

RCMP First Quarter 2024 Report

RECOMMENDATION:

None.

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Coquitlam RCMP Detachment's first quarter 2024 crime statistics and operating activities.

BACKGROUND

The RCMP first quarter 2024 report provides Council with information on the progress made by RCMP municipal employees, members, and volunteers in support of the priorities, goals, and objectives of the Coquitlam RCMP Strategic Plan 2023-2026. During Quarter 1 ("Q1"), there were nearly 2,922 recorded police activities¹ in Port Coquitlam, accounting for roughly 28.6% of total police activities in the Detachment's catchment area.

DISCUSSION

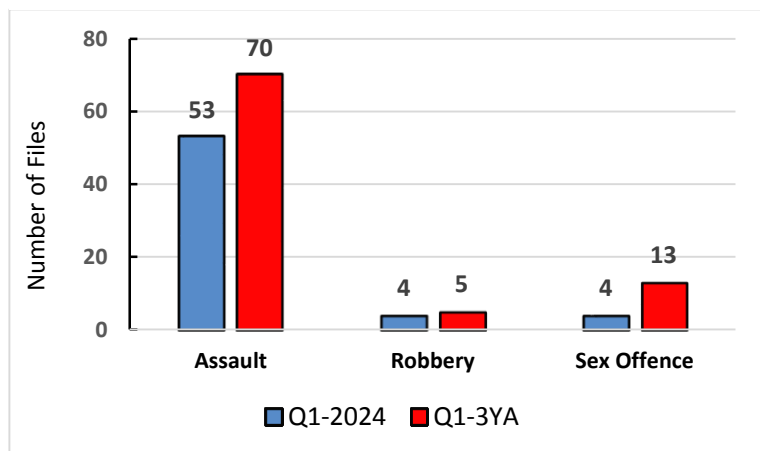
Quarter 1 2024:

Attachment 1 provides crime statistics and traffic enforcement data for the Q1-2024 reporting period. The following observations were made for the City of Port Coquitlam:

Persons Crimes:

In terms of persons crimes, Q1 saw a 23% decrease compared to the three-year average. Assaults are down 24%, robberies are down 14%, and sex offences are down 68%. While a majority of persons crimes are difficult to prevent given their personal nature, the Detachment's response and dispatch times to priority files such as persons crimes are among the quickest in the region. It is important to note that despite this decrease in file count, workload (i.e., time spent on police investigations) for persons crimes has trended upward in recent years due to legislative changes and more advanced technology being used to commit crimes.

Figure 1: City of Port Coquitlam, Persons Crimes, Q1-2024



¹ Police activities include criminal and non-criminal code events occurring as part of police files.

Property Crimes:

Property crimes also decreased by 13% in Q1 when compared to the three-year average. Decreases were observed in Theft of Vehicle (-65%), Theft from Vehicle (-31%), Break and Enter (B&E) Business (-24%), and B&E Residence (-23%). To support proactive enforcement activities in this area, the Detachment is planning to institute a Bait Bike program starting this summer. The Bait Bike program is used to deter bike theft by using GPS technology to apprehend bike thieves.

Conversely, increases were observed in Shoplifting (+35%) and Fraud (+31%) files in Q1-2024 when compared to the three-year average. While these increases only represent an additional 35 files, the Community Policing Team at the RCMP and the City's Community Policing staff are actively engaging the community in safety talks, senior fraud and awareness presentations, as well as crime prevention initiatives online and at community events. Additionally, members within the Detachment participated in supplemental fraud training to better identify counterfeit currency and deliver fraud training to community members.

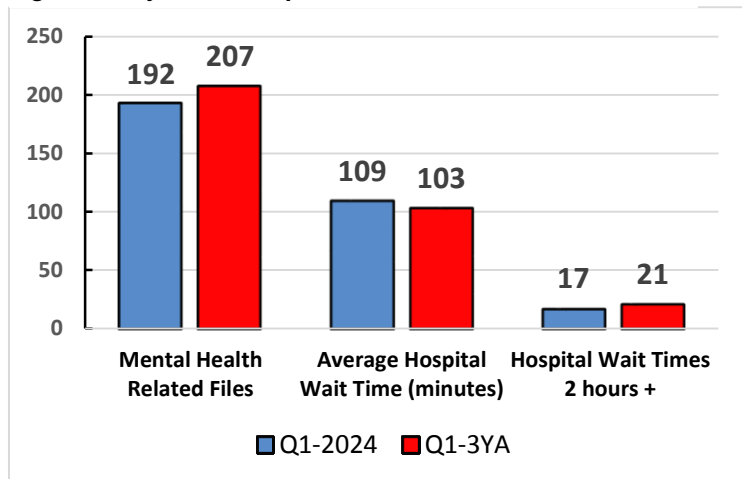
Mental Health-Related Police Files:

In terms of mental health-related statistics, Q1 experienced a 7% decrease compared to the three-year average and a 19% decrease in files with wait times greater than two hours. That said, there was a small increase in average hospital wait times (+6 minutes). The Detachment continues to engage in conversations with designated mental health facilities in the region, looking at areas of improvement for missing persons reports coming out of these centres.

In Q1, the Mobile Integrated Crisis Response (MICR) Team attended more than 252 mental health-related files.

Once the MICR program has been operational for one year (i.e., Q4 2024), staff intend to bring forward a report to Council providing an update on the program's achievements.

Figure 2: City of Port Coquitlam, Mental Health Calls, Q1-2024



Traffic:

In Q1, there were significant increases across multiple violation ticket categories. Seatbelt infractions more than doubled, as did intersection infractions when compared to the three-year average. Speed-related infractions were also up 71% in Q1-2024. On the other hand, impaired drug/alcohol infractions were down 84% (i.e., -5 files), as were distracted driving infractions (-20%). One of the biggest drivers behind these increases is the use of High Accident Zone Enforcement by our members along key corridors in Port Coquitlam such as Highway 7B / Mary Hill Bypass and along

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Lougheed Highway. In Q1, members conducted more than 80 hours of specialized HAZE and HVE traffic enforcement across Port Coquitlam, in addition to the hundreds of hours of general traffic enforcement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None. The costs associated with the Coquitlam RCMP Detachment are shared between the cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - RCMP Q1 2024 Report

Lead author(s): Ian Waters

Contributing author(s): Kim Singh, Amanda Hrgovic