



Royal
Canadian
Mounted
Police

Gendarmerie
royale
du
Canada

BRIEFING NOTE NOTE D'INFORMATION

Security Classification/Designation
Classification/désignation sécuritaire

Richmond RCMP Annual Reference Level Update 2007/08 (ARLU)

Every year in keeping with the Municipal Police Service Agreement, the local RCMP OIC consults with the City of Richmond contract partner with respect to ARLU. The OIC of Richmond RCMP wishes to discuss the police service needs of the community and the related human and financial resource requirements needs for 2007/08.

The Annual Reference Level Update (ARLU) is a planning tool that allows the Federal Government to allocate their percentage of funds for anticipated positions for the upcoming fiscal year (10% for municipalities & 30% for Provincial).

The development of the Richmond Policing Services Plan 2003-2008 was critical for both the City of Richmond and the Richmond RCMP. Financial sustainability is one of eight strategies of the City of Richmond's corporate plan, while public safety was one of Council's top priorities for the past several years. For the City, policing services continues to be the largest budgetary item that represents 21% of the total City budget. It is important to understand what the policing pressures, policing priorities, and what the expected human resourcing requirements may look like over the next three years to achieve everyone's goal of "Safe homes, Safe Communities".

For the Richmond Detachment, your police service has been facing increasing challenges with regards to escalating public demands for service and in some cases workloads that are unrealistic. At the same time RCMP contract costs, E-Comm, and PRIME costs have increased. There is a continued desire and operational need for the RCMP to build upon further integration successes such as the Integrated Homicide team within the lower mainland. Steady population growth and development in the City is encouraging and brings vibrancy to Richmond. The Richmond RCMP embrace this growth and change as your policing partner, but must also incrementally keep pace to maintain the status quo while remaining a first class world leader in police service in Richmond. The Richmond RCMP Policing Services Plan 2003-2008 has been our guiding light, we have faithfully focused and executed upon our five strategic priorities: 1) Youth 2) Violent Crime 3) Traffic Safety 4) Property Crime 5) Drugs.

Strategic Considerations:

- Canada Line development in the City and the substantial crime increase associated with this transportation system. The increased calls for service expected as a result of research conducted locally and experiences from other Lower Mainland police jurisdictions.
- RCMP regular member and municipal support staff have not kept pace with population growth over the last five years. In 2000 Richmond police strength was 187 officers. In 2006 Richmond RCMP currently have police strength of 193 officers plus one civilian crime analyst, serving a conservative population of 191,195 (2006 City of Richmond stats). This translates into a police officer to population ratio of 1:991 or one officer for every 991 residents. In contrast, Vancouver City has a ratio of 1:507 and Surrey RCMP has a police/population ratio of 1:750. According to Statistics Canada, Richmond has the second highest or worst police/population ratio of the 30 largest municipal police forces in Canada. The ratios range from 1:481 to 1:992. The Canadian average is 1:533. City population estimates show Richmond will reach 205,551 by 2009. To maintain a high ratio average of 1:900, the RCMP would require 228 officers or an additional 35 officers over the next 3 years to remain status quo and deliver police services at today's standards.
- River Rock Casino crime trend explosion and costly increases. Since the opening of the River Rock Casino crime statistics have increased steadily. Over the last three months the Richmond RCMP and Lower Mainland Integrated units have been tasked with three kidnappings, extorsions, assaults, loan sharking, and other worse serious crime associated to organized crime cells operating in the City as a result of having a gaming establishment in Richmond. This recent kidnapping investigation involved nearly 100 police officers with the associated costs on this one file growing rapidly.
- In consultation with City staff and senior RCMP management both parties have been examining service strategies for police operations. Attendance to some non-priority calls for service has been implemented and the verified false alarm initiative should be realized in the spring 2006. The goal of implementing any service strategies is to reduce calls for service and free up operational time for the officers to spend on priority police matters.



Royal
Canadian
Mounted
Police

Gendarmerie
royale
du
Canada

BRIEFING NOTE NOTE D'INFORMATION

Secur. Classification/Designation
Classification/designation sécuritaire

- From 2000 to 2005 the RCMP budget for contract policing costs rose 37% or an average of 6.46% per annum. This average is expected to continue over the subsequent years ahead. It is also recognized that within this increase has been the creation of an Integrated Homicide Unit that equated to six (6) officers and a few more officers to absorb Emergency response team (ERT) cost share for Richmond.
- The nature of crime has changed significantly in Richmond in the past 10 years. The fear and non-reporting of crime continues to increase. Personal safety, violent crime, youth crime, family violence and hate crimes are all issues frequently raised by the public. Organized crime is becoming more pervasive in Richmond, as a result of technological advancements and the borderless environment this creates. The changing nature of criminal activity locally and regionally is severely impacting police services relative to perceptions of safety, and our ability to keep up and solve organized violent crimes. Some criminal code cases have consistently declined in Canada, B.C., and Richmond proportionately over the past decade. However, unreported crime has increased dramatically over the last 10 years and given our multicultural demographics this fact is magnified even greater. White-collar crime is widespread and frequently goes unreported. Crimes of this type routinely involve extensive investigation, impacting policing costs and resource requirements.
- On the enforcement front police investigations have become more complex, labour intensive and expensive in the past 15 years. Changes in legislation, onerous administrative requirements, and convoluted legal measures have made general police duties and investigations more difficult, costly, and time consuming. Legislative changes continue to impact police operations as a result of new regulations and procedural requirements.

The Officer in charge, Richmond RCMP would welcome open bi-lateral communication with senior City staff to discuss the police human resource pressures placed on their police service. For the purposes of 2007/08 ARLU the numbers of police officers requested will be the same and consistent with the 2007 City contract budget due in September, 2006. Given the population data today of 191,195 and growth to 195,075 in 2007, the 2007 population estimate is used for ARLU planning purposes. Therefore, given the 1:900 police to population ratio that the City of Richmond has traditionally enjoyed to maintain enhanced police services, a contract strength of 217 police officers is sought for 2007. This represents a 24 police officer increase to maintain existing proactive police programs, the risk of no substantial increase may result in extensive operational service strategies being implemented.

Supt. Ward Clapham