

# West Shore RCMP 2024 Annual Year End Report





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## MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICER IN CHARGE



Being the Officer in Charge of Policing Services for the West Shore is one of my greatest honours. Every year, I look back and reflect on what our detachment has been able to achieve and ask myself how can we continue to improve service delivery?

There were many additions to West Shore RCMP in 2024. Arguably the most impactful addition was our Mental Health Unit comprised of officers and Registered Nurses from Island Health who form a Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Team. The unit achieved full staffing in early April. A client-centered approach allowing medical professionals and police to work collaboratively to address mental health calls for service has proven to be an incredible success and is very well received in the community.

We recently launched a five-officer Investigative Support Team (IST), with the goal of supporting our Frontline officers in complex investigations. This team offers our Frontline officers support in various areas that involve time-sensitive aspects of an investigation. This allows an investigation to progress quickly, while freeing up the Frontline officers to continue answering calls for service.

Year over year, the West Shore has been named the fastest growing community in British Columbia. With population at an all-time high, myself and the Senior Management Team, took stock of our personnel and budget and organized our resources to best suit our community's policing needs. We continue to grow our Frontline and have added new positions to our Special Victims Unit and the Community and Indigenous Policing Unit. In 2024, West Shore residents reported being defrauded of over \$15 million dollars. There is a need for a dedicated Economic and Cyber Crime Unit, which we are in the progress of creating.

In 2024, we choose to withdraw our financial support from a few integrated regional units and focus our efforts on enhancing our service delivery to the residents of West Shore. I can appreciate that exiting these regional units has raised questions regarding the service delivery but we want to assure you that West Shore RCMP strives to provide the best service. We created our own units that provide expertise and service in the areas of supporting at-risk youth and people experiencing a mental health crisis. We are also on track to develop our own unit dedicated to investigating intimate partner violence in late 2026.

As stated in the past, a growing community means an increase in the demand for our policing services. Our present detachment has reached its maximum capacity for officers and staff that it can support. There is a need for a new detachment that can accommodate future growth in personnel, equipment and infrastructure. Proposals for a new building are being examined and we look forward to growing our police force and ensuring public safety in 2025 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Todd PRESTON  
Officer in Charge  
West Shore RCMP

