

# RCMP Community Policing Priorities

2025

Attachment 1



# What We Heard



## Introduction

This report provides a review of the feedback gathered during the community engagement process to help establish Sturgeon County RCMP community policing priorities for 2025. In August 2024, Sturgeon County Safe Communities launched a Public Safety Priorities Survey to better understand residents' concerns regarding crime prevention and community safety. A total of 348 survey responses were collected, establishing a baseline for future initiatives.

In addition to the survey, four priority-setting meetings were conducted across the County offering residents a platform to directly share their feedback with the RCMP Detachments. Historically, Sturgeon County has developed RCMP priorities with minimal resident engagement. This recent initiative marks a significant shift toward fostering trust, openness, and collaboration between law enforcement and the community.

The report outlines the engagement methods, key findings, and themes that emerged from the process to ensure that Sturgeon County policing priorities align closely with community concerns. This feedback will guide RCMP efforts for 2025, focusing on promoting a safer, more responsive community.

# Engagement Participants and Tactics

To ensure a comprehensive understanding of community concerns, the engagement process was designed to collect feedback from residents, local leaders, and law enforcement personnel across multiple RCMP detachments. A combination of online and in-person engagement tactics was employed to maximize accessibility and inclusivity for all participants.

## Participants

### Residents:

A diverse group of community members participated, including families, seniors, business owners, and youth. Their input provided a well-rounded perspective on public safety concerns.

### Local Leaders:

Municipal representatives, community group leaders, and other influential stakeholders contributed their expertise and advocated for their communities' needs.

### RCMP Members:

Officers and leadership from local RCMP detachments shared valuable insights from a law enforcement perspective, helping bridge the gap between the community and policing efforts.

## Tactics

### Survey:

A survey was conducted to collect feedback from residents. The survey was made available both in digital formats and as physical copies at various community engagement events as well as priority-setting meetings, ensuring accessibility for participants with varying preferences.

### Priority Meetings:

In-person meetings were hosted at facilities within each RCMP detachment zone. These gatherings allowed residents to share their concerns and feedback in a group setting, enabling direct dialogue with local law enforcement.

### Online Platforms:

To reach a wider audience, information and updates were shared through the County's social media channels and website. This approach ensured that residents who could not attend in-person meetings still had access to engagement opportunities and key information.

# Engagement in Numbers

The survey and priority meetings provided valuable insights from a diverse group of community members. The following numbers highlight the scope and participation of the engagement efforts:

## Total Survey Responses

- 300+ responses were collected via paper and online surveys.

## Priority Meetings

- 4 meetings were hosted across local RCMP detachments with 29 community members participating.

## Sturgeon County Community Safety Website (Nov 2024-Jan 2025)

- 1646 views.

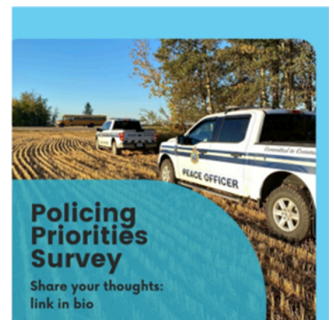
## Social Media Posts

- Recent social media posts are gaining significant traction, reflecting increased community engagement and interest in crime prevention and public safety topics. This information provides a strong foundation for understanding the areas of focus that resonates most and demonstrates we are reaching our residents.



Reached 155 people

Reached 347 People



# Engagement Review

The engagement process was well-received by the community, with strong participation in the survey. Residents expressed appreciation for the opportunity to directly contribute to shaping the RCMP's priorities. The local detachments provided a welcoming environment for residents, creating an atmosphere of open dialogue and transparency.

By combining formal and informal engagement methods, the process effectively captured both detailed, actionable responses and broader community concerns. Despite the success, some challenges were identified, including lower attendance at the in-person detachment meetings. To enhance future engagement, recommendations include expanding virtual meeting options to improve accessibility and promoting localized sessions to reach more residents. These strategies aim to further strengthen community participation and inclusivity in shaping policing priorities.

## Sturgeon County - Past Priorities for RCMP

### 2024 Sturgeon County Priorities

In 2024, Sturgeon County Council identified three key priorities to guide RCMP policing efforts: Rural Crime Reduction, Community Engagement, and Support for the Safe Communities Facilitator. These priorities were chosen to address safety concerns in the region while fostering stronger relationships between residents and law enforcement.

