



2006 Annual Report on Crime & Safety

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Message from the OIC Coquitlam RCMP

I am pleased to present this inaugural Annual Report on Crime & Public Safety in Coquitlam RCMP's service area for 2006. Through this report I invite members of the community to learn more about the Coquitlam RCMP: who we are; what we do; and how the staff, members and volunteers of Coquitlam RCMP are working to create "Safe Homes, Safe Communities" in Anmore, Belcarra, Coquitlam, and Port Coquitlam.

This past year Coquitlam RCMP continued to change and grow in order to capitalize on new opportunities and implement new approaches to policing. For instance, we continued to implement initiatives as a crime reduction pilot site, including hiring a full-time Crime Analyst to identify trends in criminal activity and support strategic operations to address those trends. Using intelligence and analysis to develop strategies has made us more effective at reducing crime and enhancing public safety.

Also, in July 2006 we became one of the first RCMP detachments in BC to implement PRIME-BC—the first new records management and dispatch system in the RCMP in more than two decades. The learning curve has been steep but the benefits are already obvious—PRIME-BC not only allows real-time entry and retrieval of local police information, it also creates a seamless environment for police information between jurisdictions. PRIME-BC is a vital part of our crime reduction strategies because it gives us access to more information in a more timely fashion than ever before.

And we continue to develop and build on partnerships to reduce crime and enhance

public safety. A big part of the crime reduction approach is realizing that not every public safety issue is a policing issue and, going even further, making sure that police, governments and communities use their respective mandates and resources to contribute to effective, long-term solutions to public safety issues.

One local example of the partnership approach is the development of grow op inspection programs by both the cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam. Under the programs, each city's inspection office will work with the RCMP to use a multi-faceted approach to identifying and shutting down Grow Ops that includes analyzing Hydro consumption data and targeting potential grow ops through the use of safety inspections and fines. The programs are based on successful models already in use in other communities and we are pleased to support municipalities in applying the model locally.

The remainder of this report will highlight some of Coquitlam RCMP's strategic priorities and the initiatives we put in place to achieve them in 2006. The report will also present information and statistics to demonstrate who we are; what we do; and how the staff, members and volunteers in of Coquitlam RCMP are helping to make Anmore, Belcarra, Coquitlam, and Port Coquitlam healthy, vibrant, safe communities in which to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,
Supt. Peter Lepine
OIC, Coquitlam RCMP

Crime Reduction Pilot Project Update: What is Crime Reduction?

In September 2005, Coquitlam RCMP was selected as a pilot site for “E” Division’s Crime Reduction Initiative.

Crime Reduction (CR)—an approach in which police use crime analysis and partnerships to identify and target prolific offenders, crime ‘hot spots’, and root crime causation—is based on well-documented successes with similar programs internationally.

Crime Reduction does not replace other approaches to policing—such as community policing and response-oriented policing—instead, it builds on the success of these approaches by giving the police a new, more effective, approach to reducing crime rates and enhancing public safety. The new approach can be broken into two main categories:

- The tenets of crime reduction
- The tools of crime reduction

THE TENETS OF CRIME REDUCTION

The two-part theory behind crime reduction is that in any given policing jurisdiction, three tenets of crime will apply:

Prolific Offenders. A relatively small number of individuals will be responsible for a disproportionately large amount of crime and calls for service,

Crime Hotspots. Certain areas in the community will be more frequent sites of criminal activity than other areas,

Root Crime Causation. There are factors that make it more likely that individuals and areas will be involved in criminal activity.

And, by focusing on the three tenets, the police will be more effective at reducing criminal activity and calls for service in their community.

THE TOOLS OF CRIME REDUCTION

To focus on the three tenets of crime reduction, Coquitlam RCMP uses two main tools—crime analysis and public safety partnerships.

Crime Analysis

Everyday, Coquitlam RCMP gets hundreds of calls from the public related to criminal activity, nuisance activity, and public safety threats. Everyone of those calls gets entered into the PRIME database.