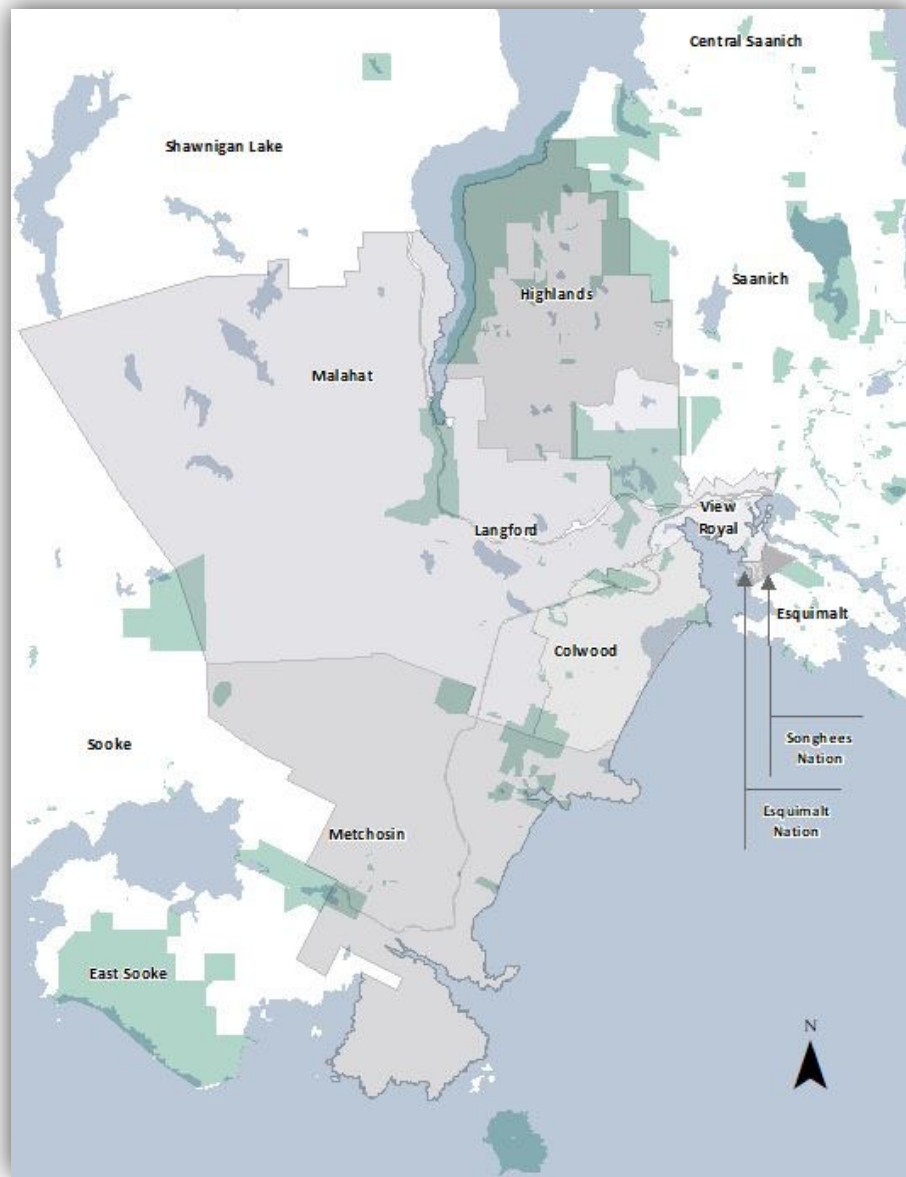




## WEST SHORE RCMP

### RCMP & WEST SHORE COMMUNITIES

West Shore RCMP proudly serves approximately 101,536<sup>1</sup> citizens and continues to be the fastest growing region on the South Island. The West Shore RCMP report to five municipalities including the Cities of Langford and Colwood, the Town of View Royal and the Districts of Metchosin and Highlands. West Shore RCMP also serves the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and portions of the Malahat. West Shore RCMP police rural and suburban residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial zones, recreational waterfront areas, provincial and regional parks and the Trans-Canada Highway.



<sup>1</sup> Police Services Division provides estimated population data. Population figures utilize Census data; however, an algorithm is applied to align the data with policing boundaries.







## WEST SHORE RCMP

In 2024, there were 119 sworn officers, one civilian member, four reserve constables, 10 commissionaires, and over 50 civilian personnel who staffed West Shore RCMP. **Together they handled 25,515 calls for service, an average of 70 calls per day.**

West Shore Detachment supports a number of integrated units through the secondment of Detachment personnel on a full time or rotational basis and through financial contributions toward their budgets. Through this partnership, West Shore RCMP works in conjunction with:

- Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crime Unit (VIIMCU) - *Two full time officers (\$230,700)*
- Forensic Identification Services (FIS) - *One full time officer (\$115,350)*
- Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RDVU) - *\$121,827 plus one full time officer – (Approx. \$237,177 total)*
- Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (IMCRT) - *\$74,345 annually*
- Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) - *\$37,349 annually*

West Shore RCMP works with and receives support from other provincial units and RCMP sections including the BC Highway Patrol (BCHP), RCMP Air Services, RCMP Explosive Disposal Unit (EDU), Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU), RCMP Emergency Response Team (ERT), Vancouver Island Underwater Recovery Team (URT), RCMP Special I and Federal Serious and Organized Crime (FSOC) teams, and E Division Communications. Several officers are also part of the Vancouver Island Tactical Troop (VITT), a specialized branch of policing that deals with large scale protests, road blockades, and evidence searches.

Several West Shore RCMP officers have advanced training and are a part of specialized BC RCMP response teams. These officers work full time with West Shore RCMP but are also on-call for emergency situations. West Shore RCMP provides officers to the following:

- 9 officers to the Vancouver Island RCMP Tactical Team (VITT)
- 2 officers to the Vancouver Island Crisis Negotiator Team (CNT)
- 6 officers to the Vancouver Island RCMP Emergency Response Team (ERT)
- 6 officers to the Community-Industry Response Group (CIRG)
- 2 officers to the Underwater Recovery Team (URT)
- 1 officer to the Proactive Support Response Team (PSRT)

We also have access to two Criminal Drug Interdiction Dogs. Criminal Drug Interdiction Dog teams are funded by the Province and used to intercept drug trafficking in vehicles, boats and other forms of transportation including shipping containers. Criminal Drug Interdiction dog teams are available for West Shore RCMP Frontline officers upon request.

