

St. Albert Policing Committee

Annual Report to Council and Community 2025



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Recommendation

That the St. Albert Policing Committee's 2025 Annual Report be accepted as information.

Membership (January 1 - December 31, 2025)

Policing Committee Members 2025

Paul Specht	Chair
Bill Turnham	Vice-Chair
Kristen Kalmbach	Public Complaints Director
Krimsen Sumners	Citizen Member
Monica Shuttleworth	Citizen Member
Ian Sanderson	Citizen Member

Council Representation

Councillor Ken MacKay is appointed as the primary Council Representative on the Committee.
Mayor Heron serves as an ex-officio member and Alternate Council Representative

City Administration Representation

The following individuals provide representation on behalf of the City Administration:

Everett Cook, Director Emergency Services / Fire Chief

Aaron Giesbeacht, Acting / Director Emergency Services

Kairee Droogers, Legal, Legislative & Record Services

RCMP Representation

Staff Sergeant Dwayne Moore was acting Detachment Commander.

St. Albert Policing Committee Year-End Report 2025

Introduction

The St. Albert Policing Committee was founded by City Council in 2017 and officially operational since January 2018. The committee's purpose is to strike a delicate balance between the independence of the RCMP and its accountability to the community. This is achieved through increased transparency, community input, and the removal of political interference perceptions. Our overarching mission remains the creation of a secure and responsible community, acting as a bridge between City Council, the RCMP Detachment, and St. Albert residents.

Committee Responsibilities

The St. Albert Policing Committee, established under the St. Albert Policing Committee Bylaw 28/2017, was reaffirmed in April 2019 by Bylaw 13/2019 and St Albert Policing Bylaw 1/2025. The committee's responsibilities encompassed the duties outlined in Section 23 of the *Police Act (RSA 2000)* and its *Regulations*. This includes the compliance with the Oversight Standard and delegation of municipal duties per the Municipal Policing Services Agreement (MPSA).

The *Police Amendment Act (RSA 2022)* repealed Section 23 of the *Police Act*, and Policing Committees are now defined in Section 28.03. New regulations were issued by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness in late fall of 2024. The new regulations came into force on March 1st, 2025. For the most part, these new regulations had little effect on the operations of the St. Albert Policing Committee. They did require an update to the Policing Committee Bylaw, and Council approved the new Policing Committee Bylaw (2025/01). The regulations also require criminal records checks for all Committee members. There was considerable confusion at first as to the type of clearance that was required and concern that they could not be completed by March 1st. The Policing Committee worked with the Alberta Association of Police Governance and the Ministry to clarify this issue. Due to the timing of that clarification, the Ministries requirement for March 1st was softened. The members of the St. Albert Policing Committee have completed their clearance application and are considered to be in compliance with the regulations.

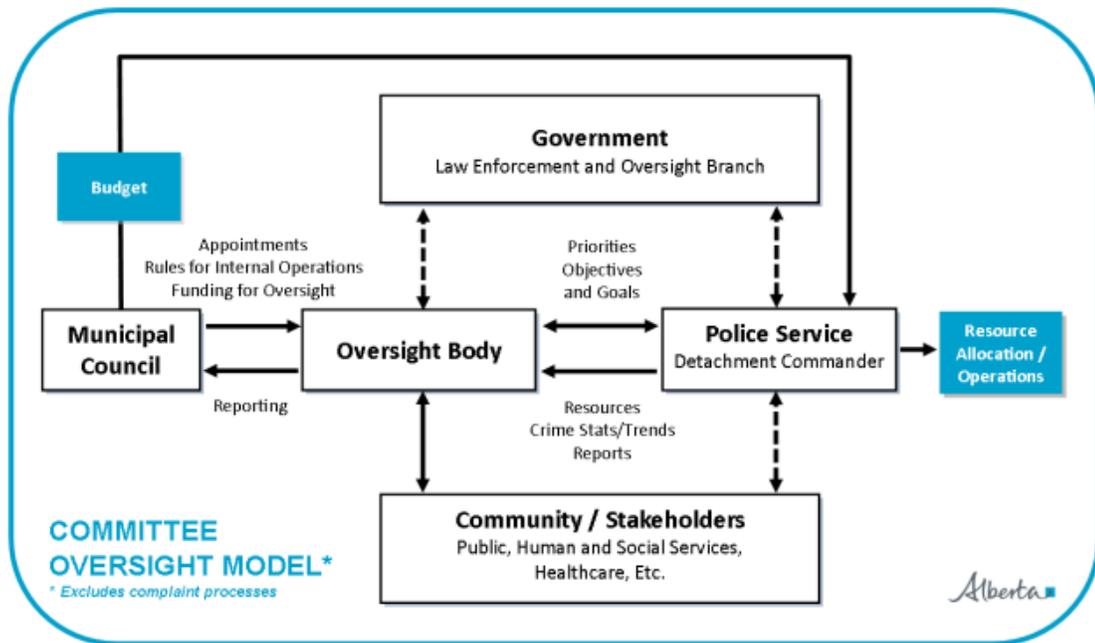
The Committee is responsible for:

