



VERNON NORTH OKANAGAN DETACHMENT

4th Quarter (October to December) 2024

QUARTERLY POLICING REPORT

Committed to preserve the peace, uphold the law and provide quality service in partnership with our communities.

Superintendent Blake MacLeod

Officer in Charge

POLICING ACTIVITY REPORT ~ 4th Quarter 2024

The Vernon North Okanagan Detachment is committed to our four priorities of *Public Safety*, *Vulnerable Victims*, *Community Outreach* and *Employee Excellence* to ensure our communities remain a safe place to live. We are dedicated to providing an outstanding police service by developing strong mental health and resiliency in our members, and building and maintaining trust through timely and accurate communication. We work collaboratively with our partners to assist vulnerable persons in the community. Most importantly, we foster safer communities through evidence based, targeted and collaborative enforcement.

PRIORITY ONE: PUBLIC SAFETY

The Vernon North Okanagan RCMP's primary focus is on the safety of the public within the communities we police.

Operations

The table below highlights the total number of calls for service for the 4th quarter of 2024 as well as previous totals from 2023, 2022 and 2021 for comparison. The percentage changes are compared to the same quarter from the previous year.

Total Calls for Service – Quarter 4							
Area	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021-2022 % change	2022-2023 % change	2023-2024 % change
Vernon	5399	4594	4189	4179	-14.9%	-8.8%	-0.2%
Coldstream	381	321	321	315	-15.7%	0%	-1.8%
Vernon Rural	479	413	381	384	-13.7%	-7.7%	+0.7%
Armstrong	166	254	267	277	+53.0%	+5.1%	+3.7%
Enderby	385	466	406	423	+21.0%	-12.8%	+4.1%
Falkland	214	119	189	185	-44.3%	+58.8%	-2.1%
Lumby	280	239	237	248	-14.6%	-0.8%	+4.6%
Spallumcheen	235	330	282	288	+40.4%	-14.5%	+2.1%
Westside	253	219	232	309	-13.4%	+5.9%	+33.1%
Total	7792	6955	6504	6608	-10.7%	-6.4%	+1.5%

The number of total calls for service will not equal the values reported below due to the location of where the offence occurred as it may be unknown or outside our policing jurisdiction.

Criminal Code Offences

The table below highlights the total number of Criminal Code offences for the 4th quarter as well as previous totals from 2023, 2022 and 2021 for comparison; percentage changes are compared to the same quarter from the previous year. Total Criminal Code offences include persons and property offences.

Criminal Code Offences– Quarter 4							
Area	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021-2022 % change	2022-2023 % change	2023-2024 % change
Vernon	1578	1314	1346	1466	-16.7%	+2.4%	+8.9%
Coldstream	72	50	58	88	-30.5%	+16%	+51.7%
Vernon Rural	87	54	63	84	-37.9%	+16.6%	+33.3%
Armstrong	74	60	69	65	-18.9%	+15%	-5.7%
Enderby	142	124	64	94	-12.6%	-48.3%	+46.8%
Falkland	45	22	24	29	-51.1%	+9.0%	+20.8%
Lumby	69	73	42	60	+5.7%	-42.4%	+42.8%
Spallumcheen	80	69	49	60	-13.7%	-28.9%	+22.4%
Westside	72	69	63	87	-4.1%	-8.69%	+38%
Total	2219	1835	1739	2033	-17.3%	-5.2%	+16.9%

Criminal Code Offences include founded files only.

Violent Offences

The table below highlights the total number of violent crime offences for the 4th quarter as well as previous totals from 2023, 2022 and 2021 for comparison; percentage changes are compared to the same quarter from the previous year. Total violent crime offences include homicides, assaults, sexual assaults, uttering threats and criminal harassment.

Violent Offences – Quarter 4							
Area	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021-2022 % change	2022-2023 % change	2023-2024 % change
Vernon	264	237	229	261	-10.2%	-3.3%	+13.9%
Coldstream	17	11	20	20	-35.2%	+81.8%	0%
Vernon Rural	19	19	20	27	0%	+5.2%	+35%
Armstrong	11	11	11	11	0%	0%	0%
Enderby	14	23	33	32	+64.2%	+43.4%	-3%

Falkland	7	7	5	9	0%	-28.5%	+80%
Lumby	18	9	12	22	-50%	+33.3%	+83.3%
Spallumcheen	11	14	20	8	+27.2%	+42.8%	-60%
Westside	20	22	14	29	+10%	-36.3%	+107.1%
Total	381	353	364	419	-7.3%	+3.1%	+15.1%

Total Violent Offences (Founded Files Only) Include: (1000 Series UCR - Crimes Against Person) Murder, Robbery, Assault, Harassing Communications, Utter threats against Person.

