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BEYOND THE CALL

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | ANNUAL REPORT 2009

CRIME FALLS IN RUN-UP TO THE OLYMPICS

EVERY YEAR AT THIS TIME as Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department, I report to you, the people of Vancouver, about what your police department is doing to reduce the crime rate and keep you safe.

I am pleased to tell you that crime statistics are falling - in many cases dramatically. The total number of crimes we recorded in 2009 was down more than seven-and-a-half per cent from 2008. It is also my pleasure in this annual report to tell you about the extraordinary efforts of the men and women of the VPD, sworn and civilian, who are going Beyond the Call to enhance our quality of life.

It is a quality of life that is already the envy of the world community, as polls and surveys repeatedly peg Vancouver as one of the great places to live on this planet. But we know that in order to truly enjoy all this city has to offer, we have to be safe and secure, and even more important, we have to feel safe and secure.

“The vision of the Vancouver Police Department is to make our city the safest of its size in Canada.”

What that really means, once you acknowledge the obvious yardstick of falling crime statistics, is that everyone should feel safe and secure anywhere in our city at any time. We should all be able to stroll anywhere without fear, sleep securely at night, and be



able to leave our property temporarily unattended without worry.

That is truly the goal of the VPD: not only will we have the lowest crime rate, but there will be a general feeling of safety and security in every neighbourhood that will routinely foster the levels of pride and enjoyment that we saw this year as we all celebrated the 2010 Winter Olympics.

That was such a momentous time for Vancouver and the VPD that I am dedicating much of this report to the massive effort of preparing for the Games in 2009, and providing you with an insider's look at how your police department faced this incredible challenge.

While our preparations for the Games began years earlier, they intensified in 2009. The VPD would send more than 30 members ranging in rank from constable to superintendent to the Integrated Security Unit, a partnership with the RCMP. But while we prepared for the Olympics, we also needed to make sure that we had adequate resources to police the city, so 2009 became a year where we employed very active recruitment strategies.

It is a pleasure to tell you that while we were preparing for our role in Olympic security, most of the crime categories in the city were falling in 2009.

I know that for most of you, property crime is your number one concern. In 2009, we saw another reduction as the total of reported property crimes dropped more than ten-and-a-half per cent. The number of break and enters and the number of car thefts each fell about 20 per cent.

This reduction in property crime is largely due to a coordinated effort among police, the community, and our business partners.

Numerous programs and projects have developed and proven to be successful over the past several years, such as the Safer Parking Initiative and Operation Cooperation, a program involving private security and police to prevent and detect crime. Meanwhile, programs such as the Crime Alert Service, Block Watch and Citizens' Crime Watch allow the VPD to work hand-in-hand with the community and keep everyone informed of current crime trends and preventative measures.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Vancouver Police Foundation donated over \$57,000 to the VPD in 2009 for initiatives such as Project Lifesaver, a program to locate people who become lost due to cognitive disabilities, and a specialized Forward Looking Infra-Red Camera (FLIR) for our Marine Unit. Some of the funds were also used for a Junior Police Academy for Grade 5 students and an inner-city soccer school.

For more information on the Foundation and other projects they have supported, visit www.vancouverpolicefoundation.org.



Vancouver Police Department Annual Report '09

CRIME RATE REDUCED IN 2009

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Additionally, we have focused more resources on investigative strategies and projects, ensuring that high profile property offenders are identified, targeted and convicted. The VPD has continued to support escalating sentencing, ensuring that chronic offenders returning through the court system see their sentences increased accordingly.

There have been major advances in the fight against marijuana grow-ops. We went from a high of 455 confirmed marijuana grows in 2001 to 81 last year. The big news is that the number of plants seized has also been radically declining. The significant change occurred in 2008, when we started seizing houses under the Civil Forfeiture Act in earnest, with the tempo increasing through 2009. We now have 44 houses either referred or restrained through civil or criminal process with an estimated value in excess of \$20.5 million. We believe that grow-operations are dropping in Vancouver because investigators now routinely include asset removal as part of the investigative process, and word has spread that

"...2009 remains a year in which the Department grew in experience, competency and pride."

if you run a grow-op you'll lose your house.