Crime analysis is the practice of turning that information into intelligence by finding links between the three tenets of crime reduction. For instance; linking prolific offenders to each other as associates; linking one or more prolific offenders to a crime hotspot based on a proximity to their home, work or school; or

identifying the factors that may be contributing to criminal activity in a certain area or related to a certain prolific offender are a few possible avenues of analysis.

In Summer 2006 Coquitlam RCMP hired a full-time Crime Analyst to support CR in our service area.

Public Safety Partnerships

It is not uncommon for crime analysis to reveal issues and factors that are beyond the mandate or resources of Coquitlam RCMP to address.

For instance; some calls for police assistance relate to individuals with mental health issues. In addition, some common factors found in crime hotspots related to the design and upkeep of buildings and their surrounding areas. In these situations, the police must work with partners in the community to find solutions to the underlying issues in order to be truly effective.

Coquitlam RCMP enjoys the strong support of all municipal governments throughout the service area, as well as close working relationships with partners in the justice system and in the community.



Crime Reduction @ Coquitlam RCMP

Coquitlam RCMP has been implementing CR initiatives since 2005 and the application of tenets and tools is producing impressive results.

Not only is CR showing irrefutable operational benefits, it is also boosting Coquitlam RCMP's reputation, leading to recognition for best practices and invitations to present our methods and outcomes at international conferences, such as the Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis Association (ECCA) 2005, as well as internal RCMP working groups and meetings.

PROLIFIC OFFENDERS @ COQUITLAM RCMP

Coquitlam RCMP's Prolific Offender Management Program (POMP) is one of the major keys to our success at CR.

Internally, the POMP is a partnership between General Duty (GD), the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU), and our crime analyst, that aims to:

- Identify individuals causing the most crime and calls for service,
- Build a profile for each individual that includes details such as their associates and personal information such as mental health and/or addiction issues.
- Work with internal and external partners to reduce the impact of prolific offenders in the community.

Externally, development and fine-tuning of the POMP has been done in close consultation with local Crown and probation to ensure that information and intelligence is accurate, timely, and useful. By using analytical tools and working with partners in the community, our POMP is succeeding.

Through the analysis of associations between prolific offenders, it was found that several POMP subjects were linked to each other and to a common location. When that location became the focus of an investigation, CRU was able to provide support based on the intelligence from the POMP. As a result, several active prolific offenders were arrested. And analysis of crime stats for the patrol zone around the location indicate a significant and sustained reduction in all targeted crime types since the arrests.

CRIME HOTSPOTS @ COQUITLAM RCMP

Through ongoing analysis of activity levels and locations in CR targeted crime types, our crime analyst is able to track fluctuating hotspots in Coquitlam RCMP's service area.

Once identified, our analyst works with CRU and GD to identify potential causes for the hotspot activity and develop strategies to reduce it immediately and keep it down over the long-term.

In early 2006, CRU worked with the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT) to target an auto theft hotspot using IMPACT's successful Bait Car program. Because Coquitlam RCMP was able to provide specific information to guide the selection and placement of the bait car, the project resulted in the arrest of several of the offenders responsible for the increased activity in the area and a significant reduction in activity.

PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS @ COQUITLAM RCMP

Participating in "E" Division's CR Initiative allows Coquitlam RCMP to be part of a larger partnership with the Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies (ICURS)—a cutting edge, inter-disciplinary team of university researchers from Simon Fraser University and the University College of the Fraser Valley focused on developing and improving analytical tools for studying crime in urban environments.

On a local level, implementing crime reduction in Coquitlam RCMP has resulted in several innovative and effective partnerships that have shown both immediate and long-term results.

In February 2006 CRU acquired intelligence to suggest a local prolific offender was involved in mail thefts in the service area and in neighbouring communities. Working in partnership with Port Moody Police and Canada Post to target the individual Coquitlam CRU contributed to the successful takedown of a key prolific offender resulting in an immediate positive impact on public safety.

