



ARCHIVED - Archiving Content

Archived Content

Information identified as archived is provided for reference, research or recordkeeping purposes. It is not subject to the Government of Canada Web Standards and has not been altered or updated since it was archived. Please contact us to request a format other than those available.

ARCHIVÉE - Contenu archivé

Contenu archivé

L'information dont il est indiqué qu'elle est archivée est fournie à des fins de référence, de recherche ou de tenue de documents. Elle n'est pas assujettie aux normes Web du gouvernement du Canada et elle n'a pas été modifiée ou mise à jour depuis son archivage. Pour obtenir cette information dans un autre format, veuillez communiquer avec nous.

This document is archival in nature and is intended for those who wish to consult archival documents made available from the collection of Public Safety Canada.

Some of these documents are available in only one official language. Translation, to be provided by Public Safety Canada, is available upon request.

Le présent document a une valeur archivistique et fait partie des documents d'archives rendus disponibles par Sécurité publique Canada à ceux qui souhaitent consulter ces documents issus de sa collection.

Certains de ces documents ne sont disponibles que dans une langue officielle. Sécurité publique Canada fournira une traduction sur demande.



EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE



REPORT TO THE EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION

DATE: 2011 May 24

SUBJECT: 2010 Environmental Scan – 2011 Spring Update

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That this report be received as information.

INTRODUCTION:

This report will provide background information and present the recently released Edmonton Police Service 2011 spring update to our 2010 Environmental Scan

BACKGROUND:

In order to address and plan for the potentially changing environment, the EPS undertook an Environmental Scan in the fall of 2009. This analysis considered trends/events outside the boundary of EPS, the knowledge and analysis of which will help with strategic planning and decision making. The document was released internally on March 12, 2010. From this document, twice yearly updates are produced and every second year (2012) a new updated hard copy version is redone.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:

The Environmental Scan was developed on a framework that specified analysis of the EPS external environment based on ten generic themes or sectors being: Industry, Infrastructure, Human Resources, Financial Resources, Stakeholders, Science and Technology, Economics, Government, Socio-Cultural and International. Several indicators within these sectors were reviewed that together create conditions of increased change and complexity, the knowledge of which would increase organizational awareness.

CONCLUSION:


The Police Sector Council continues to identify environmental scanning and its impact on policy as a vital issue for police planning.

EPS continues to function in an environment of increasingly complex operational demands and to be effective, must be institutionally agile, constantly scanning the environment in order to make adjustments that would ensure that we stay in alignment with the community we serve. The 2011 spring update Environmental Scan is a compilation of information that provides an explicit picture of external conditions that EPS can constantly refer to while carrying out various planning and decision making processes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED:

- Attachment 1 – 2011 Spring Update Environmental Scan

Written/Approved by: Brian ROBERTS, ED - Office of Strategy Management

A/Chief of Police: 

Date: 27 May 2011



Environmental Scan

Spring 2011 Update

Office of Strategy Management
May 02, 2011



2011 Alberta Budget

- Budget 2011 projects a deficit of \$3.4 billion for 2011-12; 2010-13 deficit is forecast to be \$681 million and 2013-14 surplus is forecast to \$1.2 billion.
- Deficits will be offset by transfers from the Sustainability Fund, which is savings set aside to manage revenue volatility and protect priority programs during economic downturns.
- **Strong Communities:** Benefits and other supports to Albertans most in need are maintained in 2011-12. Operating funding for programs for children increased 3.3%. There is significant investment in social housing and initiatives to reduce homelessness. Over \$150 million for Safe Communities initiatives.
- Nearly \$783 million for the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped program (a 7% increase from 2010-11) and \$608 million for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Over \$474 million budgeted for programs to assist seniors.
- A three-year, \$17.6 billion Capital Plan which includes \$5.1 billion in municipal infrastructure support, \$4.6 billion for provincial highways, and a combined \$3.8 billion for health care facilities, schools, and postsecondary institutions.
- **Prevention:** Budgeted operating expense for Safe Communities initiatives will be \$151 million in 2011-12. In addition, \$40 million in capital investment is budgeted over the next three years to build additional government-owned addiction treatment facilities. Through the Civil Forfeiture Office, property gained through criminal acts is seized and, if court action is successful, forfeiture is ordered. Proceeds from the sale of the forfeited property are used for victim compensation and crime prevention programs.
- **Enforcement:** In 2011-12, 30 probation officers will be added to target repeat and high risk offenders. This will fulfill a 2008 commitment to add 110 probation officers.
- **Treatment:** Mental health and addiction services in provincial correctional facilities will be enhanced.