Files of interest this quarter include an aggravated assault investigation involving an edged weapon, an aggravated assault investigation involving a firearm, and a homicide investigation which occurred in Vernon.

Property Crime

The table below highlights the total number of property crime offences for the 4th quarter as well as previous totals from 2023, 2022 and 2021 for comparison; percentage changes are compared to the same quarter from the previous year. Total property crime offences include break and enter, theft, mischief, arson, fraud, and possession of stolen property.

Property Crime – Quarter 4							
Area	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021-2022 % change	2022-2023 % change	2023-2024 % change
Vernon	938	698	795	846	-25.5%	+13.8%	6.4%
Coldstream	52	28	22	60	-46.1%	-21.4%	+172.7%
Vernon Rural	53	27	36	45	-49.0%	33.3%	+25%
Armstrong	28	28	15	31	0%	-46.4%	+106.6%
Enderby	57	40	27	24	-29.8%	-32.5%	11.1%
Falkland	22	8	9	12	-63.6%	+12.5%	+33.3%
Lumby	27	22	18	33	-18.5%	-18.1%	+83.3%
Spallumcheen	30	31	22	44	+3.3%	-29.0%	+100%
Westside	27	30	34	42	+11.1%	+13.3%	+23.5%
Total	1234	912	978	1157	-26.0%	+7.2%	+18.3%

Total Property Crime (Founded Files Only): Include B&E (Residential, Business, Other, Seasonal Residence), Theft Over \$5000, Theft Under \$5000, Theft of MV, Theft from MV, Possession of Stolen Property, Fraud, Mischief, Arson.

Files of interest this quarter include the arrest of a prohibited driver in a stolen truck, for possession of stolen property in Vernon as well as a break and enter to a business in Coldstream, which resulted in the recovery of the stolen property. During the month of December, police investigated a string of business break and enters in the Vernon area where beauty salons were targeted.

Targeted Policing

During this quarter, Targeted Policing continued to investigate a targeted residential shooting incident that occurred mid-September in Vernon where three subjects were arrested and firearms were seized. In addition, Drug Section continued the investigation of the arrest of four subjects and seizure of drugs in mid-July as well as providing disclosure for a 2023 investigation which resulted in the seizure of large quantities of private manufactured firearms and various drugs.

Prolific Offender Unit

A Prolific Offender is identified as an adult or youth offender with an established pattern of persistent Criminal Code and/or Controlled Drugs and Substances Act offenders, identified by current intelligence to be criminally active and assessed by police and partner agencies as medium to high risk to re-offend. These offenders reside within our detachment area and are capable of causing a disproportionate amount of crime in the community.

At the conclusion of this reporting period, there were 13 Prolific Offenders identified for monitoring in the Vernon North Okanagan. Of those, six are currently in custody and seven are not in custody. Of the seven (7) not in custody, five (5) reside or are known to frequent, the City of Vernon, one (1) resides in the North Rural and one (1) relocated outside of our jurisdiction.

Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII)

ReVOII is a coordinated multi-agency initiative designed to intervene and address repeat violent offenders in communities across BC. The program is comprised of dedicated Crown prosecutors, probation officers, correctional supervisors, and includes enhanced investigation and monitoring of repeat violent offenders by police agencies. There are currently four (4) subjects identified in the VNOD area with three in custody and one out of custody with one residing in the Vernon area.

Downtown Enforcement

During this reporting period the Crime Reduction Unit liaised with the street entrenched population, provided referral information and conducted enforcement action. During the course of their duties DEU executed 17 warrants of arrest and recommended five investigations for charge approval including failure to comply with release conditions and driving while prohibited.

Road Safety

The Vernon North Okanagan frontline officers contribute to safer roads through documented contacts with motorists to enforce the Province of British Columbia Motor Vehicle Act which include disobey traffic control device, distracted driving and speed related offences.

Traffic Contacts – Quarter 4							
Area	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021-2022 % change	2022-2023 % change	2023-2024 % change
Vernon	749	583	722	544	-22.1%	+23.8%	-24.6%
Coldstream	184	118	175	146	-35.8%	+48.3%	-16.5%
Vernon Rural	17	28	2	11	+64.7%	-92.8%	+450%
Armstrong	82	143	60	34	+74.3%	-50.0%	-43.3%
Enderby	36	38	55	27	+5.5%	+44.7%	-50.9%
Falkland	15	11	15	12	-26.6%	+36.3%	-20%
Lumby	38	71	11	13	+86.8%	-84.5%	+18.1%
Spallumcheen	120	119	102	46	-0.8%	-14.2%	-54.9%
Westside	68	38	144	42	-44.1%	+278.9%	-70.8%
Total	1241	1149	1286	865	-7.4%	-11.9%	-32.7%

Total Traffic Contacts include violations tickets and written warnings.