*Note: West Shore RCMP also has three dedicated Police Service Dog Teams who provide Frontline support. This is separate from Criminal Drug Interdiction Teams.*





## EXIT FROM REGIONAL UNITS



# WEST SHORE RCMP SERVICE DELIVERY UPDATE

*The West Shore is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada. With that, the West Shore RCMP is growing to better serve our communities.*



### HOW WE ARE BETTER SERVING VICTIMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN THE WEST SHORE

- WEST SHORE RCMP CREATED ITS OWN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE INVESTIGATOR POSITION IN SPRING 2024 AND WILL EXPAND TO TWO FULL TIME POLICE OFFICERS IN SPRING 2026.
- THE UNIT WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE EXISTING SPECIAL VICTIM'S UNIT (SVU) & NEWLY CREATED INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT TEAM (IST).

### HOW WE ARE BETTER SERVING THOSE IN CRISIS IN THE WEST SHORE

- WEST SHORE RCMP MENTAL HEALTH UNIT WAS CREATED IN 2024. THE UNIT HAS 3 RCMP OFFICERS AND 2 ISLAND HEALTH REGISTERED NURSES WHO ARE EXPERIENCED IN MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE CARE.
- WEST SHORE RCMP MENTAL HEALTH UNIT HAS RESPONDED TO OVER 513 CALLS THIS YEAR.



### HOW WE ARE BETTER SERVING YOUTH IN THE WEST SHORE

- WEST SHORE RCMP HAS A YOUTH OUTREACH OFFICER WHO WORKS WITH A YOUTH COUNSELLOR FROM PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION WHO FOCUS ON AT RISK YOUTH BY BEING BOTH PROACTIVE AND REFERRAL BASED.
- WEST SHORE RCMP COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT HAS 5 SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS WHO ARE CONNECTING WITH YOUTH IN SD 62 DAILY.

A rapidly growing population in West Shore has created the need for enhanced policing services. Staying abreast of current policing trends and community needs is a top priority for our detachment therefore, reinvesting our resources to support existing and new West Shore RCMP units will better serve our communities.

It is important to understand that West Shore RCMP's rationale to exit these regional units is largely based upon the fact that we have created our own specialized units that enhance service delivery in these areas. *Essentially, remaining a part of the regional units creates a duplication of service and is not cost effective.* After careful analysis and consideration, we made the decision to respectfully exit the three regional policing units and opt for enhanced service delivery through existing or new West Shore RCMP units.

West Shore RCMP is planning to exit the Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (IMCRT), Mobile Youth Service Team (MYST), and Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RDVU). In the past, these units provided valuable services to the West Shore; coordinating a regional response in a cost sharing arrangement made sense. Now, however, West Shore has reached a point where these services have been duplicated by West Shore RCMP's own service enhancement in these areas.

### Regional Units Exit Dates:

- Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (IMCRT) > **Projected exit date: December 31, 2025.** *West Shore RCMP currently contributes \$ 74,345 annually to participate in this regional unit (as per 2025 budget). Replaced by West Shore RCMP Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Teams*
- Mobile Youth Service Team (MYST) > **Projected exit date: December 31, 2025.** *West Shore RCMP currently contributes \$ 37,349 annually to participate in this regional unit (as per 2025 budget). Replaced by West Shore RCMP Youth Outreach Team*
- Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RDVU) > **Projected exit date: Dec 31, 2026.** *West Shore RCMP currently contributes \$121,827 plus \$115,350 (salary of one Constable), annually to participate in this regional unit (Approx. \$237,177 as per 2025 budget). To be replaced by Intimate Partner Violence Unit currently being developed*





RESOURCES

Figure 1 shows the percentage of funding per area for sworn officer positions in 2024. Langford funded 59.83% of positions, followed by Colwood with 17.09% and View Royal with 11.97%. The population of Metchosin exceeded 5,000 as of the 2021 census, and they began contributing to policing in 2023. Metchosin funded 4.27% of positions, and 4.27% of positions were provincially funded (Highlands, Esquimalt and Songhees Nations).