2011 Federal Budget

- Canada's Economic Action Plan is on track to deliver \$60 billion in extraordinary stimulus to support jobs and growth during the worst of the global recession. The vast majority of this support started winding down on March 31, 2011, as planned.



- **Public Safety, Security and Justice:** The Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan recognizes the importance of keeping Canada's communities safe by investing in crime prevention and the justice system, with budget measures including:
 - Allocating \$21 million over five years to upgrade baggage scanning equipment at Canadian airports.
 - Investing \$20 million over two years in youth crime prevention programs.
 - Investing an additional \$30 million over two years in the First Nations Policing Program to supplement existing policing services.
 - Confirming the Government's commitment to Canada's *no safe haven* policy for persons involved in war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide with funding of \$8.4 million per year ongoing.
 - Providing \$26 million over two years to support the Federal Victims' Ombudsman to promote access to justice and participation by victims in the justice system.
 - Contributing \$1.6 million annually to the Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Pilot Program to support security enhancements for communities victimized by hate-motivated crime.

- Legislated permanent annual investment of \$2 billion in the Gas Tax Fund to provide predictable, long-term infrastructure funding for municipalities.

- Enhancing the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for seniors who rely almost exclusively on their Old Age Security and the GIS and may therefore be at risk of experiencing financial difficulties.

- Enhancing the New Horizons for Seniors Program with \$10 million over two years to support projects that ensure seniors contribute to and benefit from activities in their communities.

- Following the extension of four key infrastructure programs, provinces and territories have indicated that they expect a total of roughly \$1 billion in federal funding to be claimed in 2011–12, out of a total of \$7 billion allocated to these programs in Budget 2009.

Economy

- The global economy is recovering from the deepest and most synchronized recession since the 1930s. Risks to the global economy remain unusually high as many major



developed economies grapple with high government debt levels and ongoing structural problems in the financial sector.

- The Canadian recovery is underway, reflecting the measures in Canada's Economic Action Plan and Canada's economic fundamentals. Canada's economy has recovered virtually all the jobs lost in the recession, and enjoyed a strong rebound in the housing market.
- Canada has posted the strongest employment growth among Group of Seven (G-7) countries since mid-2009, recouping more than all the jobs lost during the recession.
- Alberta's economic recovery in 2010 was stronger than initially expected. Despite real GDP growth estimated at 3.5%, weakness early in the year meant employment was down 0.4% in 2010, and the unemployment rate averaged 6.5%. Led by a strong oil sector, Alberta's economy is expected to shift from recovery to expansion in 2011 with growth of 3.3%.
- Oil prices have been strong and are expected to average US\$81.45 per barrel in 2010-11, rising to US\$95.75 by 2013-14. On the back of these strong oil prices, investment has rebounded in Alberta in both oil sands and conventional oil. Robust investment and increasing oil exports are expected to drive Alberta's economic growth through the forecast period.
- The unemployment rate in Alberta is expected to average 5.5% in 2011 and drop to 4.5% by 2014. This could lead to some labour shortages in specific high growth industries and occupations.

External city trends

- **Immigrant settlement trends:** There are strong concentrations of immigrants in central, south, southeast and north Edmonton. China is the largest source country of Edmonton's immigrant population. A high concentration of East Asian immigrants is located in central, southwest and west neighbourhoods.
- South Asian immigrants, by contrast, tend to settle in the southeast neighbourhood. The differing settlement patterns of immigrants from other regions also differ, with Southeast Asian populations dispersed throughout the city, Middle Eastern populations focused in the north and African populations focused mostly in central and north Edmonton communities.



