



# 2015 Statistical Report

**Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Strathcona County Detachment &  
Strathcona County Enforcement Services**



Superintendent Peck  
Officer in Charge  
February 16, 2016

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## Introduction

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The following report is a collation of statistical information and enforcement activities performed by members of the RCMP Strathcona County Detachment and Strathcona County Enforcement Services for the year 2015. As per Council's request, we are reporting the number of actual calls to service as opposed to reported calls to service in Strathcona County. The attached report does not include assistance files where we are called upon to assist other detachments, nor does it include unfounded complaints.

The RCMP instituted an intelligence-based record management system across the Country in 2005 commonly referred to as "PROS" (Police Reporting Operational System). The statistics gathered for 2015 was evaluated against other PROS data gathered during the previous six years; 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. It was Council's request to be provided with five or six consecutive years of comparative statistical data to better understand historical crime trends and compare previous statistical data with current police services and crime rates.

Enforcement Services statistical data is captured, stored and retrieved from our new record management system called Report Executive. Annual reports are now available from Report Executive which will follow the report from the RCMP.

The data in this report requires some explanation in order to fully understand the dynamics of law enforcement activity and crime trends in our detachment area over the past six years. A narrative explanation of noticeable trends between the previous year's statistics, and those collected for the 2015 calendar year, is also included in this report.



## **RCMP MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are Canada's National Police Service. Proud of our traditions and confident in meeting future challenges, we commit to preserve the peace, uphold the law and provide quality service in partnership with our communities.*

### **Our Commitment to Strathcona County:**

- ◆ Be a progressive, proactive and innovative organization
- ◆ Provide the highest quality service through dynamic leadership, education, and technology in partnership with the diverse communities we serve
- ◆ Be accountable and efficient through shared decision making
- ◆ Ensure a healthy work environment that encourages team building, open communication and mutual respect.
- ◆ Promote safe communities
- ◆ Demonstrate leadership in the pursuit of excellence

## Criminal Code Traffic Offences

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
Impaired Operation Offences	655	772	862	837	871	858	-1%	31%
Dangerous Operation of M.V.	33	26	22	28	40	57	43%	73%
Other Criminal Code	67	58	57	55	56	89	59%	33%
Total	755	856	941	920	967	1004	4%	33%

### Criminal Code Traffic Offences

Strathcona County Detachment places a strong emphasis on road safety and an integral part of increasing road safety is the enforcement of the current impaired driving legislation. We continue to place a strong emphasis on high volume roadside Check Stops this year and as a result the number of impaired drivers detected remained relatively consistent. We continue to see lower recidivism rates in impaired driving with less than 17% of the convicted drivers re-offending. Of 318 charged individuals 52 had previous impaired convictions. The increase in Other Criminal Code is attributed to an increase in investigations revolving around Driving While Prohibited, Flight from Police, Dangerous Driving. The majority is attributed to the increased traffic flow on the Strathcona County/Edmonton corridor as seen over the past three years and is expected to continue with the completion of the North East Anthony Henday Project (NEAHP).

## Traffic Collisions

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
Fatal	4	7	7	5	5	5	0%	25%
Injury	432	497	462	571	587	600	2%	39%
Reportable Property Damage	2831	2581	2512	2669	2662	2576	-3%	-9%
Non-Reportable Prop. Damage	335	364	422	487	354	338	-5%	1%
Total	3602	3449	3403	3732	3608	3519	-2%	-2%

### Traffic Collisions

The total number of fatal motor vehicle collisions remained steady at five with six fatalities. We averaged 9.6 collisions per day, a slight reduction on average per day over the last year. The overall numbers have decreased however our serious injury collisions have peaked from 16 in 2014 to 54 a 296% increase. The common denominator for these collisions is an increase in speed. Approximately 2914 or 82% of all the 2015 collisions were reportable and non-reportable property damage collisions. Of the other 578 collisions, 573 involved injuries, both minor and major, and five involved fatalities. It is the 59 serious injury and fatal collisions that are most concerning to us and is being addressed by our traffic plan. Fatalities and serious injuries over the past four years have fluctuated with no clear pattern. A steady

increase in injury collisions occurred from 2006 to 2009 followed by a 14% decrease in 2010 and a further decrease of 64% in 2014. The increase in 2015 of serious injury collisions is statistically linked to a marked increase in speed of vehicles involved in those collisions. A trend that is expected to continue as the NEAHP nears completion. Three of the fatal collisions in 2015 occurred in intersections, while two were related to high speed.