During this quarter, frontline officers removed 68 impaired drivers from the roadway; 40 within Vernon/Coldstream and 28 from the surrounding areas.

PRIORITY TWO: VULNERABLE PERSONS

The Vernon North Okanagan RCMP works collaboratively with partner agencies to assist vulnerable persons in the community who are in the greatest need and are at risk of harm or exploitation.

Domestic Violence Unit (DVU)

In high-risk intimate partner violence investigations, the Domestic Violence Unit assists frontline investigators, conducts file reviews as well as facilitates Integrated Case Assessment Team (ICAT) meetings to support a high-risk victim through the process. During this quarter DVU opened three (3) new ICAT files and currently has an additional six (6) previous ICAT files requiring file management, monitoring and victim support.

Sex Crimes

During this quarter, the BC Integrated Child Exploitation Unit (BC ICE) advised of 15 reports of possession of child pornography with four of the investigations believed to involve self-taken images and potential victims of on-line luring. Each investigation requires a significant amount of time to complete production orders, execute search warrants and, where the evidence supports, prepare charge packages for Crown Counsel.

As a highly trained interviewer the Sex Crimes investigator conducts interviews with vulnerable child victims of crime. From October to December, Sex Crimes interviewed eight (8) victims with regards to sexual assault and sexual interference crimes against children.

In addition, Sex Crimes submitted a Report to Crown Counsel requesting charges of fail to comply with court ordered conditions for a registered sex offender.

Mental Health Calls

The Integrated Crisis Response Team is comprised of a regular member partnered with a nurse from the Interior Health Authority who responds to calls for service involving persons in crisis. This quarter, ICRT responded to 241 calls for service and assisted frontline officers with follow up on an additional 40 investigations.

Vernon/ Coldstream	MENTAL HEALTH FILES – Quarter 4						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021-2022 % change	2022-2023 % change	2023-2024 % change
Mental Health Files	275	292	360	493	+6.1%	+23.28%	+36.9%
Emergency Apprehension Sec 28 (by Police)	34	48	26	29	+41.1%	-45.83%	+11.5%
Form 21, 10, 4 Apprehension (issued by Doctors or Nurse Practitioners)	12	16	19	20	+33.3%	+18.75%	+5.2%

North Okanagan Rural (Armstrong, Enderby, Falkland, Lumby, Spallumcheen)	MENTAL HEALTH FILES – Quarter 4						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021-2022 % change	2022-2023 % change	2023-2024 % change

Mental Health Files	78	59	76	79	-24.3%	+28.81%	+3.9%
Emergency Apprehension Sec 28 (by Police)	13	5	10	10	-61.5%	+100%	0%
Form 21, 10, 4 Apprehension (issued by Doctors or Nurse Practitioners)	6	1	3	2	-83.3%	+200%	-33.3%

Toxic Drug Crisis Response

Frontline officers in the Vernon North Okanagan work to improve service for people suffering from addiction issues which often lead to an increased involvement in criminal behaviour. Through partnership with Interior Health, Mental Health and Substance Use and the BC Centre for Disease Control, the Vernon North Okanagan RCMP offer Naloxone kits to those at risk of overdose. During the course of their duties, frontline officers provide referral to and information regarding local harm reduction services within the community.

PRIORITY THREE: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Vernon North Okanagan RCMP work to build and maintain relationships within our communities to increase public trust and confidence.

Youth Connection

The Vernon North Okanagan detachment is committed to connecting with youth in the community with frontline officers conducting impromptu visits to the schools and regular patrols of school zones during student drop-off and pick-up times. In addition, our officers assist with lock-down drills, provide school presentations and are currently planning the annual Constable Jean Minguy Memorial RCMP Youth Academy in the spring.

In December, the Vernon North Okanagan RCMP partnered with the Coldstream Fire Department to host a food drive at Kidston Elementary where police engaged with students, offered tours of the police car and handed out candy canes.



Community Engagement



Our officers participated in many community events over this past quarter including the United Way Drive Thru Breakfast handing out goodies and coffee to supporters. As well, we attended to a retirement complex to engage with the residents over coffee and treats to hear first hand the policing issues that are important to them. In October, the Vernon Detachment hosted the Oak Child & Youth Advocacy Centre's chilli fundraiser. In November, VNOD's Senior Management

Team cooked up a taco lunch at the OKIB Elder's luncheon for attendees. In December, we helped serve a Christmas luncheon at the Enderby Senior's Centre and participated in the Elk's Hall pancake breakfast toy drive. Don't worry, Santa was released from cells in time to deliver toys.