- a) overseeing the administration of the MPSA;
- b) representing the interests and concerns of the public and of the Council to the Officer in Charge;
- c) developing a yearly plan of priorities and strategies for municipal policing in consultation with the Officer in Charge;
- d) developing a community safety plan in conjunction with the local RCMP detachment and Mayor, including a plan for collaboration between the community and community agencies,

- e) providing the community safety plan annually, or on request, to the Minister;
- f) assisting in the selection of the Officer in Charge;
- g) reporting annually, or on request, to the Minister on the implementation of and updates to programs and services to achieve the priorities of the police service; and
- h) as otherwise provided in the Police Act.

The Policing Committee has an annual operating budget which is detailed in **Appendix A**.

The following graphic provides an overview of the Policing Committee / RCMP Oversight Model as developed by the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General of Alberta.



Policing Committee 2025 Priorities

During the 2023 Strategic Planning exercise, the Committee agreed that high level or major policing priorities should be long term goals for issues that are deep or complex. These priorities could easily transcend the term of Committee members. Therefore, it was felt that a 3-to-5-year plan was important to maintain focus on such long-term goals. This process was guided by the Committee’s commitment to diversity and inclusion of all members of community.

It was also agreed that the Covid 19 pandemic had a significant and negative impact on the Committee’s ability to engage the community and other agencies. As a result, community

engagement was felt to be an urgent priority. The plan that was developed is ambitious and looks to support the long-term Policing Priorities of the community. The plan was developed to provide Committee involvement in the development of policies and strategies that support the policing priorities. While the plan still influences the Annual Performance Plan, a review of the Committee mandate outlined by the Province and the St Albert Policing Committee Bylaw 1/2025 identified that many of the goals and activities were outside of the Committee mandate and unrealistic for a volunteer committee to undertake. The 2026 Workplan has been developed to guide the 2026 Policing Committee activities as it maneuvers through the requirements outlined in the regulations published by the provincial government.

Activities

- 1) The current staffing levels at the Detachment have improved over the last year, in part due to actions taken in 2023 by the Committee and Council (AR-23-544 and AR-23-467) where the authorized strength of the Detachment was increased from 70 to 75. The RCMP report they continue to work on reducing the number of members considered as 'soft' vacancies, and recruiting is trending upwards. This does not eliminate the long-standing reality that even in the short term the Detachment is never fully staffed. Short term illness, training and special investigations or operations continually affect the staffing levels at St. Albert Detachment. This is no different than any other workplace environment, and the municipality does not pay for those vacancies or shortages. That said, determining the appropriate level of police resources for the community remains a focus for the Policing Committee.

The Policing Committee recommended to Council in September 2025 that in order to achieve the target "boots on the ground" of 73, as per Council Policy C-PS-02 Policing Services, a further increase to the establishment of 10 members be requested. This would bring the new total to 85 members. This recommendation was passed by Council on December 2, 2025.

- 2) The Committee has continued to provide representation to the Officer in Charge's Diversity committee.
- 3) The Committee maintains membership in the Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG), the Alberta Hate Crime Committee and the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG).
- 4) The St. Albert Policing Committee has had a representative sit on the Board of Directors of the Alberta Association of Police Governance for over 7 years. The current St. Albert representative is serving as Past-Chair of the AAPG, until their term on the St. Albert Committee expires on December 31st, 2025. St. Albert will have the opportunity to fill that position on the AAPG Board until their AGM in May of 2026.
- 5) As one of the well-established and leading policing committees in Alberta, the St. Albert Policing Committee is regularly consulted by the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services. Over the past year, St. Albert was consulted again as the Ministry revised training for new policing committee members.