Traffic Offences - Provincial								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
RCMP Traffic Tickets	16275	20985	26010	24768	22267	22245	0%	37%

### Traffic Enforcement Priorities

Our Strategic Traffic Safety Plan included four initiatives: intersections, alcohol, distracted drivers, and speed. All five of the fatal collisions occurred on rural roads or on the major primary highways. Speed through construction zones continues to be one of our top complaints pertaining to traffic in the past year. As a result, we will continue to focus enforcement efforts on rural roads and construction zones as we believe the severity and likelihood of injuries and fatalities should also be reduced. Alcohol and drug related impaired driving continues to be a Provincial and National priority. These initiatives will remain the same for the coming year. As we have experienced an increase in serious injury collisions, our members will continue to enforce prescribed speed limits in areas of concern identified during past patrols and from complaints received at our office.

Drug Enforcement								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
Trafficking	81	82	130	90	136	120	-12%	48%
Production	6	4	5	6	3	4	33%	-33%
Possession	362	427	405	416	543	586	8%	62%
Export or Import Drugs	4	1	1	0	1	0	-100%	-400%
Total	453	514	541	512	683	710	4%	57%

### Drug Enforcement

Once again, our local drug unit has demonstrated outstanding success during the past calendar year. Strathcona County Detachment serves as a leader in drug enforcement efforts within "K" Division and Alberta. From an enforcement perspective, our success is directly

attributed to the efforts of local members in reducing the harm and availability of illicit substances within Strathcona County.

There were a number of substantial investigations undertaken this year. These investigations utilized as part of an over-arching enforcement strategy, covert operations, undercover initiatives and electronic surveillance techniques which were directed towards the identification and apprehension of individuals involved in organized crime and drug networks. While an initial glance may raise concern, it is evident these efforts are having a significant impact.

During the past year, 78 separate drug trafficking investigations were conducted resulting in 66 individuals being charged. Of this total, it is noted that 49 individuals were residents of areas outside of Strathcona County thereby, giving credence to the notions of “commuter criminals”.

In 2015, a total of 504 drug and criminal code charges were laid as a result of drug trafficking investigations. In addition, in excess of \$105,000 and 10 vehicles were seized during the course of these investigations. The value of the drugs seized by investigators, within the past year, is estimated at \$341,000. Similarly, it is noted that Strathcona County continues to assist, engage and work in collaboration with our law enforcement partners in reducing the effects of illicit substances in the Edmonton region.

Crimes Against Person								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
Person Crime Related to Death	0	1	2	2	2	3	50%	300%
Robbery, Threats, Harassment	317	332	331	343	337	357	6%	13%
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction	7	8	3	6	7	10	43%	43%
Assaults	443	454	402	388	412	493	20%	11%
Sexual Offences	49	50	56	54	71	79	11%	61%
Total	816	845	794	793	829	942	14%	15%

#### Crimes Against Person

Crimes Against Persons includes offences such as the following: Crimes Related to Death, Robbery, Kidnapping, Assaults, and Sexual Offences. It is worth pointing out that the broad

crime type of “Crimes Related to Death” includes a broad spectrum of serious offences, from “Murder” to “Mischief Causing Danger to Life.”

The statistical comparison to the previous year illustrates that the Crimes Against Persons category experienced an increase (14%). While most numbers remained relatively stable when compared to 2014, one notes an increase in the number of assaults and sexual assault totals. A review of same did not reveal any significant trends. However, it is believed that the increased in these areas are also attributed to the sale of controlled substances.

As in previous years, the efforts of our General Duty and Strathcona County RCMP General Investigation Section (GIS) members continue to respond to emerging threats in a timely and professional manner. They were very successful in reducing harm to the community by making a number of high profile arrests over this past year. Our GIS, is comprised of plainclothes members, who are responsible for investigating serious person crime offences and sensitive matters. Once again, the investigational successes experienced over the past year are directly related to the strong support and assistance from the citizens of Strathcona County.