- Edmonton's homeless count on October 5, 2010, found 2,421 homeless, down from 3,079 reported in 2008. This is the first count conducted since the City and province each adopted a 10-year plan to combat homelessness—and the first time since the counts began in 1999 that the number declined.
- The strong reliance of Edmonton's energy based economy on fossil fuels comes with significant future risks in two key areas: reduced availability of finite oil and gas resources and resulting increasing price and the environmental impacts, specifically the release of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels.
- **Exchange rates:** The 2010-2011 provincial budget forecasted US\$0.95/Cdn\$, but the exchange rate has been averaging US\$0.974 this fiscal year. If it were to remain at this level, the result would be a loss of \$589 million (or \$215 million for every cent that the forecast is under).
- There are currently 20 vacant school sites declared surplus by Edmonton school boards located between the city's core and the new growth areas. The Corporate Properties Branch is leading a review of these surplus sites to determine new uses consistent with both changes to the Municipal Government Act and the City's strategic directions.

Edmonton seniors: A portrait

- The number of seniors in Canada is projected to increase from 4.2 million to 9.8 million between 2005 and 2036. In 2005 women accounted for almost 75% of persons aged 90 or older. In 2003, just under 4,000 incidents of violence against persons aged 65 or older were reported to 122 police services in Canada.
- The City projects significant growth in the over 65 age group, expected to increase by 132 per cent between 2009 and 2044. As highlighted in the Province's report **Aging Population Policy Framework**, by 2031, when the last member of the baby boomers reaches 65 years of age, it is projected that about one in five Albertans will be a senior.
- Within the senior population itself, the most dramatic growth will happen in the over 80 age group. By 2041 the number of seniors aged 80+ is projected to increase by as much as 266%. The number of seniors aged 55- 64 is projected to increase by as much as 104%.
- The ethnic makeup of Edmonton's immigrant senior population is undergoing a striking change. Until 2001 50% of immigrant seniors came to Edmonton from Europe, 36% came from Asia and the Middle East, 3% came from the U.S., 3% from Africa, 2.5% from



South America, 2.4% from Bermuda, and the remaining from other places around the world.

- From 2001 – 2006, 73% came from Asia and the Middle East, 12% emigrated from Europe, 4% from Africa, 3% from Oceania and other, 3% from the Caribbean and Bermuda, and 2% from Central America.
- Senior women were more likely than senior men to be victims of family violence. Of the seniors who were the victim of a violent incidence in 2003, four out of ten women (39%) were victimized by a family member compared with two out of ten men (20%).
- The most recent victimization study in 2003 indicates that common assault was the most frequently reported violent incident against seniors, accounting for 40% of all violent offences. Robbery was the second most frequently reported incident, accounting for 19% of all incidents.

Organized crime

- Instead of a single dominant organized crime group across Canada, there continues to be a number of significant criminal organizations often operating out of major criminal hubs, such as the B.C. lower mainland, greater Toronto area, and greater Montreal region that influence criminal activities in other regions.
- According to Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, transnational organized crime continues to fuel crime in Canada and its adverse impacts touch all Canadians. Increasingly sophisticated and mobile, transnational organized crime manifests itself in a host of activities, including: the trafficking in drugs, people and small arms; migrant smuggling; criminal gangs; and, the criminal use of information technology.
- The **Alberta Gang Reduction Strategy** provides a blueprint for action on gangs and gang related violence. The Strategy recognizes that action on gangs must also be led at the community level, with key community members collaborating in innovative ways to identify and respond to the unique needs, circumstances and factors around gangs in their communities. The Strategy aims to foster new and enhanced forms of partnership in Alberta communities, and will help communities pursue initiatives organized around four major areas of focus: Awareness, Prevention, Intervention, and Enforcement.
- According to industry estimates, losses from **mortgage fraud** in Canada range into the hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Some criminal groups are each responsible for losses, primarily to financial institutions, of tens of millions of dollars. Mortgage fraud



can leave victims with inflated property values, higher property taxes, an inability to sell their homes, or damaged credit histories. Following the location of strong housing markets across the country, mortgage fraud occurs nationally but is more concentrated in the large urban areas in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