Coquitlam RCMP 2006 Strategic Priorities

Coquitlam RCMP's commitment to the Crime Reduction approach and the RCMP's national goal of "Safe Homes, Safe Communities," is reflected in and supported by our five-year Strategic Policing Plan.

The plan is the result of collaboration between the RCMP and the cities of Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam, as well as community consultations and ensures that detachment resources are strategically focused to reduce crime, enhance public safety, and build strong and lasting relationships with internal and external partners.

Coquitlam RCMP's policing priorities take into account community concerns, crime trend analysis, and direct input from our partner municipalities. Coquitlam RCMP's 2006 policing priorities were organized into five key areas: traffic, communications, visibility, youth, drugs and related crime.

YOUTH

Context: supporting youth is one of the RCMP's five national strategic priorities and it is consistently identified as a local community priority as well.

Objective: to prevent and reduce youth criminal involvement and victimization by supporting community-based projects and programs that encourage youth engagement and focus on early intervention and root causes.

2006 Highlights:

- As part of the new Detachment Performance Planning process, developed a new youth strategy premised on contact with youth service providers in the community.
- Continued support for Coquitlam RCMP's School Liaison Officer/Summer Youth Patrol program that puts the police in direct contact with youth in their environment.
- Fostering positive relationships between police and youth through continued participation in the RCMP Youth Academy.
- Worked with local Probation Officers to develop a youth-focused prolific offender management program including application of curfew checks.
- Establishing relationships with existing and emerging youth service agencies and advocates to identify and support mutual objectives.

VISIBILITY

Context: Seeing the staff, members and volunteers of Coquitlam RCMP in the community, in law enforcement and community-policing roles, is a key component of public safety.

Objective: to enhance perceptions of public safety by ensuring that the members, staff and volunteers of Coquitlam RCMP are more visible more often in the community.

2006 Highlights:

- Increasing Coquitlam RCMP's Auxiliary Constable program to 50 members. Auxiliary Constables are well-trained volunteers whose primary purpose is to participate in community policing activities related to public safety and crime prevention. In Coquitlam RCMP, Auxiliary Constables perform duties such as public safety talks to elementary schools and community groups, staffing information booths at community events, and assisting with various projects ongoing in Community Police Stations.
- Expanding Coquitlam RCMP's community policing programs, provided by more than 1,000 volunteers in areas such as: Victim Assistance and Community Resources, Block Watch, Citizens' Crime Watch, and Tri-Cities Speed Watch.
- Continued support of volunteer programs coordinated in the four local Community Police Stations. Programs range from compiling a database of graffiti to support identification of "taggers" and eradication of this costly form of vandalism to participation in ICBC's Stolen Auto Recovery (SAR) program.

Coquitlam RCMP 2006 Strategic Priorities

DRUGS AND RELATED CRIME

Context: Increasing frustration throughout Coquitlam RCMP's service area with the visible impact of drugs and drug-related crime such as derelict buildings, suspected Grow Ops, theft from vehicles, and B&Es in residences and businesses.

Objective: to apply crime reduction approaches to identify and target the locations, individuals, and root causes for drugs and drug-related crime in the community.

2006 Highlights:

- Employing enforcement strategies such as executing warrants and seizing houses used for Grow Ops under proceeds of crime legislation to shut Grow Ops down for good.
- Working with municipalities on initiatives like the Coordinated Enforcement Team and the upcoming public safety inspection programs that apply effective, multi-faceted approaches to identifying and shutting down Grow Ops including analyzing Hydro consumption data and targeting potential grow ops through the use of safety inspections and fines.
- Continued dedication of internal resources to enforcement initiatives like the Marijuana Enforcement Team and community policing programs such as Crime-Free Multi-Housing and Meth Watch—aimed at educating the public about detection and prevention of drug-related activity in their neighbourhoods.

COMMUNICATIONS

Context: Consultation with the community and internal and external partners revealed a need for Coquitlam RCMP to improve communications capacity and effectiveness.

