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COMMITTED TO POLICING EXCELLENCE



# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2011 First Quarter



# LOOKING FORWARD 2011 - 2014

*Vision:*

*A safe, vibrant city  
achieved in partnership  
through innovative,  
responsive and  
progressive policing.*

## LOOKING FORWARD 2011 - 2014

Together, the Edmonton Police Commission (Commission) and the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) have developed a plan to provide exemplary police services and enhance community safety.

This plan establishes our strategic direction and sets priorities for policing over a four-year planning horizon. It is the framework we will use for development of the Annual Policing Plan and the basis for operational initiatives and community policing activities.

Our success will be measured by the suppression of crime, reduction in disorder, increase in traffic safety and a high level of public confidence in the EPS. We will report on these measures quarterly to City Council and the community.

## FIRST QUARTER OVERVIEW

The EPS reported an unprecedented 18 per cent reduction in crime in eight major crime categories in 2010. This downward trend continued in the first quarter of 2011.

Between January and March 2011, crime in eight major crime categories was down 30 per cent, as compared to the first quarter of 2010. This translates into 1,917 fewer incidents of crime in the first quarter of 2011. In two categories, 'break and enter' and 'theft from vehicle', incidents of crime are down more than 40 per cent.

While violent crime has decreased overall, homicides and sexual assaults have increased. The EPS has assigned more police officers and detectives to target these violent crimes and offenders.

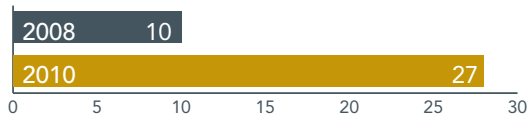


# REDUCING CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION

## EDUCATION - JUST THE RIGHT PRESCRIPTION

The robbery of pharmacies for narcotics is a trend being seen across North America. The number of pharmacy robberies in Edmonton where narcotics were specifically targeted has increased by 270 per cent in the past three years. This trend has continued with 11 Edmonton pharmacies being robbed of narcotics in the first three months of 2011, compared to five pharmacy robberies in the same period in 2010.

### Pharmacy Robberies by Year



It is believed criminals are targeting pharmacies to supply an increasing street demand for prescription drugs such as Oxycontin, also called "Hillbilly Heroin". Police are concerned with these robberies because they are more likely to involve violence or the threat of violence. Unlike banks, pharmacy employees do not routinely receive training specific to robberies.

The EPS Robbery Section has been meeting with pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy students in a proactive effort to prevent robberies and reduce victimization. While the objective is to reduce crime, it is hoped that if a robbery occurs, employees will be more prepared to cope with the stress and trauma, and provide better witness statements.

*Prescription drugs such as Oxycontin, Vicodin and morphine are replacing popular street drugs like heroin.*



## HOMICIDES, PREDICTABLY UNPREDICTABLE

Violent crime and property crime in Edmonton are down, and the overall number of crimes in our city have been falling for the past few years. The homicide rate in the first quarter of 2011 was an anomaly.

The EPS Homicide and Forensic Identification Sections investigated 15 incidents of homicide between January and March 2011. Ten of the homicides are solved, including two historical homicides dating back to 2009 and 2010, and two are police-involved shootings.

While violent crime has the tendency to make people feel unsafe, the EPS has determined that there is no pattern to these homicides; there are no drug wars, no gang connections and no obvious links between them.

"Each of these murders is an individual crime that cannot be predicted. The very randomness of murder is the only thing that is predictable," said Staff Sgt. Dave Spiers.

*Edmonton remains a very safe, urban city – we face the same challenges as other major Canadian cities.*

Homicide Section has 38 police officers and detectives assigned to investigate these crimes and the Forensic Identification Services Section has 29 staff assisting with solving these homicides. Additional investigators have been reassigned from other units to support these investigators and deal with the increased case load.

# CITIZEN-CENTRED POLICE SERVICE

## MULTILINGUAL OFFICERS BRIDGE THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

Dealing with the police as a witness or complainant can be a frustrating experience when the responding police officer does not speak the citizen's native language. Multilingual officers are invaluable in communicating with Edmonton's diverse multicultural communities, where English is not the primary spoken language.



