



# SAFE COMMUNITIES FACILITATOR

## 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW AND 2025 OUTLOOK

Prepared for:  
Sturgeon County Council

Prepared by:  
Jennifer Penner



## INTRODUCTION

Throughout 2024, the Safe Communities Facilitator (SCF) achieved significant progress in enhancing public safety, fostering collaboration, and implementing proactive crime prevention strategies. This report showcases objectives achieved and their alignment with Sturgeon County's Strategic Priorities: *Safe, Beautiful Communities*; *Modern, Adaptive Administration*; and *Economical, Desirable Services*. It also outlines organizational enhancements, key stakeholder feedback, and objectives for 2025.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROGRAM DELIVERY

### Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

- Safe, Beautiful Communities - Programs like Bike Safety Rodeos and Car Seat Clinics improved safety for children and families, while community events fostered trust and unity.
- Economical, Desirable Services - Programs were delivered efficiently and tailored to community needs.



“Jennifer coordinated our Bike Safety Rodeo and Coffee with a Cop events, attended our municipal Meet Your Community event, attended our local Citizens on Patrol meetings and collaborated with this group for just our municipality...in the last year!” - Susan Pearce, Safety and Community Services Coordinator, Town of Legal.

**Key highlights:**

- Bike Safety Rodeos - Educated over 150 children through two events focusing on helmet use, bike maintenance, and safe riding practices.
  - Car Seat Clinics - Conducted two clinics at Protective Services Headquarters, ensuring proper installation and usage of 12 child safety seats for parents/caregivers.
  - Coffee with a Cop - Hosted informal gatherings in Pinewood, Redwater, Calahoo, Coronado, Villeneuve, Legal, and Rivière Qui Barre to build trust between residents and law enforcement.
- Community engagement - Participated in 13 local events to promote safety initiatives and introduce the Safe Communities Facilitator role.
  - Wellness on Wheels and County Bounty - Actively engaged in six Wellness on Wheels events to promote crime prevention and safety education.

**Community enhancement:**

Enables regular community connections and education of the public.



## COLLABORATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

- Safe, Beautiful Communities - Strengthened partnerships with law enforcement, enhancing safety and community trust.
- Modern, Adaptive Administration - Demonstrated responsiveness to emerging challenges through adaptive collaborations.

“The Safe Communities Facilitator has done an excellent job assisting with community meetings, communicating council expectations, standardizing presentations, liaising with community groups and coordinating proactive initiatives such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments and presentations. Excellent public engagement and efforts undertaken by Jennifer, her efforts are appreciated.”

- Stf/Sgt. Terry Hyggen  
Fort Saskatchewan RCMP Detachment

### Key initiatives:

- Ride-alongs - Conducted eight ride-alongs to gain insight into community safety challenges.
- Touchpoints with Detachment Commanders - Met 12 times to address crime trends, establish clear processes, and facilitate collaborative strategies.
- RCMP engagement - Assisted with standardizing Council presentations and facilitated four RCMP Priority Meetings.
- Collaboration with RCMP K Division - Partnered with the Community Safety and Wellbeing Branch to enhance and develop new initiatives.

### Community enhancement:

More and improved connections with RCMP Detachment Commanders.



**Key stakeholder feedback:**

“The presence of a Safe Communities Facilitator has enhanced the effectiveness we provide as the local police service. There have been regular community policing initiatives held throughout the year, all of which promote direct collaboration between myself and county residents. With this, we can effectively map future policing priorities that are aligned with what is important to the people in our community. We would not see this same level of progress without the Safe Communities Facilitator.”

- Stf/Sgt. McGunigal, Morinville RCMP Detachment Commander



“It’s been great working with Jenn. She is always there to answer any questions or concerns we may have. She promptly returns emails and phone calls and seems genuine in her concerns and programs she is putting on for the students and the public. Thanks to her, my calendar is always up to date with Citizens on Patrol, Rural Crime Watch and Coffee with a Cop meetings.”

- Sgt. Nathan Dehaan, Redwater RCMP Detachment Commander

## CRIME PREVENTION & SAFETY EDUCATION



### Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

- Safe, Beautiful Communities - Empowered residents and businesses to adopt proactive safety measures.
- Economical, Desirable Services - Delivered cost-effective solutions, such as CPTED assessments, to improve safety.



### Key programs:

- Crime prevention sessions - Conducted five sessions to enhance local safety awareness.
- Internet Child Exploitation - Facilitated a presentation delivered by Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team to over 20 parents/guardians.
- CPTED - Introduced a safety assessment program, including meetings with three businesses to discuss implementation.
- Student safety programs - Facilitated the education of over 300 students on the dangers of distracted driving and over 200 students in Cyberbullying and Online Safety Awareness.

**Community enhancement:**

Increased public awareness of various crime prevention programs and initiatives, enabling them to consistently and actively participate in crime prevention.

**Key stakeholder feedback:**

“Jennifer has been a valuable resource for the Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch Association (SRCWA) in key areas, such as:

- helping with community education in crime prevention;
- initiating programs and resources to assist the association.

Creating this position and having Jennifer manage the position has been a valuable resource for me as President of the SRCWA.”

- Kelvin Kozak, President, SRCWA



## DATA DRIVEN STRATEGIES

### Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

- Modern, Adaptive Administration - Utilized data strategically to ensure targeted, evidence-based decision-making.
- Economical, Desirable Services - Optimized resource allocation through advanced data collection and analysis.

### Key activities:

- Crime statistic analysis - Partnered with RCMP detachments to monitor trends and develop targeted responses.
- Community consultation - Conducted surveys and public meetings to align policing priorities with community needs, including 348 completed public safety priority surveys.