2024 PAID RESOURCES

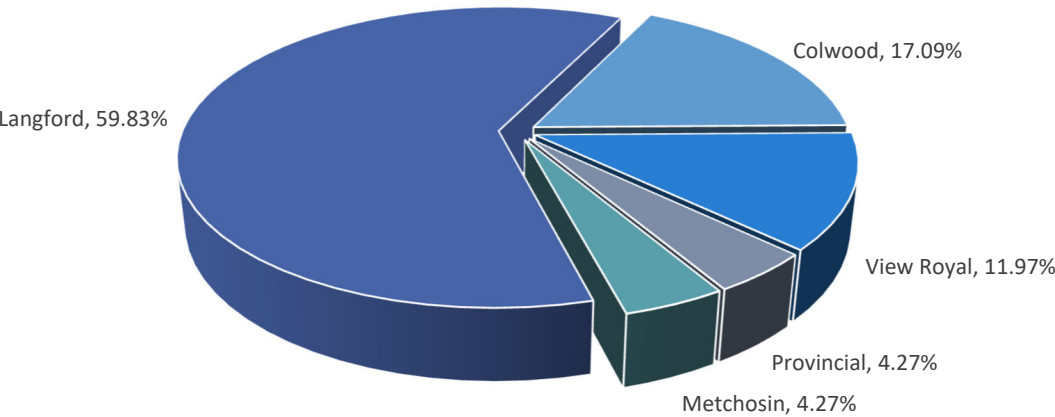


Figure 1- 2024 Paid Resources per Area

CALLS FOR SERVICE PER AREA

Figure 2 shows the percentage of calls for service per area in 2024. **Langford had the highest percentage of calls for service in 2024 with 56.51% of all calls, representing a 5.9% decrease compared to 2023. Colwood had the second highest percentage of calls for service in 2024, with 20.31%.** View Royal had 13.14% of calls in 2024 followed by Metchosin (3.9%), Songhees Nation (3.17%), Highlands (1.2%), portions of the Malahat (0.97%) and Esquimalt Nation (0.27%).

2024 CALLS PER AREA

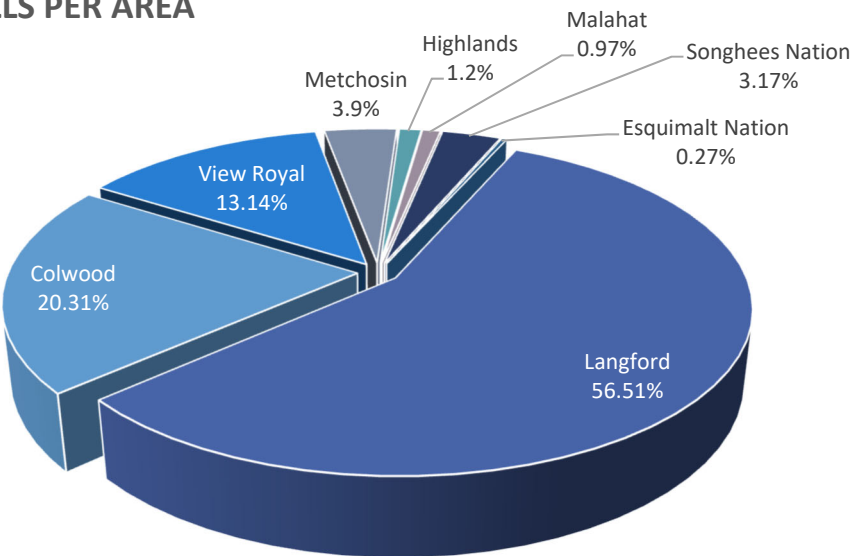


Figure 2 - 2024 Percentage Calls for Service per Area





AREA	2023	2024	FILE COUNT (+/-)	% CHANGE
Colwood	5123	5181	58	1.1%
Esquimalt Nation	77	68	-9	-11.7%
Highlands	317	301	-16	-5.0%
Langford	15333	14419	-914	-6.0%
Malahat	193	248	55	28.5%
Metchosin	998	995	-3	-0.3%
Songhees Nation	979	808	-171	-17.5%
View Royal	3369	3352	-17	-0.5%
West Shore Total	<b>26618</b>	<b>25515</b>	<b>-1103</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>

Table 1 – 2023 vs 2024 Reported Incidents

Table 1 depicts the total incidents for West Shore in 2023 and 2024, along with the file count (+/-) and percent change. There was a **4.1% decrease in calls for service from 2023 to 2024**. Although there was an overall decrease in calls for service, Colwood experienced a slight increase in call volume, while the Malahat experienced a 28.5% increase.