Objective: Enhance the effectiveness of communications by developing strategies and vehicles focused on improving the quality and frequency of internal and external information flows.

2006 Highlights:

- Hiring a full-time Communications Coordinator to provide strategic advice on internal and external communications, and develop new initiatives such as the Fall 2006 community consultation sessions, and the Coquitlam RCMP website scheduled to launch in February 2007.
- Creating a full-time, permanent Media Relations Officer position to enhance and expand Coquitlam RCMP's profile in local and regional media.
- Initiating training programs for front line staff to enhance communications with the public.

TRAFFIC SERVICES

Context: Road safety is always a primary concern for members of the community. Especially with respect to aggressive driving, speeding, and impaired driving.

Objective: Strategically focus municipal traffic enforcement resources to reduce death, injury and property damage on roads in Coquitlam RCMP's service area.

2006 Highlights:

- Continued support for Road Safety Vision 2010—the national traffic strategy for the RCMP—and its targets of a 30% reduction in traffic collisions in all service areas by 2010.
- Partnerships with ICBC such as Tri-Cities Speed Watch that focus on high risk activities at high risk locations.
- Multi-jurisdictional initiatives focused on high risk activities during high risk times such as Project IMPACT and impaired driving enforcement campaigns.
- Coquitlam RCMP Prohibited Driver Program—targeting high risk drivers to keep them off the road.

Snapshot of Coquitlam RCMP 2006: Criminal Code Offences

On July 25, 2006 Coquitlam RCMP became the third RCMP detachment in the Lower Mainland District to implement PRIME-BC—the first new police records management and dispatch system implemented in the RCMP in more than two decades.

PRIME-BC is an invaluable tool in Coquitlam RCMP's crime reduction pilot project because it offers seamless access to real-time police information across jurisdictional boundaries in addition to offering unprecedented amounts of information in each file to support more detailed analysis than was previously possible.

While the operational and analytical benefits of the new system are already obvious, the one key challenge that has arisen relates to the fact that, because PRIME-BC involves a completely new coding system, comparisons of crime statistics with data from pre-PRIME time periods are not valid.

Therefore, the adjacent table of Criminal Code Offence data does not include year-to-date or quarter-by-quarter comparisons as would be standard in a report of this type. Instead, in the interest of preserving reliability and validity, only PRIME-BC data are offered. Once Coquitlam RCMP has accumulated a full-year of PRIME data—in August 2007—standard year-to-date and quarter-by-quarter comparisons and analysis of crime statistics will be provided.

The data shows that property crime comprises more than 80% of our communities' criminal activity—which means that Coquitlam RCMP's crime reduction initiatives are focused where they will have the greatest impact.

Data Qualifiers

- Criminal Code Offence data was compiled from select Coquitlam RCMP PRIME files and does not represent a comprehensive account of criminal code offences for 2006.
- Data was collected using “all offence scoring”—the method used to determine crime rates in the existing Port Coquitlam-Coquitlam police funding formula—as opposed to “most serious offence scoring”—the method used by StatsCan and the provincial Police Services Division for determining crime rates.

Crime Type	Jul 25-Sept 30	Oct 1-Dec 31	Totals
Persons Crimes	54	75	129
Murder	0	1	1
Attempt Murder	2	4	6
Sex Assault	23	34	57
Abduction	2	1	3
Robbery	27	37	64
Property Crime	2377	2954	5331
B & E (Bus)	94	144	238
B & E (Res)	190	263	453
Theft of Vehicle	260	299	559
Theft from Vehicle	776	999	1775
Theft (Other)	537	497	1034
Poss. Stolen Property	27	27	54
Fraud	89	81	170
Mischief	386	605	991
Arson	18	19	37
Drugs	46	38	84
Grow Op	19	7	26
Heroin (Poss)	3	3	6
Cocaine (Poss)	12	15	27
Meth (Poss)	6	4	10
Herion (Traffic)	0	0	0
Cocaine (Traffic)	4	9	13
Meth (Traffic)	2	0	2
Traffic Enforcement	174	227	401
Dangerous Operation	4	2	6
Impaired Operation	98	103	201
Prohibited Driver	1	4	5
Roadside Prohibitions	71	118	189
Traffic Collisions	241	379	620
Fatal	3	3	6
Injury (Non-Fatal)	98	134	232
Property Damage	140	242	382

Snapshot of Coquitlam RCMP 2006: Who We Are

INTEGRATED & PROVINCIAL POLICING

Coquitlam RCMP benefits from the support of integrated units and provincial policing resources.