### Community enhancement:

Expanded response to evolving needs and new challenges.

## PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

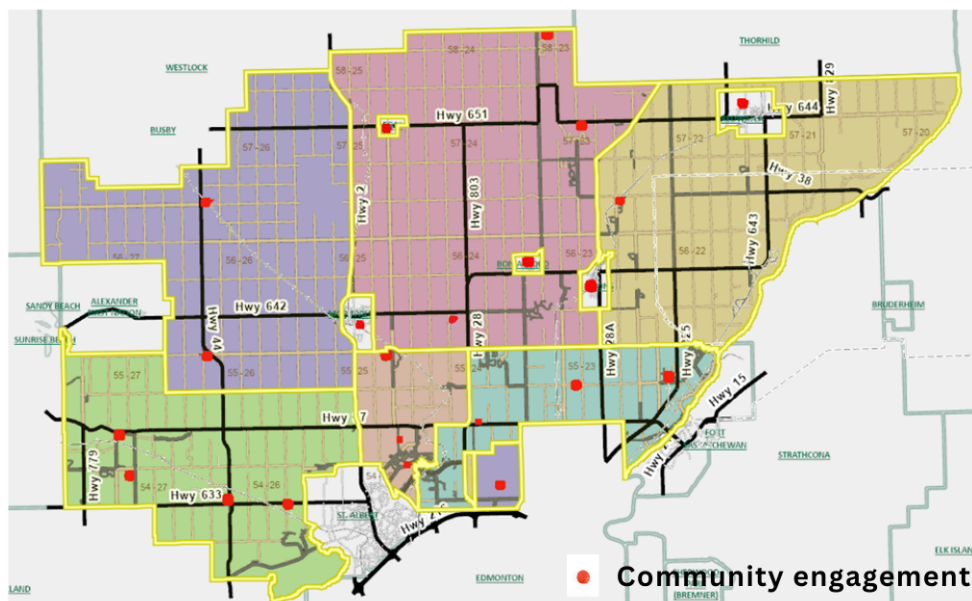
### Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

- Safe, Beautiful Communities - Amplified the impact of safety initiatives through strategic partnerships.
- Modern, Adaptive Administration - Streamlined services through internal and external collaboration.



### Key collaborations:

- Support for community groups - Worked with the Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch Association and Citizens on Patrol groups, meeting with community groups over 30 times to discuss and implement initiatives.
- Conference participation - Represented Sturgeon County at the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association Conference, fostering networking and knowledge sharing.
- Internal collaboration - Partnered with County departments to enhance service delivery and presented in collaboration with Ag Services at the Environmental Planning Workshop and Shelterbelt Planning Workshop.
- Intermunicipal collaboration - Some municipalities have adopted similar Safe Communities Facilitator positions since the introduction of Sturgeon County's role, with a few reaching out to Sturgeon County for guidance.
- Digital collaboration - Worked with Corporate Communications to review and update the Crime Prevention and Safe Communities pages on the County website.
- Division engagement - Participated in all six County divisions on 71 occasions, delivering educational sessions, hosting events, and engaging with residents and key stakeholders.



**Community enhancement:**

Increased awareness of various crime prevention programs and initiatives, enabling partners and residents to consistently and actively participate in crime prevention.

**Key stakeholder feedback:**

“This position has been instrumental in getting associations and county services talking/meeting with each other as well as communities within Sturgeon County.  
- Sherry Menard,  
Secretary,  
Sturgeon Rural Crime  
Watch Association”

“She has a great positive nature and always follows through with what she says.  
You have a great person representing on your behalf.  
- Suzanne Prefontaine,  
Secretary,  
Legal Citizens on  
Patrol”

“Excellent support, very informative, helpful, beneficial for Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch. Great liaison person. Very personable and approachable.  
- Viviane Pezer,  
Zone 2 Director,  
Sturgeon Rural Crime  
Watch Association”




“Jennifer has invited our organization to participate with some of Sturgeon County’s programs, helped us with organizing our Alberta COP Annual General Meeting, which will be held in Redwater in September. She is very knowledgeable about the RCMP and how we can best support and be supported. She has had a positive influence on us.”  
- Mel Smith, Redwater  
Citizen’s on Patrol Board  
Member



## LOOKING AHEAD

### Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

- Safe, Beautiful Communities - Expansion of programs and integration of emergency preparedness will enhance safety and resilience.
- Modern, Adaptive Administration - Leveraging advanced tools and digital engagement will demonstrate innovation.
- Economical, Desirable Services - Initiatives like the Youth Emergency Services Academy will deliver significant community value.



“It's a program that's been needed for some time and I can only see it growing.”

- Michael Krochter,  
Redwater Citizens on  
Patrol Board Member

### 2025 Objectives:

- Expand outreach - Increase the reach and frequency of workshops and educational sessions.
- Launch Youth Emergency Services Academy - Inspire leadership and community involvement among youth.
- Enhance data collection - Adopt advanced tools for accurate crime trend analysis and response planning.
- Innovate crime prevention strategies - Address emerging safety challenges with new approaches.
- Expand digital engagement - Strengthen Protective Services' social media presence to boost public awareness.
- Integrate emergency preparedness - Include fire prevention and emergency preparedness in safety initiatives.

## CONCLUSION

The accomplishments of 2024 have established a strong foundation for enhancing safety and resilience in Sturgeon County. The Safe Communities Facilitator will continue to build momentum and strengthen cohesion between partners, in turn improving the wellbeing and security of residents in 2025 and beyond.

---

CONTACT ME: [jpenner@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:jpenner@sturgeoncounty.ca)  
825-965-1426