

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*None.*

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the detachment's 2019 third trimester and 2019 annual results.

**BACKGROUND**

The objective of the final trimester report and 2019 year in review is to inform Council of the progress made by RCMP members, municipal employees, and volunteers in support of the priorities, goals, and objectives laid out in the Coquitlam RCMP 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.

This plan outlines three main priorities:

- Priority 1 - Enhance Public Safety;
- Priority 2 - Promote Community Engagement; and
- Priority 3 - Achieve Organizational Excellence

These priorities are defined in the plan with goals and objectives assigned to each priority and metrics designed to measure success and identify areas for improvement.

**DISCUSSION****2019-T3 Trimester Update**

Attachment #2 provides the 2019-T3 Trimester Update which includes the crime statistics from September 1 to December 31, 2019. The following observations were made for the City of Port Coquitlam:

Person crimes which include assault, domestic violence, robbery and sex offences were generally reduced in T3-2019 compared to the three-year average, particularly robbery. The exceptions were sex offences and assaults. These types of crimes are complex and time consuming and in 2019, Port Coquitlam Council approved four new RCMP members to address policing challenges in specific areas, two of which were for the Sex Crimes Unit and Domestic Violence Unit. The addition of these members will assist in continuing to address these critical areas.

Property crimes which include break and enter, theft, shoplifting and fraud decreased by 4% in T3-2019 when compared with the three-year average. There were individual increases observed for

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theft of vehicle, break and enter-residence and break and enter-business. However, these increases represented relatively few files.

Overall the number of property crimes in Port Coquitlam has remained stable for the past three years.

The RCMP Mental Health Liaison Unit (MHLU) is dedicated to responding to clients with mental health needs who have contact with the police and require emergency response. The management of these mental health calls continues to be a key area of focus for the detachment.

Overall, there was a small increase in mental health calls for service in T3-2019 compared to the three-year average however there was small decrease in average hospital wait times. The RCMP is working in partnership with various health and community agencies to seek changes to the process regarding mental health calls as RCMP members are currently required to wait at the hospital with clients until admitted to the facility and as a result this has a significant impact to the police resources. There has been some improvement in this area as there was a reduction in the number of files with wait times greater than or equal to two hours. The MHLU also supports the Provincial Integrated Court initiative which requires a member to be in attendance for court proceedings with mental health clients.

Overall the number of mental health calls remains high in relation to assigned resources and continues to be an area of focus.

Road safety is a top priority for the detachment and an additional Traffic Services member was approved by Council in 2019. This additional member has provided improved response to calls for service as well as increased proactive enforcement and visibility in the community. There was a marked increase in traffic speeding violation tickets in T3-2019 compared to the three-year average. There was also an increase in intersection infractions and a decrease in distracted driving along with smaller changes in the other categories of tickets.

Coquitlam RCMP members, municipal employees, and volunteers hosted several successful community events including the Back to School Speed Watch Campaign, Coffee with a Cop, Violence in Relationships Workshop, Volunteer Recognition Dinner, 9-1-1 We Care Toy Drive, and Operation Tracking Santa.

### 2019 Year in Review (Attachment #2 and #3)

Attachment #2 provides the 2019 Year in Review which includes a review of the crime rate, calls for service, and additional crime statistics for the most recent four years. The crime rate and calls for service increased slightly in 2019 compared to 2018.

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Attachment #3 displays the statistical information that will appear in the April 2 edition of Tri-City News. Three separate charts for the entire jurisdiction display breakdowns of priority areas for the detachment including: Road Safety, Person Offences and Property Offenses. The RCMP Year in Review is intended to provide the public with information on general police and crime statistics for the entire detachment and highlights a variety of community activities for each month of the year.

### Uniformed Crime Reduction Unit Update

The Uniformed Crime Reduction Unit (UCRU) was created when Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam Councils approved eighteen new RCMP members over the course of three budget cycles (2015-2017) and was requested as a key component of the detachment's crime reduction strategy. The original vision for UCRU was one fully cost-shared 18-member unit deployed in two (2) teams of nine (9) members which is the most efficient and effective way to deploy police resources from an operational and administrative perspective. However, due to the timing of the approval of the members, initially the UCRU units worked exclusively in each city. As of 2017, Port Coquitlam approved the last remaining members to complete the two (2) nine (9) member fully cost-shared UCRU teams. These UCRU resources are now deployed according to the cost share (approx. 68% Coquitlam and 32% to Port Coquitlam).

The UCRU's mandate is to target high crime areas with police presence, primarily as foot and bike patrol teams, to add visibility, and to implement crime reduction initiatives that mitigate the crime causation factors which could lead to crime 'hotspots' becoming entrenched. The UCRU is focused on high risk areas to reinforce the crime reduction strategy.

Together with other Coquitlam RCMP teams, including the Prolific Target Team (PTT) and the Community Response Team (CRT), UCRU is an integral part of the intelligence-led, data driven policing methods that are employed to minimize crime in the City. This includes gathering frontline intelligence through proactive activities like street checks and targeted foot/bike/vehicle patrols and currently the focus of UCRU remains patrol in high crime areas and hotspots. In addition, the team's mandate has grown to also include engagement with homeless individuals and patrols for encampments.

With respect to UCRU police activity in downtown Port Coquitlam in 2019, 7% of their police files were associated with this area alone. However, these statistics do not capture the amount of time spent on the daily patrols in this location. Overall, the detachment had 1981 interactions in downtown Port Coquitlam including general duty and UCRU files.

The Coquitlam RCMP's intelligence-led, data driven policing methods are considered to be the industry's best practice and have been shown to be effective as measured by the steadily decreasing crime rate. By contrast, perception-based policing methods can lead to the risk of removing scarce resources away from areas deemed high crime risk through our analytical process. In addition, the detachment is obliged to support reactive/response-oriented services

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such as 24/7 patrol/response and investigations. Meeting this obligation can result in under-resourcing of strategic/proactive initiatives if not carefully managed through the crime reduction initiatives. The OIC is ultimately accountable for determining overall operational priorities and deploying resources in a manner that provides the safest possible community.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Att#1: Presentation Slides: RCMP Trimester 2019-T3 and 2019 Year in Review for the City of Port Coquitlam

Att#2: RCMP Trimester 2019-T3 and 2019 Year in Review for the City of Coquitlam

Att#3: RCMP Year in Review – Tri-City News Charts for the Detachment

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