Integrated Units

- Integrated Gang Task Force
- Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT)
- Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT)
- Integrated Emergency Response Team

Provincial Policing Resources

- Air One Traffic Helicopter

SWORN OFFICERS

Coquitlam RCMP organizes 199 sworn officers into three sections: Administration, Operations and Operations Support.

Operations:

- General Duty/Patrol
- Traffic Section

Operations Support:

- Crime Prevention Unit
- Forensic Identification Section
- General Investigations Section
- Police Dog Section

Administration Section

- Training and Media

VOLUNTEERS

Coquitlam RCMP is proud to work with more than 1,000 community volunteers. These individuals are integral to the successful delivery of programs and services in the detachment, as well as to the success of crime prevention and crime reduction initiatives in all the communities we serve.

- Auxiliary Constables
- Community Police Stations
- Citizens' Crime Watch
- Block Watch
- Tri-Cities Speed Watch
- Victim Services

CIVILIAN STAFF

More than 150 full-time, part-time and auxiliary civilian staff provide a range of support services throughout the detachment.

- 911 Dispatch
- Office Support
- Records Management
- Financial Services
- Administrative Services
- Volunteer Coordination
- Victim Services
- Crime Analysis
- Block Watch

Coquitlam RCMP's staff, members and volunteers worked together to handle 22,358 calls for service between July 25, 2006 and December 31, 2006. (Source: PRIME-BC)



COQUITLAM RCMP

Address: 2986 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC V3B 7Y5 * Phone: 604-945-1550 * Fax: 604-552-7305

The Back Page: Fast Facts and Contacts

COQUITLAM RCMP FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Non-Emergency	604-945-1550
Victim Services/Community Resources	604-945-1585
Crime Prevention Unit	604-945-1586
Block Watch	604-945-1579/1576

COMMUNITY POLICE STATIONS

The Community Police Station (CPS) is an initiative of the Coquitlam RCMP Community Policing Office designed to build a closer connection between police and the communities they serve. CPS are valuable resources for reporting non-emergency incidents as well as getting information on volunteer opportunities and detachment initiatives.

Coast Meridian CPS
3312 Coast Meridian, Port Coquitlam
604-927-5451

Burquitlam CPS
560 Clarke Road, Coquitlam
604-933-6833

Mary Hill CPS
2581 Mary Hill Road, Port Coquitlam
604-927-2383

Ridgeway CPS
1059 Ridgeway Avenue, Coquitlam
604-933-6888

POLICING BY THE NUMBERS

Police Service	Population ¹	Crime Rate ²	Police:Pop Ratio ³	Case Burden ⁴	Cost per Capita ⁵
Coquitlam RCMP	181,970	103	1.962	99	\$135
Langley RCMP	123,398	123	1.738	90	\$182
Richmond RCMP	173,429	94	1.908	85	\$152
North Vancouver RCMP	135,598	86	1.863	74	\$151

¹ Population = Total of all communities in the police service area

² Crime Rate = # criminal code offences per 1,000 population

³ Police: Pop Ratio = # population per authorized police strength

⁴ Case Burden = # criminal code offences (excluding traffic) per authorized police strength

⁵ Cost per Capita = Total municipal contract cost per capita

Please Note:

- The communities were selected based on the advice of ICURS regarding valid comparisons of police-related factors such as demographics.
- All data used for calculations was collected from *Police and Crime, Summary Statistics, 1996-2005*, available on the Police Services Division website: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/police_services/publications/index.htm