



February 6, 2024

Sgt. John Klassen
A/Detachment Commander
Okotoks, Alberta

Dear Mayor Thorn,

Please find the quarterly Community Policing Report attached that covers the October 1st to December 31st, 2023 reporting period. The attached report serves to provide a quarterly snapshot of the human resources, financial data and crime statistics for the Okotoks Detachment.

I would also like to update you on one of our current technological endeavours. Over the last decade, the RCMP has utilized Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) to support our specialized units, i.e. our Emergency Response Teams – which has been incredibly effective for enhancing police and public safety. Although the advancement of technology benefits industry and recreation, it facilitates greater accessibility for criminals, which requires a strategic response. To remain current in our ever-changing environment, and to be responsive to public reviews that call for better access to air support such as the Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Commission of Inquiry, we are actively researching and testing new technologies in a policing environment to enhance public safety. One such technology is how we might use RPAS for potential new police applications. This includes how we might use RPAS to assist with select calls for service, crime photography, search and rescue, and unfolding critical incidents, i.e. an active shooter. With its potential and capability for wider applications, we are further considering program options for our municipal, rural, and Indigenous communities; scalable depending on community need and interest. While we will always need a helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft for the movement of resources, these larger assets are not always immediately available. RPAS technology is providing an opportunity for our communities to effectively have their own police air support, at a significantly lower cost. As I learn more about further opportunities and challenges, I will be sure to keep you updated and informed.

Your ongoing engagement and the feedback you provide guides our Detachment team, and supports the reinforcement of your policing priorities. I always remain available to discuss your community-identified policing priorities and/or any ideas you may have that will enhance our service delivery to address the priorities that are important to you. As the Chief of Police for your community, I invite you to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.


Sgt. John Klassen
A/Detachment Commander
Okotoks RCMP Detachment