City of Edmonton strategic plan and progress

- After extensive community input, The Way We Live: Edmonton's People Plan received City Council approval in July 2010. The plan gives residents, community stakeholders and the City a blueprint for coordinating and delivering people services to meet our 10-year goal of improving Edmonton's liveability.
- **Capital Investment Agenda:** A new 10- year agenda for building and maintaining City of Edmonton infrastructure informed the City's Capital Budget. The agenda sets ground rules for determining which projects are highest priority, striking a balance between growth and renewal. It guides investment decisions based on strategic goals while allowing for shifting priorities.
- Planning moved ahead on the **Rampart Industrial Area** in northwest Edmonton, which the City is developing using a unique approach that balances conservation of a natural area with economic benefit. The plan includes a multi-use trail network that will add recreational value to an adjacent sports field complex and provide a commuter link for cyclists to nearby St. Albert.
- Injuries resulting from motor vehicle collisions on Edmonton streets dropped 34% between 2007 and 2010. Efforts to reduce collisions, excessive speed and impaired driving included a Heads Up Campaign regarding pedestrian safety; Speed Watch, which broadcasts the speed of passing vehicles on digital displays, and Curb the Danger, which encourages citizens to report suspected impaired drivers by calling 911.
- The 2010 Neighbourhood Renewal Program saw work in 20 neighbourhoods, including total reconstruction of streets, sidewalks and streetlights started in four areas: Fulton Place, Parkallen, Rio Terrace and Sherbrooke and reconstruction completed in Lendrum and Meadowlark. Sixteen other neighbourhoods received maintenance work to extend the life of infrastructure through road overlays, sidewalk hazard repairs and road resealing.
- **Edmonton Events International** secured the following events in 2010: 2011 Special Olympics Alberta Winter Games, 2011 AthletesCAN Forum (Canada's largest gathering of high-performance athletes), 2012 and 2016 national swimming championships



(summer), 2012 FINA men's water polo Olympic qualification Tournament, and 2015 Speedo Western Canadian championships.

Alberta Safe Communities

- By leveraging the authority of the court and existing resources and services provided by provincial ministries and agencies, the province is set to unveil the **Integrated Justice Services Project** which would link frequent (adult) offenders in the criminal justice system with needed treatment and support services in the community to effectively reduce recidivism.
- The Integrated Justice Services Project would be addressing the following areas of risk and need: criminal history and response to supervision, history of aggression and violence, health, addiction and mental health, parenting skills, income, education, employment and training and housing needs.
- As part of the Health Action Plan, the government of Alberta will announce a comprehensive **Addiction and Mental Health Strategy** for the province. It will provide Albertans with timely access to addiction and mental health services and programs, and better integrate mental health and addiction services into the overall health system.
- The Safe Communities Secretariat announced its third and possibly final call for grants for the Safe Communities Innovation Fund in 2010 for projects that aims to reduce and prevent crime and social disorder through community and police partnerships, innovative community-based initiatives, and the development of crime reduction and prevention plans for municipalities, regions or Aboriginal communities
- Alberta Justice will be releasing the **Alberta Crime Prevention Framework** this year as a continuation of the three-year mandate of SafeCom. This framework will provide a road map of how crime will be addressed in Alberta and would shift the provincial government policy from enforcement to strike a more balanced approach which also emphasizes prevention.



Sources:

Statistics Canada
Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security
Edmonton Social Planning Council
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
Alberta Finance and Enterprise
Department of Finance Canada
Criminal Intelligence Service Canada
City of Edmonton