The VPD Drug Unit has historically prioritized those with the largest amounts of drugs, but a change in focus has led to us targeting those who represent the most egregious threat to the public. Illicit dealers who are known to be in possession of firearms, have a propensity towards violence, or have gang ties are now treated as a much higher priority.

Another barometer of public safety is the rate of violent crime. Last year, we saw drops in almost every category. Across the board, violent crime was down almost four per cent, robberies fell almost 15 per cent and the number of homicides was unchanged at 19.

Our homicide detectives are constantly working on these cases. In 2008, they cleared nine cases with charges, seven in 2009 and so far this year they have cleared four of the six cases.

But there is one troubling statistic: sexual assaults rose nearly 18 per cent last year. Unfortunately, we don't have a clear reason for this increase, but I can tell you that we are increasing our efforts in this area to catch the people responsible and reduce this disturbing number.

Another area that concerns me is traffic safety. While we've seen the number of fatal accidents drop 22 per cent from 19 in 2008 to 15 in 2009, the number of injury accidents in total has increased almost 11 per cent. The evidence



Chief Constable Jim Chu.

seems to point out that as a whole we are not walking, cycling, or driving more safely, even if there are fewer deaths.

Over the years, there have been many public service campaigns conducted by the VPD and our partners in road safety, but I am convinced education must be combined with traffic law enforcement and road improvements to make the roads safer.

Despite these areas of concern, 2009 remains a year in which the Department grew in experience,

competency and pride. Our crime reduction and our planning efforts helped set the stage for one of the safest and most successful Olympic Winter Games in history.

As we move forward, our commitment to enhance the safety and security of our community, along with the sense of well-being that safety provides, remains the driving vision of the Vancouver Police Department. With the help of the Mayor and the Police Board, City Council and every citizen, we are confident it is a goal we can achieve. □

VPD'S OLYMPIC MANDATE EVERYONE STAYS SAFE

WHILE 2009 WAS THE YEAR when Olympic preparations and training were reaching their most intense levels, in reality, the VPD had been preparing for their Olympic moment for decades.

Vancouver is no stranger to large crowds and protests, some of them violent. Events like the Celebration of Light bring hundreds of thousands of people to the downtown core. In 1993, the Yelstin/Clinton Summit became the catalyst for the creation of a Crowd Control Unit (CCU). Lessons learned in the Stanley Cup Riot in 1994 and the Riot at the Hyatt in 1998 were instrumental in changing the Unit's philosophy to one focused on prevention rather than reaction.

New lighter equipment was purchased and training concentrated on more collaborative and preventative strategies. Bicycle and

Mounted Squads shared in the training. The new tactics allowed the VPD to be more proactive. The members wore highly visible vests and openly greeted and interacted with crowds passing by. The key principle was to "meet and greet" and encourage the public to celebrate responsibly and safely on their own volition, rather than using enforcement to change behaviour.

As the countdown to the Games got closer, plans were developed to deal with protest groups that would contain criminal elements bent on destruction and violence. In addition to 130 VPD CCU members, there were members of the RCMP Tactical Troop and other police from across the country who could assist when needed. These other officers played a crucial role in ensuring the success of our plans.



Bicycle police received special training in crowd safety in preparation for the Olympics.

"The key principle was to 'meet and greet' and encourage the public to celebrate responsibly and safely of their own volition rather than using enforcement to change behaviour."

The first test came when protestors disrupted the Torch Run. The VPD respected the right to lawful protest and instead of a confrontation, ensured that everyone, including the protestors, was kept safe.

But the definitive test of the VPD's resolve to defuse the conflict and preserve the peace would happen at the Opening Ceremonies when 2,000 protestors marched on B.C. Place. Initially peaceful, the crowd contained others more interested in doing harm. Wearing black clothes and face masks, they pushed to the front of the crowd intent on using violence to provoke violence.

At first they threw traffic barricades. When that didn't work for them, they threw vinegar in the eyes of the police, marbles at the horses and sharpened sticks. While the police line stood stoically with arms locked, the protestors spat in their faces.