St. Albert was one of the first Policing Committees to be consulted as the Ministry was building the plan for the public consultation on the *Police Amendment Act Regulations*. The members of the St. Albert Policing Committee participated in the consultation process and encouraged other groups to participate to ensure community voices were heard in the process. At the end of

consultation process, the Province stated that they would not be releasing a “What We Heard” report from the consultation. Although this is disappointing and leads to concerns over transparency in the process, there is no doubt St. Albert contributed to the process. Once the regulations are enacted, the impact of that consultation will be known.

- 6) During the consultation process for the *Police Amendment Act Regulations*, the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services stated their intent to remove the ability for Police Commissions and Policing Committees to have a Public Complaints Director (PCD). That was confirmed by the newly issued regulations. The lack of clarity in the regulations caused Council to remove the establishment of a PCD in Bylaw 2025/01, although the Ministry later stated the PCD could remain until December 2025, when the Police Review Commission begins operations. The St. Albert Policing Committee PCD has been discontinued.

The St Albert Policing Committee feels there is still a need to have a personal link to the community. The committee has proposed and received provisional approval from the Ministry to rebrand the former PCD position to a Community Liaison position, where a member of the public could speak directly to a Committee member. This will require the development of a policy and procedures to ensure the position could not be interpreted as a part of the complaint process. The Committee will continue this work in 2026.

7)

The revised regulations call for the Policing Committee to establish and report to the Minister on a Community Safety Plan. The regulations and the Ministry have not provided much guidance on the requirements for a Safety Plan, although some clarification is possible in 2026.

The Committee has examined the requirements of a community wide integrated Safety Plan and does not feel it has the mandate or capacity to develop such a plan within its current structure. This would also work at cross purposes to already existing interagency work in the community on a truly integrated safety plan. The Committee realized although it can report on what community activities are in relation to Safety Planning, it must work to link itself to the already established group in the community. This work will continue through 2026 and beyond.

- 8) The Policing Committee was active in community engagement activities this past year. This included the following:

- a. Participation in the Lifestyle Expo
- b. The St. Albert Farmers Market (June 14th)
- c. Membership in the St. Albert Chamber of Commerce
- d. Purchasing new promotional items for community engagement.
- e. Promoting crime prevention and Victim Services at engagement sessions
- f. The chair participated in the hiring process for the new Officer in Charge

RCMP Annual Policing Priorities

The St. Albert Policing Committee participated in the process of the establishment of the 2025/2026 Policing Priorities. The Committee approve and express our commitment to support the following RCMP Annual Policing Priorities;

1. Crime Reduction
2. Mental Health and Vulnerable Communities
3. Domestic/Relationship Violence and Assaults

These priorities that have been shared with City Council and are highlighted in the quarterly reports provided by the OIC.

As a result of significant feedback received in community engagement, a 4th priority – traffic safety- was added to the Annual Performance Plan in mid – 2025.

In conclusion, the members of the St. Albert Policing Committee are committed to our mission and mandate to create and support a safe and secure community. As a mechanism of civilian oversight in the governance process, we remain committed to transparency, accountability and community involvement. We are moving forward to meet the demands and expectations of new legislation and increased public demand for accountability and transparency.

All Committee members wish to thank Mayor and Council, City Administration, Legal, Legislative & Record Services for their continued and unwavering support. We also would like to thank Staff Sergeant Dwayne Moore, Acting Officer in Charge, for his support and commitment to the City of St. Albert and this Committee. We look forward to working with the new Officer in Charge Staff Sergeant Aaron White as he takes over command of the St Albert Detachment in early 2026.

Appendix – A

**St. Albert Policing Committee
2025 Annual Budget Operating Report (as of October 31, 2025)**

2025 Approved Operating Budget Total \$20,000.00

Actual Expenses

Learning and Development	\$3,825.00
Other Travel & General Expenses	\$673.02
Corporate Membership	\$ 0.00
Advertising and Promotion	\$ 1536.91
Contracted Services	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 6,034.93

The total annual budget for 2026 remains at \$20,000.