## REPORTED INCIDENTS PER POPULATION

AREA	2024 REPORTED INCIDENTS	2024 POPULATION ESTIMATE	REPORTED INCIDENTS / 1000 POPULATION
Langford	14419	56,932	253.3
Colwood	5181	21,968	235.8
View Royal	3352	12,963	258.6
West Shore Provincial	1425	4,387	324.8
Metchosin	995	5,286	188.2
All West Shore Jurisdiction	25515	101,536	251.3

Table 2 – Reported Incidents per 1000 Population

Table 2 displays the 2024 reported incidents per 1000 population for the four municipalities, combined provincial areas<sup>2</sup> and West Shore as a whole.

<sup>2</sup> West Shore Provincial includes part of the Malahat, the District of Highlands & the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. As of 2023, Metchosin's population exceeded 5000 and is no longer included in the Provincial population estimates. Police Services Division provides estimated population data. Population figures utilize Census data; however, an algorithm is applied to align the data with policing boundaries.





**CALLS FOR SERVICE BY CATEGORY**

Figures 3 and 4 depict the overall number of calls for service in various categories, comparing 2023 with 2024. Figure 3 displays the different category of offence types that are reportable to Statistics Canada and contribute to the Crime Severity Index.

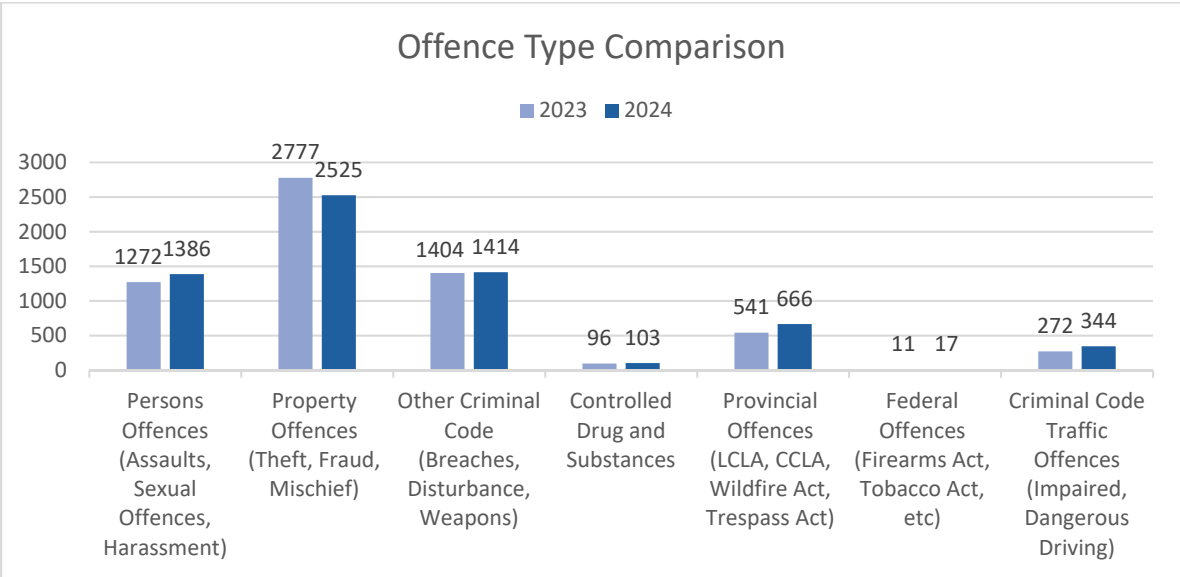


Figure 3: Offence Type Comparison

Figure 4 displays offences that do not get reported to Statistics Canada, but account for a significant part of West Shore’s calls for service and represent a large portion of police work. Non-reportable offences include occurrences such as false alarms, suspicious persons, missing persons, traffic complaints, abandoned 911 calls and more.

The category of *Acting Under the Authority* represents calls where police act under the authority of a provincial or federal legislation, but no offence has been committed, such as the Mental Health Act or Firearms Act. *Preventative Measures* represent the expenditure of police time and resources directed towards reducing or preventing crime, such as school zone patrols, curfew checks, and road blocks. *Assistance to Other Agencies* represent calls where assistance was given to law enforcement agencies in another unit or jurisdiction, or to any domestic or foreign police agency, government or department.