Police had the option of donning helmets and shields which would have provided good protection against the projectiles, but that order was never given. Police commanders knew the protestors would see this as signal to escalate the violence and they weren't going to give them that chance.

So for more than two hours the police line held up and so did the pressure. The VPD, RCMP and ISU members held their ground, epitomizing professionalism and restraint. In the end, two officers were injured from flying missiles, another was taken to hospital with a dislocated shoulder and although one protestor was arrested for assault, there were no reports of injuries to any protestor or bystander.

Before the Games were over there would be another more violent protest. Known as the Heart Attack March, the criminal element within this group of 500 damaged parked cars, overturned newspaper boxes, and spray-painted buildings and signs. They threw newspaper boxes through store windows, smashed windows with hammers and harassed bystanders.

Because the protestors decided to ramp up the violence, the CCU responded for the first time during the Games in full equipment. In all, seven protestors were arrested but no police, protestors or members of the public were injured during the march.

While there were 36 demonstrations during the Games, there would be no other significant disturbances with violence. From here forward, the focus became crowd management. As the numbers swelled night after night, the Crowd Control Unit and the Public Order Group would face the ultimate test of their training and planning. □



The VPD's equine members distinguished themselves during the Games by calmly doing the job for which they were trained.

STEEDS STAND STEADFAST WHILE UNDER ATTACK

ON THE AFTERNOON OF February 12, 2010, a line of 12 VPD police horses and riders faced thousands of shouting protestors, some hurling bags of marbles and bottles with the intent to spook or injure the animals.

It was a moment that the VPD Mounted Unit had been intensely training for since 2007. Everything was coming down to this.

While the VPD Mounted Unit already enjoyed a reputation as one of the most accomplished units in North America for public order situations, it simply didn't have the resources to handle these crowds, the size of which had never been seen in Vancouver.

The Integrated Security Unit had decided that it needed 12 horses to assist the crowd control units, but in 2007 the VPD had only seven.

To double the size of the mounted unit in such a short time

would be a task that would be truly unparalleled in the 103-year history of the squad.

There is no market or store where you can purchase a police horse. It can take years to find a single horse and years to train them and their riders.

Constable Richard Kitos searched for two years, evaluated 14 horses, selected eight for training, and dedicated hundreds of hours to each animal to ensure they could withstand the rigours of urban policing.

Constable Douglas Jensen was given two years to train six new members. The consensus in the mounted policing community is that it usually takes from two to four years to reach a level of competency. Constable Jensen didn't have four years.

His efforts and those of Constable Kitos would be put to a

dramatic test on the afternoon of February 12, 2010.

When protestors hurled bottles, marbles and projectiles at mounted officers, neither they nor the mounts faltered for an instant. Over the course of the Games, they would successfully and safely escort torch runners through crowds of angry protestors. They would patrol the Granville Entertainment District with patience and tolerance as intoxicated individuals hurled remarks and occasionally slapped the horses' hindquarters. And through it all, they were the subjects of thousands of photos and questions from tourists.

For their extraordinary performance of duty, the Mounted Unit, and Constables Douglas Jensen and Richard Kitos, were awarded Chief Constable's Commendations. □