Community Safety Office (Vernon)

The nine (9) active volunteers of the Community Safety Office (CSO) assisted 629 members of the public, fielded 114 phone calls and returned over 203 Police Information Checks. The CSO coordinator conducted presentations to the community with regards to Home & Personal Safety, and Frauds & Cons. In addition, a Crime Preventions through Environment Design (CPTED) audit was conducted at a local business. Throughout the quarter, the volunteers were involved in many community events with Safety Bear making an appearance at the United Way Breakfast, the Oak Centre Fundraiser, and during the Trick or Treat trail at Halloween. On November 15th, the Community Safety Office celebrated a milestone anniversary of 25 Years of working with the community and honored two long-term volunteers who were with the program since its' inception.

Vernon RCMP Volunteers

During this past quarter the 29 volunteers provided a total of 561 hours through their participation with the Vernon RCMP Volunteer Program. They drove 2217 kilometers, worked 36 Community Safety Patrol shifts and ran 2708 licence plates on the Stolen Auto Recovery program. Over the past three months, volunteers spent 12 hours conducting 3 Speed Watch operations to slow down 944 vehicles. On December 3rd, the City of Vernon hosted a volunteer appreciation event with 4 volunteers being recognized for 1000 hours of service and others recognized for anywhere between 1-10 years of volunteer service to the program.

Lumby RCMP Volunteers

The Village of Lumby and Electoral Area D supports a small RCMP volunteer program consisting of four (4) operational volunteers and the program is facilitated by the Village of Lumby Community

Safety Officer, Lee Elliott. These dedicated volunteers conducted seven Speed Watch operations throughout the area including in the school zone at JQ Inglis Elementary, 400 block of Mable Lake Road, 500 block of Whitevale Road, Dure Meadow Road, Millar Street and Vernon Street. As well, the volunteers conducted three shifts patrolling the community as eyes and ears for the police.

PRIORITY FOUR: POLICING EXCELLENCE

The Vernon North Okanagan RCMP is committed to supporting our police officers and support staff to build confidence, resiliency and empower our employees to reach their full potential.

Detachment Level Training

The Vernon North Okanagan is committed to providing local training opportunities for our police officers in order to enhance their skillset. During this quarter, all carbine operators attended mandatory annual re-certification with local Basic Firearms Instructors. As well, the detachment hosted many local subject matter experts including Vernon Fire Rescue who attended to perform fire extinguisher training, the City of Vernon IT Department provided information on battery safety and storage, the RCMP E Division's Polygraph Section facilitated a 4-day workshop on suspect interviewing and Police-Based Victim Services spoke about the support provided to victims under their program. VNOD began rolling out the new model of the Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) Model T7 with training offered to the frontline officers in the North Rural.

Pacific Regional Training Centre (PRTC)

During this quarter, three (3) regular members attended to PRTC for Operational Skills Training, one (1) member attended a pre-selection course to be considered for the Police Dog Section, and one (1) attended to annual Tactical Team training. In addition, our members benefitted from firearms training, Tire Deflation Device course, specialized computer training, and participated in the Investigator Development Program. As well, one (1) member of the Vernon North Okanagan Detachment's Senior Management Team attended to the Critical Incident Command course at the Justice Institute of BC.

Human Resources - Established Levels

Vernon North Okanagan Detachment is currently at 107 Regular Members: 60 City of Vernon; 30 Provincial; 4 City of Armstrong; 7 District of Coldstream; 4 Township of Spallumcheen, 1 Splat'sin First Nation and 1 Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB).

RCMP MISSION, VISION, VALUES

Our Mission:

To preserve the peace, uphold the law and provide quality service in partnership with our communities.

Our Vision:

The RCMP is a healthy and inclusive organization trusted by employees, partners and the public that keeps Canada safe by consistently delivering exceptional policing services and continually striving to grow and improve.

Our Values:

- **Act with integrity:** We conduct ourselves ethically, and do so with honesty, dignity and honour.
- **Show respect:** We treat all people with fairness. We value and promote reconciliation, diversity and inclusion by being considerate of the democratic rights, history and lived experiences of others.
- **Demonstrate compassion:** We care for each other and the communities we serve by approaching each situation with empathy and a genuine desire to help.
- **Take responsibility:** We are transparent about our decisions and actions and hold ourselves accountable for the results and impacts.
- **Serve with excellence:** We commit to continuous learning and work collaboratively with colleagues, communities and partners to provide and support innovative and professional policing services.