will impact the community include:

Time efficiencies:

- **Online reporting** - increased usage of online reporting
- **Hospital wait times** - new observation period at hospital emergency departments of 30 minutes
- **Alarm control** - new alarm bylaw protocol to reduce number of false alarm calls that police respond to
- **Warrant project** – complete review of outstanding arrest warrants and surrounding processes.

Cost savings efficiencies

- **Community station closures** - closure of front counters at Strathcona, Ottewell, Namao, MacDougall and Summerlea stations
- **Neighbourhood Empowerment Teams** – use of divisional community liaison constables for NET related work
- **Traffic** – restructure a position to the divisions to enhance enforcement
- **Commercial Vehicles** – restructure a position to do enforcement specific to commercial vehicles.

The efficiencies resulted in the addition of four school resource officers, and increased staffing in Commercial Vehicle Inspections, Domestic Offender Section, and Crime Scenes and Intelligence.

EPS CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CURB THE DANGER PROGRAM

Barney Stevens, coordinator of EPS's Curb the Danger (CTD) program, accepted a giant logoed road sign from the City's Traffic Safety Section as a gesture of appreciation on the 10th anniversary of the program.



Gerry Shimko, City of Edmonton Office of Traffic Safety; Barney Stevens; Councillor Bev Esslinger; Allison Bouthillier; Deputy Chief Tony Harder; Superintendent Terry Rocchio.

A dedicated group of partners, past and present, gathered at Edmonton City Hall to acknowledge a decade of accomplishments. Councillor Bev Esslinger, on behalf of Mayor Iveson, proclaimed Thursday, October 28, 2016, as Curb the Danger Day in Edmonton.

"The program wouldn't be this successful without the community taking the time to call 911," says Stevens. "And it certainly couldn't happen without the staff from Police Communications Branch who evaluate and dispatch those calls, and the officers who intercept potential impaired drivers."

Net results of all of this hard work include over 88,000 calls from the public to 911, and close to 8,000 arrests since the program's inception in 2006.

APPENDICES

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REDUCED CRIME AND
VICTIMIZATION

INVESTIGATIVE EXCELLENCE

INCREASED EFFICIENCY
AND EFFECTIVENESS

APPENDICES

EPS STAFF COMPLEMENT

SWORN, CIVILIAN AND RECRUITS

STAFF	2016 AUTHORIZED FTE'S	2016 FTE'S AS OF 2016 DECEMBER 31	VACANCIES (OVER STRENGTH)
SWORN	1790.00	1737.29	52.71
RECRUITS	0.00	64.00	(64.00)
CIVILIAN	733.00	748.32	(15.32)
FULL COMPLEMENT	2523.00	2549.61	(26.61)

The authorized FTE's represent 2,523.00 authorized positions in 2016

OTHER COMMISSION AND EPS PUBLICATIONS

The Edmonton Police Commission and the Edmonton Police Service publish a number of reports that provide further details on policing in Edmonton.

OPERATIONAL AREA	PUBLICATION
Performance Measurement	Annual Policing Plan
Performance Results	Annual Policing Plan Report Card
Complaints Against EPS	Professional Standards Branch Annual Report
Citizen Opinions on Policing	Citizen Survey

All publications can be found at www.edmontonpolicecommission.ca and www.edmontonpolice.ca

	2016 YEAR TO DATE			
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	%
REVENUE				
Traffic Safety Act Fines	\$17,808	\$13,572	\$(4,236)	-23.8%
Transfer from Reserve (OTS)	20,384	20,384	-	0.0%
Provincial Grants	27,061	26,736	(325)	-1.2%
Other Revenue	25,931	27,562	1,631	6.3%
TOTAL REVENUE	91,184	88,254	(2,930)	-3.2%
EXPENDITURES				
PERSONNEL				
Salary and benefits	314,795	315,168	(373)	-0.1%
EPS Overtime	10,614	10,283	331	3.1%
External Overtime	432	573	(141)	-32.6%
	325,841	326,024	(183)	-0.1%
NON-PERSONNEL				
Furniture, equipment, IT, materials and supplies	12,605	14,516	(1,911)	-15.2%
Contracts and services	20,919	20,177	742	3.5%
Vehicles	7,373	7,615	(242)	-3.3%
Facilities	17,592	16,964	628	3.6%
Other Expenditures	14,168	13,302	866	6.1%
	72,657	72,574	83	0.1%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	398,498	398,598	(100)	0.0%
NET POSITION	\$307,314	\$310,344	\$(3,030)	-1.0%

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REDUCED CRIME AND
VICTIMIZATION

INVESTIGATIVE EXCELLENCE

INCREASED EFFICIENCY
AND EFFECTIVENESS

APPENDICES