*Const. Tanvir Gill gives an update on his investigation to the owner of Sofia Fashions at 93 Street and 34 Avenue, which was broken into in 2010.*

Recently, Const. Meena Sandhu of Southeast Division communicated to a complainant in her native language of Punjabi and helped to turn a three-sentence witness statement in broken English into an hour-long video taped statement. Sgt. Maurice Brodeur says that five of the eight squads in Southeast Division have Punjabi speaking officers.

The EPS currently has 70 multilingual members, both sworn and civilian, who speak a total of 41 languages other than English.

## NEW AFRICAN COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE BUILDS ON RELATIONSHIP OF COOPERATION AND TRUST

The new African Community Liaison Committee (ACLC), part of the EPS Chief's Community Advisory Council, was created to keep the lines of communication open between the EPS and the local African community.

"The success of a police agency is directly related to how well it understands and works with the community," said Brad Ward, EPS Superintendent and ACLC Co-Chair.

The EPS and the local African community have partnered on a new and unique committee to build an environment of mutual respect, understanding, cooperation and trust.

The ACLC will help to identify, inform, discuss, and address issues that may impact the quality and effectiveness of community policing and public safety. For more information on the African Community Liaison Committee, please visit [www.edmontonpolice.ca/ACLC](http://www.edmontonpolice.ca/ACLC).



*Left to right: Const. Vera Murphy; Supt. Brad Ward; Peter Obiefuna, ACLC Co-Chair; Ms. Nyambura, ACLC Member; Const. Achille Karuletwa; Tesfaye Ayalew, ACLC Member.*



### EPS AWARDED FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO A RACISM-FREE POLICE SERVICE

The EPS was a proud recipient of an anti-racism award handed out at the Centre for Race and Culture's annual gala in March 2011. The award was given to the institution that has done the best work in the city of Edmonton to address racism. It recognizes that the EPS is committed, as an organization, to identifying and addressing issues of racism and other forms of inequity.

Senior leadership are demonstrating their commitment to a racism-free police service by participating in a three-day leadership training seminar focused on equity, diversity and human rights. In addition, a specialized section called the Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Unit has been created within the EPS to assist with reinforcing these values throughout the police service.

### EPS EDUCATES YOUTH ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking affects the lives of millions of people every day, the majority of whom are under the age of 18, thousands of whom live right here in Edmonton.

The EPS Vice Unit, with assistance from Canada Border Services Agency and an experienced former sex trade worker, visited local elementary schools and high schools to present to nearly 1,400 students on human trafficking.

"The ultimate goal for 2011 is to attend the remaining high schools in Edmonton, and for other law enforcement agencies to use the same presentation template for the surrounding communities," says Const. Jason Mitchell. "We need to reach all youth, not just in Edmonton or Alberta but across Canada."

*"We know that eliminating racism will require significant time and energy from us on a sustained basis, but there are many committed people within this organization ready to take on the challenge,"* said Natasha Goudar of the Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Unit.

# MODEL OF EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

## NEW SOUTHWEST DIVISION STATION SET TO OPEN IN LATE 2012



*An architect's rendering of the exterior of the new Southwest Division Station.*

Despite the cold winter of 2011, construction of the new Southwest Division police station is underway and the facility will be fully operational in late 2012. The two-storey, almost 73,000-square-foot station is located in the neighbourhood of Windermere, approximately 1.5 km south of Anthony Henday Drive, on the west side of 170 Street.

More than 150 police officers work out of Southwest Division and patrol an area with approximately 218,000 residents. This new building will replace the aging station on 97 Street and 51 Avenue.

The total estimated cost of construction is close to \$30 million, with \$9.9 million coming from Alberta's Municipal Sustainability Initiative. The building incorporates an energy efficient design and will be a LEED (Leadership in Environmental Energy Design) certified structure. It will have several aspects that are environmentally friendly and that will also reduce overall operating costs.