Domestic Violence								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
Family and Domestic Violence	414	545	728	760	714	840	18%	103%

#### Domestic Violence

Family/Domestic violence impacts our entire community. Even with the increase in calls for service it is still likely an under-reported offence and without question is still a significant social issue in Strathcona County. The number of reported domestic violence cases in 2015 increased by 18% in comparison to 2014. While it is difficult to determine the exact cause of the increase the significant down turn in the economy has put significant pressures on many homes in Strathcona County. Knowledge that concerns will be addressed in a respectful manner by the Detachment and an increase in public awareness has all had an impact in these increased numbers.

In the fall of 2015 Strathcona County Detachment operationalized all of its Domestic Violence Unit so each Watch has a Domestic Violence expert available at all calls. This is augmented by the extensive training that all members receive in familial/relationship violence. Our DVU continues to create successful and collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders and agencies involved with preventing relationship violence. We are working closely with FCS in attempts to improve service delivery in these difficult multi agency investigations.

## Elder Abuse

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
Elder Abuse	62	73	53	20	31	21	-32%	-66%

### Elder Abuse

Elder abuse has decreased again this year with most complaints being fraud related. We continue to provide educational opportunities to seniors in Strathcona County assisting them in recognizing where they may be placed at risk.

## Property Crimes

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
Break and Enter	378	264	348	343	296	457	54%	21%
*Theft of Motor Vehicle	148	158	161	187	195	209	7%	41%
Theft Over \$5000	54	38	55	50	46	47	2%	-13%
Theft Under \$5000	1609	1230	1434	1251	1410	1362	-3%	-15%
Possession of Stolen Goods	113	118	192	212	258	291	13%	163%
Fraud	240	222	247	273	355	392	10%	63%
Arson	59	37	34	32	26	29	12%	-51%
Mischief	1119	834	894	700	699	842	20%	-25%
Total	3720	2901	3365	3048	3285	3629	10%	-2%

\*Between 2006 and 2010, Thefts of Motor Vehicle were included in the Theft Over \$5,000 or Theft Under \$5,000 until 2011.

### Property Crimes

Property Crimes include offences such as the following: Break and Enter, Thefts of Vehicles, Thefts of Property Over and Under \$5,000, Possession of Stolen Goods, Frauds, Arsons and Mischief. In 2015 property crime has spiked with a significant increase in Break and Enter offences. While these offences are a concern the increase in property related crime is consistent with all most all communities in the greater Edmonton area.

In an effort to continue building on our success, a four-person Crime Reduction Unit (CRU), was established in January 2015. This unit is responsible for the identification of prolific offenders, addressing emerging crime trends and targeting “hot spots”. This is inclusive of monitoring offenders who possess court conditions, and establishing a strong network with law enforcement partners.



## Common Police Activities

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
Index Checks (Criminal Record)	9617	8092	7551	7827	7491	7611	2%	-21%
Fingerprints for General Public	577	834	810	524	742	964	30%	67%
Abandoned Vehicles	239	241	172	166	125	118	-6%	-51%
Suspicious Persons	672	601	560	595	612	767	25%	14%
Animal Calls	122	124	108	97	84	111	32%	-9%
False Alarms	1822	1620	1832	1837	1729	1719	-1%	-6%
Items Lost or Found	541	516	526	612	646	639	-1%	18%
False/Abandoned 911 Calls	1622	3394	2932	1886	1656	1244	-25%	-23%
TOTAL	15212	15422	14491	13004	13085	13173	1%	-13%

### Common Police Activities

The category of Common Police Activities remained stable as compared to 2013. A minor (1%) growth was experienced within this subset of activities. On a positive note, the number of false alarms (-1%) and false/abandoned 911 calls (-25%), both which may be considered resource intensive functions, experienced a decline. This decline was off-set by an increase in the number of fingerprints being required by members of the general public. As you know, Strathcona County Detachment is now equipped with an electronic fingerprint system that enables requestors to receive this service in a timely fashion. We also experienced an increase in calls of suspicious persons.