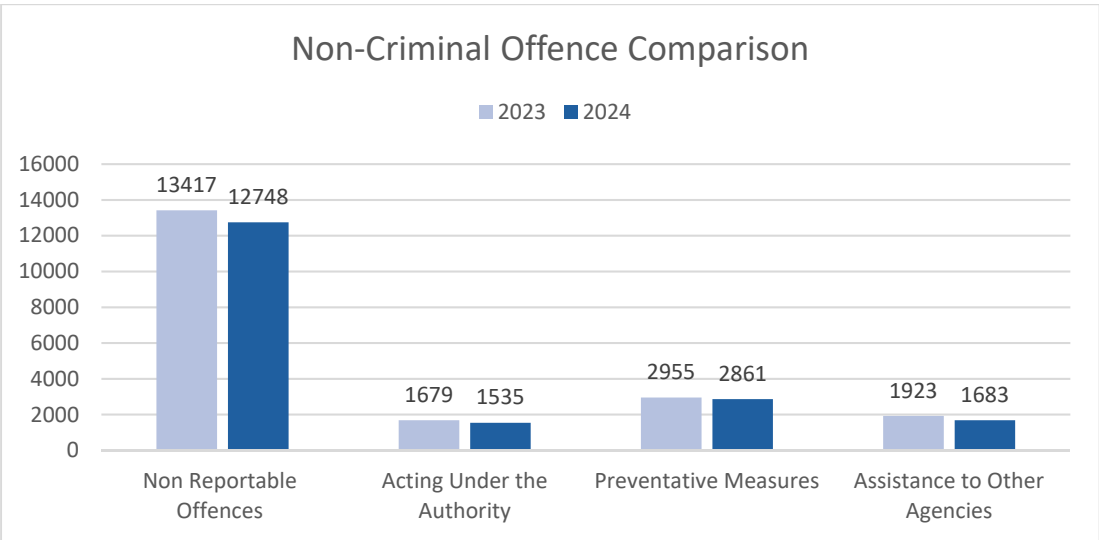


Figure 4: Calls for Service regarding Non-Criminal Matters







## FRONTLINE POLICING



Our Frontline police officers respond to the vast majority of the calls for service at West Shore RCMP. Currently, 56 Frontline officers are spread over four watches and deliver 24-hour policing to our communities.

Frontline officers are the first on scene to almost all calls. A Frontline police officer must therefore be well-versed in Criminal and Provincial Statutes. Our Frontline officer experience levels and rank vary from new recruits to seasoned officers with twenty-plus years of experience. We ensure every watch

has a balance of work experience and specialized skills. Frontline officers receive continuous training throughout the year on a variety of investigative topics. We routinely invite partner agencies to attend and share their knowledge on law enforcement. In 2024, we held training sessions in several categories given by subject matter experts in Gang Enforcement, Illicit Tobacco Trafficking, Civil Forfeiture Law and Procedure, Adult and Youth Probation, and Crown Counsel to name a few. Hearing perspectives from other agencies is critical to how we proceed with our investigations.

After recognizing the need for more police officers to be available during peak hours of demand between 12 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., a “Mid-Shift” consisting of four Constables was added to enhance service delivery. This ensures that we are able to address and attend calls for service in a timely manner when demand is the greatest.

West Shore RCMP has a dedicated Front Desk Constable who is responsible for speaking with members of the public that attend the front counter to report crime or seek assistance from police. Our front desk municipal staff are exceptional at taking complaints from the public and directing their concerns to the proper avenues, whether that be creating police reports or re-directing clients to the appropriate agencies.

Our Frontline officers receive regular and ongoing training throughout the year. One key piece of training delivered biannually is Immediate-Action-Rapid-Deployment (IARD), where officers train to respond quickly to high-risk situations that pose a threat to public safety. Threats involving firearms and explosives, especially near highly populated areas like schools and businesses, are highlighted in this training. Officers also receive ongoing training in various areas, including de-escalation techniques and bias-free policing.



Working alongside Frontline officers there are over 50 Civilian personnel who specialize in various roles at the detachment. These supporting roles are critical to policing infrastructure and include duties such as: Disclosure Clerks, Switchboard Operators, Transcriptionists, Watch Clerks, Court Liaison Officers, Exhibit Custodians, and more.