One of the most unique aspects of the new station will be a 'bio-swale,' that will capture surface rainwater from paved parking areas and hold the water in specially-lined areas that are designed to allow the slow absorption of storm water into surrounding soils, rather than inundating the city's storm sewers.

*“Police work changes by the minute so we need officers to be practical and to be able to solve complex problems. We are setting up our graduates for success, not surprise.”*

*Staff Sgt. Chad Tawfik of EPS Recruit Training.*

## EPS REVAMPS ITS POLICE RECRUIT TRAINING PROGRAM

After a significant review, the EPS has developed a new program for police recruit training. The training program was developed in collaboration with post-secondary educational institutions and now focuses more on experiential learning and police protocols, as well as customer service and sensitivity.

The program has realistic training simulations using volunteers and police training officers to help recruits effectively transition from the classroom to the streets.

Recruits receive personal attention and support through mentorship and continual evaluation to help maximize strengths and overcome weaknesses.

*For more information on the new recruit training program, please visit [www.joineps.ca/Training/NewOutOfProvinceApplicants](http://www.joineps.ca/Training/NewOutOfProvinceApplicants).*



*Recruit Class 120 is the first class to go through the new training program.*



# Appendices

## EPS Staff Complement

## SWORN, NON-SWORN AND RECRUITS

STAFF	2011 AUTHORIZED FTEs	2011 FTEs AT MARCH 29, 2011	VACANCIES (OVERSTRENGTH)
SWORN	1588.0	1518.5	69.5
RECRUITS	0.0	25.0	(25.0)
NON-SWORN	577.5	586.2	(8.7)
<b>FULL COMPLEMENT</b>	<b>2165.5</b>	<b>2129.7</b>	<b>35.8</b>

## Financials

## BUDGET VARIANCE by Major Category of Revenues & Expenditures First Quarter Forecast (\$000's)

	2011 YEAR TO DATE				YEAR END FORECAST			
	Budget	Actual	Var	%	Budget	Projected	Var	%
<b>REVENUE</b>								
Traffic Safety Act	\$1,702	\$1,680	\$(22)	-1.3%	\$12,158	\$11,908	\$(250)	-2.1%
Transfer to COE General Revenues	-	-	-		-	-	-	
Provincial Grants	-	-	-		23,194	23,194	-	0.0%
Other	4,103	3,533	(570)	-13.9%	26,867	26,583	(284)	-1.1%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,805</b>	<b>5,213</b>	<b>(592)</b>	<b>-10.2%</b>	<b>62,219</b>	<b>61,685</b>	<b>(534)</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>								
<b>PERSONNEL</b>								
Salary and benefits	39,345	38,772	573	1.5%	234,954	230,938	4,016	1.7%
EPS Overtime	1,176	1,135	41	3.5%	8,591	8,781	(190)	-2.2%
External Overtime	50	84	(34)	-68.0%	299	580	(281)	-94.0%
	<b>40,571</b>	<b>39,991</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>243,844</b>	<b>240,299</b>	<b>3,545</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>NON-PERSONNEL</b>								
Furniture, equipment, IT, materials and supplies	2,937	2,316	621	21.1%	11,176	13,167	(1,991)	-17.8%
Contracts and services	2,856	2,374	482	16.9%	21,158	21,066	92	0.4%
Vehicles	1,057	1,102	(45)	-4.3%	7,041	7,591	(550)	-7.8%
Facilities	2,204	2,004	200	9.1%	14,255	14,255	-	0.0%
Other	222	184	38	17.1%	2,914	2,914	-	0.0%
	<b>9,276</b>	<b>7,980</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>56,544</b>	<b>58,993</b>	<b>(2,449)</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>49,847</b>	<b>47,971</b>	<b>1,876</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>300,388</b>	<b>299,292</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Position before Adjustments</b>	<b>44,042</b>	<b>42,758</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>238,169</b>	<b>237,607</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Tangible Capital Assets Budget adjustment					4,123	4,123	-	0.0%
<b>Net Position</b>	<b>\$44,042</b>	<b>\$42,758</b>	<b>\$1,284</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>\$242,292</b>	<b>\$241,730</b>	<b>\$562</b>	<b>0.2%</b>