Last year (2015), saw a slight increase in the number of criminal record checks being performed. This increase may have been a reset for the community bringing us closer to the norm moving forward. The number of index checks (criminal record checks) has declined steadily since 2010 (-21%). This decline is largely attributed to: i) criminal record checks involving a “vulnerable sector”, query must be performed by the police agency where the individual resides; and ii) business and service groups are extending the date of mandatory criminal record checks to a three-year period rather than requesting annual checks for their volunteers.

<b>Provincial Statutes (Excluding Traffic)</b>								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
All Provincial Statutes (Excl.Traffic)	2223	1958	1788	1669	1804	1792	-1%	-19%

### Provincial Statutes

These provincial statutes involve offences under the Liquor Act, Mental Health Act, Child Welfare Act, Coroners Act and the Trespass Act. While not the highest of priority, these investigations also consume a significant portion of police resources. Mental Health Act totals (453) and Sudden Death investigations (66) have remained consistent. In particular, mental health investigations are extremely intensive as they involve excessive wait times at hospitals thereby requiring a significant police investment. Moving forward, it is evident that strategies need to be developed to address the ongoing issue of mental illness within society and the aging population.



## Introduction

The following report is a collation of statistical information and enforcement activities performed by Community Peace Offices of Strathcona County Enforcement Services. This report highlights our main service calls with a comparison of 2013, 2014 and 2015. There are significant variances in regard to some complaints and an explanation is provided where same has been identified. Also highlighted is the number of Provincial Traffic Tickets issued during 2013, 2014 and 2015. In addition to these noted responsibilities, Enforcement Services also assists Strathcona County RCMP with various duties such as traffic control at accident scenes and Alberta Check Stops.

### Bylaw Enforcement Statistics

	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
				2014-2015	2013-2015
Off Highway Vehicle	264	306	163	-47%	39%
Unsightly Premises	257	225	199	-12%	-23%
Debris on Roadway	136	84	78	-7%	-43%
Commercial Vehicle Inspections	208	222	236	6%	13%
Alarm Response	255	228	256	12%	0%
Noise	366	370	343	-7%	-6%
Warrant Processing	429	625	962	54%	124%
Dog Control	2637	2433	2664	9%	1%
Parking Violations	3221	2459	2986	21%	-7%
Other Provincial and Bylaw	3122	4443	4507	1%	44%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10895</b>	<b>11395</b>	<b>12394</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>14%</b>

### Off Highway Vehicle Complaints

The majority of the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) complaints were handled by the OHV Section which consists of one Enforcement Services CPO and a RCMP Police Officer. This unit scores the majority of their statistics under the RCMP system and so they were not captured under our reporting system known as Report Exec. During 2014 the majority of the complaints were

handled by Enforcement Services but as previously stated, the OHV Unit handled the majority of the complaints in 2015 which explains a significant variance of 47%.

During the month of September the OHV unit spent in excess of 100 hours providing an educational campaign to Off Highway Vehicle users in regard to Provincial Statutes and the Bylaws. The response from the public was very positive in regard to this campaign.

### **Unsightly Premises**

There was a 12% decrease in this category in 2015. This is the second year that we have seen such a decrease and there is no logical explanation as Enforcement Services responds to these incidents on a complaint basis. It is the goal of Enforcement Services to work with the land owner to comply with the bylaw rather than proceeding with a charge or a Queen's Bench Order which is very costly to the land owner. Unfortunately there are occasions when we are forced to proceed to Queen's Bench due to lack of cooperation from the land owner.

### **CVSA Commercial Vehicle Inspections**

There was an increase of 6% in this category and these inspections are considered a main priority for Enforcement Services. Our officers worked on joint projects with Edmonton Police Service, Edmonton Community Standards, Leduc County Enforcement Services and Solicitor General Commercial Vehicle Section. These joint operations took place in Edmonton, Leduc County and Strathcona County and were 2-3 days of enforcement. In addition to these operations numerous checks were also conducted by Strathcona County Enforcement Services throughout the county. Enforcement Services also provided Cargo Securement courses to Transportation and Agriculture (TAS) and Utilities to ensure county vehicles meet the proper standards.