#### 1. Rural Crime Reduction

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by rural communities, this priority focused on proactive measures to combat property crime, theft, and vandalism in remote areas. Enhanced patrols, targeted enforcement strategies, and collaborative initiatives with organizations like Rural Crime Watch aimed to increase visibility and deter criminal activity. Additionally, the RCMP leverages technology, such as surveillance tools and data analytics, to identify crime hotspots and allocate resources more effectively.

#### 2. Community Engagement

Building trust and fostering transparency remain central to the RCMP's mission in Sturgeon County. This priority emphasized strengthening connections between officers and residents through open communication and visible community involvement. Initiatives included regular town hall meetings and participation in local events. By enhancing public interaction, the RCMP aimed to build stronger partnerships with residents and promote a sense of shared responsibility for community safety.

### 3.Support for Safe Communities Facilitator

The Safe Communities Facilitator played a vital role in bridging the gap between law enforcement, local agencies, and residents. This priority underscores the importance of collaboration to address broader safety concerns. This includes fostering relationships with residents and key enforcement stakeholders such as the RCMP, to support public safety.

These priorities reflect the County's commitment to addressing both immediate and long-term safety concerns while enhancing the quality of life for all residents. They also set the foundation for future engagement efforts, ensuring that policing strategies remain responsive to community needs.

## Resident Feedback for the 2025 RCMP Priorities

The development of Sturgeon County RCMP priorities for 2025 was informed by comprehensive community engagement, combining survey data with insights shared during priority-setting meetings across the Morinville, Redwater, and Fort Saskatchewan detachments. This approach ensured that the final priorities reflect the evolving concerns of residents.

### Summary of Survey Findings

The following key findings and themes from the survey, offer valuable insights into residents' understanding of public safety programs, crime concerns, and policing priorities. These findings will guide the RCMP's priorities for the upcoming year.

### Demographics

The demographic breakdown for the completion of the public safety priorities survey is as follows:

- The largest age group was 36-45 years, accounting for 28.74% of responses.
- Both the 46-55 and 56-65 age groups had equal completion rates, each at 17.3%.

<b>Resident Familiarity with Programs, Services, and Agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Most recognized programs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch Association (66.27%)</li> <li>○ Victim Services (54.52%)</li> <li>○ Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) (44.28%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Less familiar programs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RAVE Opt-In (6.93%)</li> <li>○ SCAN (6.63%)</li> <li>○ Engrave-it to Save-it (5.12%)</li> <li>○ Capture (2.41%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Resident Understanding of Law Enforcement Agency Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>RCMP</b> leads most criminal concerns, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Criminal harassment (99.7%)</li> <li>○ Drug-related crimes (99.4%)</li> <li>○ Domestic violence (98.21%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Sturgeon County Municipal Enforcement</b> handles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grass/weeds (96.68%)</li> <li>○ Unsightly property (94.83%)</li> <li>○ Fire bylaw concerns (87.5%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Resident Understanding of Methods of Reporting Criminal Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Most familiar:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 911 (96.1%)</li> <li>○ Non-emergency line (70.87%)</li> <li>○ In person (49.85%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Online reporting for low-level crimes</b> was less familiar (19.22%)</li> </ul>
<b>Desired Crime Prevention Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased officer patrols (77.1%)</li> <li>● Neighbourhood crime watch programs (60.24%)</li> <li>● Public awareness and communication (45.18%)</li> </ul>
<b>Resident Concern For Crime</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 43.6% were “very concerned” about crime in their area.</li> <li>● 39.24% were “somewhat concerned.”</li> <li>● Only 4.36% reported no concerns.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility of Law Enforcement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 38.89% rated it as “fair,” and 37.72% as “poor.”</li> <li>● Only 1.17% considered it “excellent.”</li> </ul>
<b>Preferred Communication Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Facebook (62.42%)</li> <li>● County website (56.67%)</li> <li>● E-newsletters (50.61%)</li> </ul>
<b>Resident Priorities for Policing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Crime Reduction - Property Crime(74.14%)</li> <li>● Drug-related Crime (53.74%)</li> <li>● Police Visibility (43.39%)</li> <li>● Road Safety (34.20%)</li> <li>● Enhanced Awareness &amp; Education (19.83%)</li> <li>● Community Engagement (18.68%)</li> </ul>

# Summary of Priority Meetings

## Morinville

The Morinville RCMP Priority Meetings highlighted several key themes, including rural crime concerns, resource allocation, and community collaboration. Discussions emphasized tailoring policing priorities to specific areas within the detachment's large jurisdiction, which serves 80% of Sturgeon County. Residents emphasized concerns about rural crime, the need for improved crime data tracking, and frustrations with the justice system's "catch and release" approach. Discussions also addressed off-highway vehicle (OHV) incidents, the prevalence of transient criminals facilitated by highway access, and crime prevention measures like Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments and drone technology use.