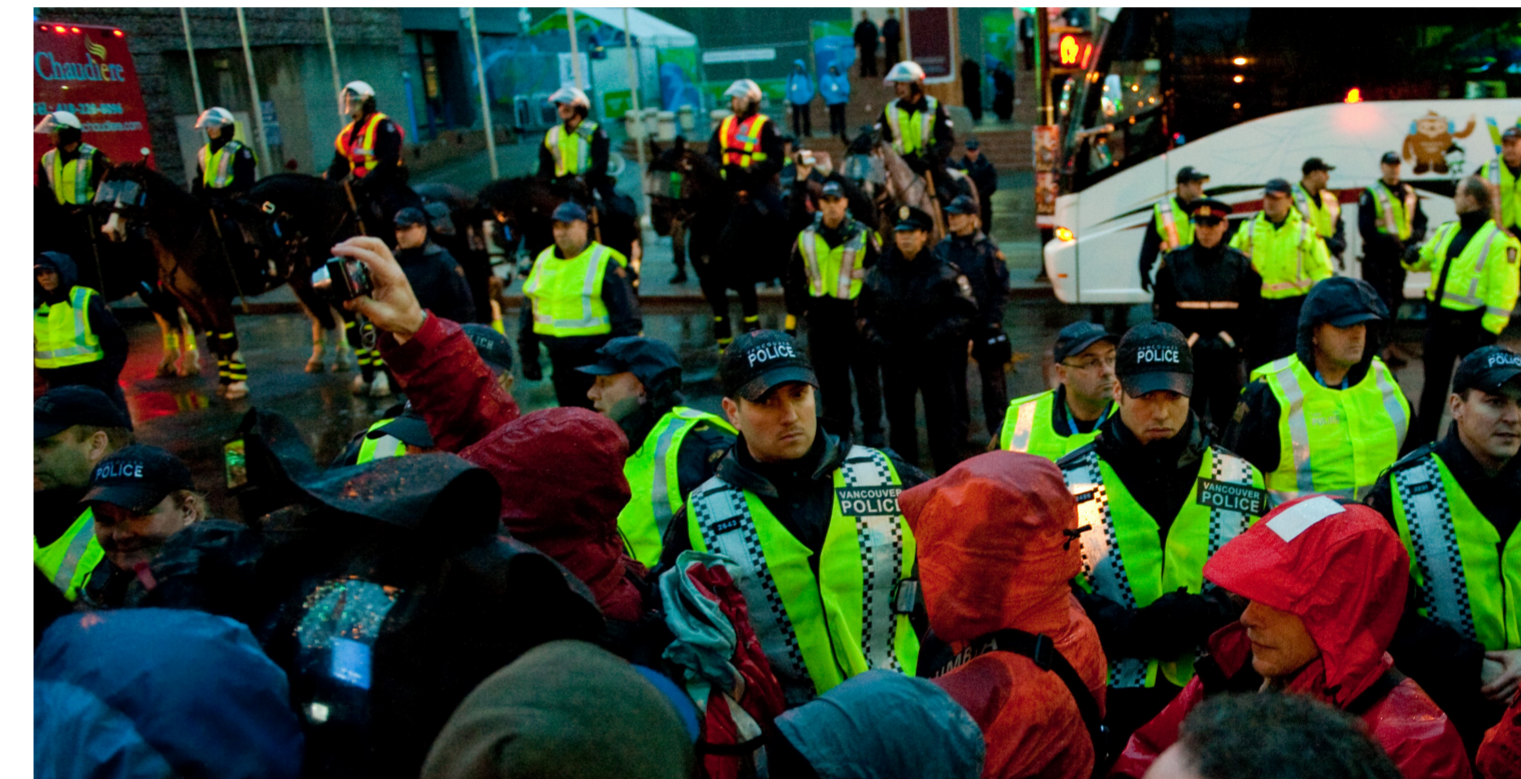
GOING WITH THE FLOW



SPECIAL CONSTABLE JIM MITCHELL was one of the 66 members of the VPD's Traffic Authority who worked 12-hour days safely controlling the unprecedented flow of pedestrians and traffic in the downtown core. The team pulled tough duty during the Olympics but never complained. They stood on their feet, in the rain, in the crowds, and continued to smile and remain cheerful. The team has been awarded a Chief Constable's Unit Citation. □



SERGEANT LEE PATTERSON was given a Chief Constable's Commendation for his role in ensuring the Games were safe. Popular with Olympic fans, Sergeant Patterson was the Chief Search Coordinator for the Games. He was responsible for all the search teams, their training and deployment, for all the venues. In preparation for the Games, more than 500 police from the VPD, RCMP, the Canadian Forces and several municipal police departments received the Vancouver Search and Canvass course, which is now nationally recognized as Canada's most developed standard. □



As demonstrators pressed against police lines during the opening ceremonies tensions grew, but the line held.

