



## Introduction ...

Before I introduce the Group of people with me tonight I want to provide a little background and context...

Downtown Division has traditionally dealt with the highest demand for service. In fact over 30% of all Violent Crimes in the city occur in Downtown Division. I will quickly add that our violence is down over 130 Occurrences or 12% since 2010, that a pretty good safety record, but we can't be satisfied with that. About 30% of our work is what we call disorder: trouble with person, trouble with intoxicated person, mischief, pan handling; issues that are related to Homelessness, poverty, addictions and substance abuse and mental health.

Our focus is to Reduce Crime and Victimization and as much as we want to solve the crimes that occur we want to always lead with prevention and intervention initiatives, so the criminal event does not occur in the first place! In order to be successful we have to identify and then focus on eliminating the root causes that cause crimes to occur. Those root causes are identified in two main areas: **Places and People: People** who are victims and offenders and more importantly **People at risk** of victimization and **People at risk** of offending.

This learning and our experience led to the creation of a Vulnerable Persons Unit: where we have a plan to deal with At-Risk Youth, Victims of Spousal Violence, an Offender Management piece and what brings us here tonight: a **Vulnerable Persons Team**, or a Mental Health Team or what is more commonly referred to by our partners, as IC-PACT (Inner City Police and Crisis Team).

We realize that we have to deliver a service that responds to the environmental, social and economic conditions of Downtown Division. This service delivery system has to meet the needs of our communities:

Downtown Division is where it all began; we have the oldest and culturally diverse communities in the City. We have to build strong relationships of diversity with ethno-cultural groups and the service providers who work with them.

So let me introduce the Team with us here tonight:

- **Inspector Ed Keller** will be your "Slide Guide", and share his learning from an across Western Canada
- **Cst Mike Furman and Derek Huff** ( not with us are their Mental Health Partners: Julie Richardson and Amanda Anderson)

Also here with us tonight are three of our Community Partners, whom we are incredibly indebted to for their support:

- **Sandy Bergwall** the Mental Health Manager, Boyle street Community Services
- **Laura Kozack**, Assistant Director, George Spady Centre
- **Joey Amos**, Intake Coordinator at the Hope Mission and Herb Jameson Centre

Let me conclude by saying that this opportunity to be better at responding to 'people in need' would not have been possible with out the vision and support of Chiefs Committee, especially Chief Boyd, and Deputy Chief Lipinski, retired, Albert Health Services and the support and advocacy of your Police Commission, in particular: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Sandhu and Commissioner Palmer.