## Redwater

The Redwater RCMP Priority Meeting highlighted key themes, including crime prevention, technological advancements, and community collaboration. While drug-related issues exist, they are not widespread, and property crime remains a primary concern, aligning with provincial trends. Resources like drones and the RAVE Alert System are enhancing situational awareness, safety, and public communication, while apps like RCMP Alberta and Capture support crime reporting and prevention. Challenges with transient populations and frustrations over the "catch and release" justice system were also discussed. Community engagement remains a focus, with efforts to increase visibility, monitor prolific offenders, and tailor responses to rural and urban crime dynamics.

## Fort Saskatchewan

The Fort Saskatchewan RCMP priority meeting highlighted proactive measures to address property crime and impaired driving, with an emphasis on data-driven advocacy for intersection safety improvements. Drone technology has proven valuable in locating missing persons and intercepting offenders, with plans to expand operator training for broader use. Challenges persist with problem properties and the justice system's handling of prolific offenders. The RCMP's focus on training, including the integration of body cameras, aims to enhance accountability and operational effectiveness.

# Policing Priorities - Recommendation

Based on the feedback gathered, the top three recommended priorities for the RCMP for 2025 are as follows:

## 1. Crime Reduction - Property & Drug-Related Crime

Residents have consistently identified crime reduction as a top RCMP priority, emphasizing the need to address both property crime and drug-related offenses. This priority focuses on proactive measures to combat theft, vandalism, and drug-related crimes in remote areas. Key initiatives may include:

- **Increased Patrols & Surveillance:** Enhancing police presence in high-crime zones and known drug activity areas to deter criminal behavior.
- **Targeted Enforcement Strategies:** Using data-driven approaches to address specific crime patterns, hotspots, and organized crime networks.
- **Community Collaboration:** Strengthening partnerships with organizations like Rural Crime Watch, schools, and youth programs to expand prevention efforts.
- **Leveraging Technology:** Utilizing surveillance tools, data analytics, and intelligence-led policing to monitor crime trends and allocate resources effectively.
- **Community Outreach & Education:** Raising awareness about crime prevention strategies, drug abuse dangers, and available support resources, including SCAN and RAVE Opt-In programs.

## 2. Police Visibility

A key concern for residents was the visibility of law enforcement in their communities. Addressing this priority involves ensuring a consistent and approachable presence of officers in neighbourhoods to build trust and enhance safety. Key initiatives may include:

- **Strategic Deployment:** Allocating resources to areas with higher levels of reported concerns to ensure visibility where it is needed most.
- **Regular Patrols:** Continuing proactive patrols in rural areas to increase community interaction and accessibility.
- **Community Engagement Events:** Continue participating in events where residents can interact with officers in a non-enforcement setting, fostering transparency and trust.
- **Enhanced Communication Tools:** Leveraging surveillance technology and data analytics to identify crime trends, allocate resources effectively, and improve police visibility in the community.
- **Community Education:** Continue to promote tools like the RCMP Alberta App and RAVE Alert System to keep residents informed and reinforce the regular visibility of police in the community.

### 3. Public Awareness & Communication

Public engagement highlighted the need for better public awareness and communication as a key priority for crime prevention. Many residents are unfamiliar with available crime prevention programs and reporting options, underscoring the importance of increased outreach and education.

Consistent and reliable communication from law enforcement can enhance public confidence, improve the perception of police visibility, and help residents feel more secure. Key initiatives may include:

- **Crime & Incident Reporting Updates:** Providing regular updates on police responses and notable incidents to keep residents informed through trusted channels.
- **Consistent RCMP Communication:** Ensuring the community receives timely and accurate information through multiple channels, including social media, official websites, and community meetings.
- **Enhanced Use of Technology & Media:** Leveraging social media, mobile apps, and official RCMP platforms to share verified information and counter misinformation.
- **Community Engagement & Transparency:** Hosting public forums, town halls, and outreach events to discuss crime concerns, policing priorities, and community safety initiatives and efforts.

## Conclusion

The engagement process has highlighted the importance of community input in shaping policing priorities. By aligning RCMP strategies with the needs and expectations of residents, Sturgeon County can foster greater public trust and work towards creating a safer, more connected community. The feedback gathered serves as a valuable guide for addressing community concerns and building upon the strengths of our existing public safety initiatives.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me:

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