MEET AND GREET

AS THE COMMUNITY'S ENTHUSIASM for the Games grew so did the crowds. For the VPD, it was as if there were three Super Bowls a day in the city every day for two weeks. But what started out as a family event was beginning to slowly change as the crowd consisted more of younger people fuelled on alcohol. At any moment this could spark into violence, ruining the family enjoyment of the Games.

The CCU and the Bicycle Squads returned to the tried and true tactic of "meet and greet," but tensions grew along with the alcohol consumption. Partiers were given the option of voluntarily pouring out their illegal liquor or being fined. At times, the downtown resembled the aftermath of a light rain as hundreds of gallons of liquor



HEAD THEM OFF AT THE PASS



worked their way to the drains. By the end of the Games there were 20,824 voluntary pour-outs, more than 1,500 tickets, about 350 arrests and 144 fight calls.

As more police joined the task, VPD commanders deployed RCMP teams into congested intersections. To ensure the downtown remained family friendly, the VPD devised a plan to reduce the amount of liquor available and to deal with intoxicated people before they entered the Entertainment District.

Liquor stores in the downtown core were asked to close early and more police were brought in from surrounding communities to patrol laneways, transit stations and feeder routes into the centre of the city. They targeted those bringing alcohol into the area. This "head them off at the pass" strategy would prove crucial in changing the demeanour of the crowds and restoring public safety for everyone. □

MAYOR GREGOR ROBERTSON

AS CHAIR OF THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD, I'm pleased to introduce the VPD's 2009 Annual Report, which highlights the Department's exceptional achievements in reducing crime and preparing for its gold medal performance in policing the 2010 Winter Games.

The 2010 Winter Games were the biggest event in our country's history. The VPD's success in achieving safety and order during the Olympics required extensive preparation and won accolades from local residents and international visitors alike. Whether it was smoothing traffic, peacefully managing huge crowds or using proactive strategies and sound judgement to handle potentially violent situations, the VPD members performed a great service for our city and our visitors.

I know that all members of the Police Board and City Council applaud the efforts of the men and women of the VPD, both sworn and civilian, whose dedication and commitment ensured that the Games and our city were safe and secure. Their performance during the Games was nothing short of phenomenal.

Vancouver is a diverse and growing city that faces complex challenges in the years ahead. As we continue to reduce crime and make our neighbourhoods safer and more vibrant, we look forward to the day when together we achieve the Department and Board's vision of making Vancouver the safest major city in Canada. □

GREGOR ROBERTSON
 MARY COLLINS (APPOINTED JULY 2009)
 TERRY LA LIBERTÉ (TERM ENDED JUNE 2010)
 JASON McLEAN
 PATTI MARFLEET
 SHERYL WILLIAMSON
 GLENN WONG

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

DID YOU KNOW?

IN JANUARY, THE VPD launched the **CRIME ALERT SERVICE**. To date, more than 3,000 subscribers have signed up for this service which identifies neighbourhoods by postal code. Each week, Crime Alerts are sent to specific neighbourhoods if a significant property crime trend has been noted within that area. The alerts contain details of the trend as well as tips on reporting crime and crime prevention. City Wide Alerts are also sent out for other significant events within the City.

If you live in the city, please sign up for your Crime Alerts at www.vpd.ca or www.vpdcrimealerts.ca.

SOME OF VPD'S UNSUNG HEROES during the Olympics, members the public hopefully never saw, were our jail guards. Special Constables Thomas Driscoll and Deidre Wong were among the 60 guards working those weeks. The last day of the Games was record-breaking at the jail, with an unprecedented 114 arrests for public drunkenness and disturbing the peace. It took multi-tasking and crossing over each other's job assignments for the night, just to get everybody sorted out as efficiently and quickly as possible. The task was even more challenging due to the rants, raves, and residual aggression of those arrested. Despite it all, each and every member of the Jail maintained excellent composure and consistently displayed integrity and professionalism. □

FINANCIAL RESULTS

(FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31)

	2008 (\$1,000)	2009 (\$1,000)	% CHANGE
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STAFFING			
Salaries & Benefits	\$149,461	\$163,437	
Uniforms & Related Equipment	\$2,982	\$4,478	
Training	\$1,589	\$1,477	
TOTAL STAFFING	\$154,032	\$169,392	10%