### **Alarm Response**

The RCMP respond to all alarms and follow up investigation for False Alarms is conducted by Enforcement Services. The majority of these infractions are a result of residents and businesses failing to attain the alarm permits and not indicative of false alarm responses. There was an increase of 12% this year but this does not create a concern at this time.

### **Warrant Processing**

There was an increase of 54 % in this category. The majority of the warrants executed were as a result of traffic stops in addition to warrants issued by the courts.

## **Dog Control**

Strathcona County Enforcement Services has a long standing contract with the Edmonton Humane Society. Dogs at large are only housed at the RCMP/Enforcement Services facility for a short period. Unclaimed dogs are then transported to the Edmonton Humane Society which is located on the northwest side of Edmonton. The Humane Society provides medical attention as well as food and shelter. If the dog is not claimed by the owner, the Humane Society takes ownership of the dog and the majority of the dogs are adopted.

There was a 9% increase this year and this category tends to fluctuate from year to year.

## **Parking Violations**

There was an increase of 527 complaints this year. Last year we were restricted in regard to enforcing Abandoned Vehicles under the Traffic Safety Act but this issue has been addressed. This counts for a percentage of the increase as well as an increase in population and additional enforcement.

## **Other Provincial Statutes and Bylaws**

This category encompasses all other areas of enforcement which are not in the main headings of the statistics. There was a very slight increase of 1%.

<b>Enforcement Services</b>					
	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
				2014-2015	2013-2015
Traffic Unit	17238	16657	19398	16%	13%
General Duty Unit	7742	7695	7028	-9%	-9%

## **Traffic Tickets by Peace Officers**

Enforcement Services Traffic Unit increased their Traffic Tickets by 16% in 2015. The General Duty Unit dropped slightly this year which is not a concern. Although the General Duty Unit's main focus is dealing with public complaints and the various bylaws, they do share the concern of traffic safety in Strathcona County and devote a significant amount of time to traffic enforcement.

## Automated Traffic Enforcement

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
							2014-2015	2010-2015
Photo Radar Tickets Issued	17513	40916	29196	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
I.S.D. Speed Tickets Issued	7490	7126	6993	5183	4441	10581	138%	41%
I.S.D. Red Light Tickets Issued	1098	605	478	626	760	990	30%	-1%
Total	26101	48647	36667	5809	5201	11571	122%	56%

### Automated Traffic Enforcement

Strathcona County currently operates ten ISD (Intersection Safety Device) cameras. They were installed at intersections in Sherwood Park and became operational in the spring of 2015. The increase in ISD red light violations is directly related to an improved technological advancement allowing turning lanes to be featured during the enforcement scope and the ability for the technology to detect multiple infractions at the same time. Previously numerous violations were going undetected. For the later portion of 2014 there was no ISD function operating in the county due to the change in service provider. The service provider has indicated that initially a significant spike in violations would be expected but also that this number should level and then decrease in months and years to come. Tolerance levels are set to diminish the risk of serious injury or death as data has confirmed that speed is the number one factor in the severity of our collisions.

## Taxi Bylaw

	2013	2014	2015	Variance	
				2014-2015	2013-2015
Driver Permits			153	n/a	n/a
Taxi Permits			85	n/a	n/a

### Taxi Permits

There were 153 Driver Permits and 85 Taxi Permits issued in 2015. The Taxi Bylaw is proving to be effective in regard to Community Safety.



## Conclusion

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*We are committed to remain one of the safest communities in Alberta. Statistics Canada in their 2015 annual report on Crime in Canadian municipalities, reported that Strathcona County has one of the lowest crime severity index scores in Alberta. We have seen an increase in many of our statistical areas, as have most communities in Alberta. The economic downturn we are experiencing and large urban sprawl are bringing with it unique challenges to Policing. In consultation with our community leaders, we remain committed to providing the highest quality of service to the citizens of Strathcona County through dynamic leadership, education, and advanced technology. Whether it is our general duty members, bylaw enforcement officers, investigators from our plain-clothes unit or from any other section at Strathcona County Detachment, we will meet every future challenge created by our growing and vital community. As the officer in Charge of Strathcona County Detachment, I remain committed to providing all the resources and tools necessary to make our detachment a “Center of Policing Excellence”.*

*Superintendent Gary Peck*