OPERATING COSTS			
Building & Facilities	\$6,100	\$5,622	
Fleet	\$7,729	\$8,071	
Criminal Investigations	\$2,321	\$3,941	
Legal & Consulting	\$1,153	\$637	
Equipment	\$2,500	\$2,881	
Administrative & Overhead Costs	\$8,025	\$7,996	
Reserve Adjustments	\$2,350	(\$1,409)	
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$30,178	\$27,738	-8%

REVENUES	(\$2,358)	(\$2,396)	
NET EXPENDITURE	\$181,852	\$194,735	7%

CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES

	2008 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2009 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE* (CRIME RATE)
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VIOLENT CRIME	2008	2009	2008 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2009 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE*
Culpable Homicide	18	17	0.0	0.0	-7.4%
Attempted Murder	22	18	0.0	0.0	-19.8%
Sexual Offences	474	569	0.8	0.9	17.7%
Assaults	5,577	5,552	9.0	8.8	-2.4%
Abduction	7	6	0.0	0.0	-15.9%
Robbery	1,540	1,340	2.5	2.1	-14.7%

PROPERTY CRIME	2008	2009	2008 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2009 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE*
Break & Enter	6,816	5,507	11.1	8.8	-20.8%
Theft of Vehicle	2,975	2,444	4.8	3.9	-19.4%
Theft (Over/Under \$5K)	22,516	21,507	36.5	34.2	-6.3%
Have Stolen Goods	1,121	1,181	1.8	1.9	-3.3%
Fraud	1,991	2,216	3.2	3.5	9.1%
Arson	269	208	0.4	0.4	-24.2%
Mischief (Over/Under \$5K)	5,587	4,547	9.1	9.1	-20.2%

OTHER CRIME	2008	2009	2008 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2009 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE*
Prostitution	162	111	0.3	0.2	-32.8%
Gaming and Betting ²	7	2	0.0	0.0	-
Offensive Weapons	1,216	1,300	2.0	2.1	4.8%
Other Criminal Code	9,499	9,509	15.4	15.1	-1.8%

DRUGS	2008	2009	2008 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2009 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE*
Heroin	490	445	0.8	0.7	-11.1%
Cocaine	1,983	1,495	3.2	2.4	-26.1%
Cannabis	1,408	1,269	2.3	2.0	-11.6%
Other Drugs	202	171	0.3	0.3	-17.0%

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT	2008	2009	2008 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2009 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE*
Dangerous Operation of MV	42	26	0.1	0.0	-39.3%
Impaired Operation of MV	2,082	2,160	3.4	3.4	1.7%
Fail/Refuse Breath/Blood Sample	152	171	0.2	0.3	10.3%
Fail to Stop/Remain at Scene	171	101	0.3	0.2	-42.1%
Driving while Prohibited	76	77	0.1	0.1	-0.6%

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	2008	2009	2008 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2009 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE*
MV - Fatal	19	15	0.0	0.0	-22.6%
MV - Non Fatal	1,182	1,271	1.9	2.0	5.4%
Property Damage	1,959	2,278	3.2	3.6	14.0%

TOTAL INCIDENTS	69,564	69,656	112.8	104.2	-7.6%
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CALLS FOR SERVICE	2008	2009	2008 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2009 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE*
Total	249,052	229,392	404.0	364.9	-9.7%
Dispatched	189,433	170,408	307.3	271.1	-11.8%
% Dispatched	76.1%	74.3%			-2.3%
Population ³	616,450	628,621			2.0%

¹ 2008 & 2009 data run on 2010/07/06

² Rate change not presented for counts less than or equal to five

³ Source: BC Stats as of 2010/07/06

These statistics are produced using the "all offence scoring method."

Note: Small baseline offence numbers make large percentage changes.

Numbers are subject to change due to ongoing investigations or reclassifications of incidents.

For more information on our data disclaimers and limitations, please refer to <http://vancouver.ca/police/Planning/info.htm>.

*The crime rate figures are rounded to the nearest decimal, while the % change in crime rate calculations are derived from original calculations which have not been rounded off.