TOP 5 CALLS FOR SERVICE

Within the 25,515 calls for service in 2024, Frontline officers spent a significant amount of time responding to these types of calls:

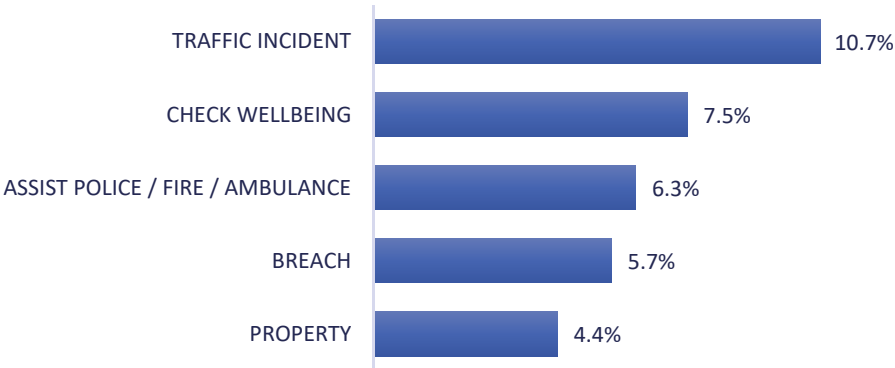


Figure 5: Top 5 Calls for Service

Figure 5 illustrates the Top 5 calls for service in 2024. Traffic incidents were the most prevalent calls representing 10.7% of calls. Check Well Being represented the second highest service call followed by Assist Police/Fire/Ambulance calls, Breaches (individuals found/reported breaching court-ordered conditions), and Property related offences. Traffic incidents include, but are not limited to, driving complaints, insurance violations, seatbelts, speeding, erratic/dangerous driving and road rage reports.

INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT TEAM (IST)

In November 2024, West Shore RCMP formed a new unit, the Investigative Support Team (IST) consisting of:

- 1 Corporal (permanent)
- 4 Constables (each on a two (2) year rotational position)

The Investigative Support Team helps on complex Frontline investigations which fall outside the mandate of the Serious Crime Unit. Members of IST are assigned urgent time-sensitive requests and work collaboratively with Frontline officers to complete tasks. IST officers receive extensive training in many areas of police work including interviewing both suspects and children as well as obtaining judicial authorizations - commonly known as search warrants.

STRATEGIC POLICING PRIORITIES – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

2024 – 2025 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN (APP) FISCAL YEAR APRIL-MARCH

Each year West Shore RCMP’s Senior Management Team works closely with Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations and our five municipal communities to identify local policing priorities. Each RCMP Detachment in British Columbia is mandated to prepare an Annual Performance Plan<sup>3</sup> that addresses local policing priorities. Through consultation with elected officials and senior staff, the West Shore RCMP APP focuses on the issues identified throughout the region. The APP is designed to be flexible to the changing needs of the communities and the priorities are continually revisited and adjusted accordingly.

<sup>3</sup> The APP follows the RCMP fiscal year, April 1st to March 31st

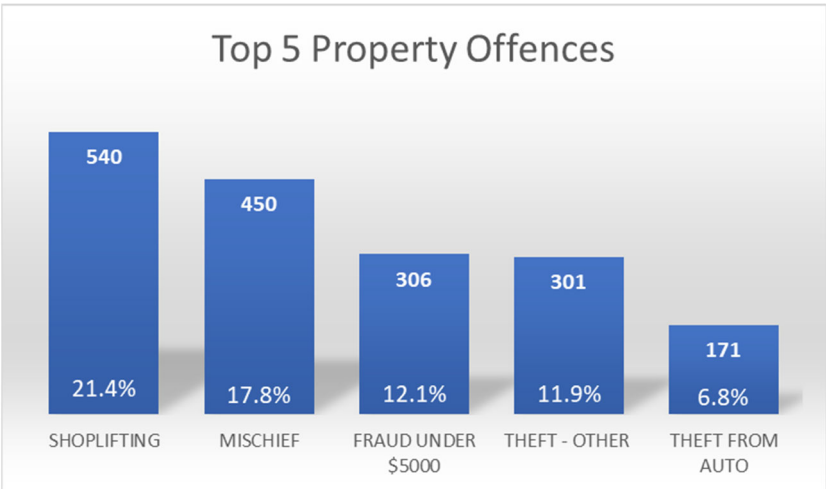




Five key priorities were identified for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and include: Reducing Property Crimes, Deterring Youth Crime, Enhancing Road Safety, Enhancing Relationships with Indigenous Communities and Reconciliation, Mental Health and Crisis Response Teams.

REDUCING PROPERTY CRIMES

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY



Property related offences account for the highest incidence of criminal code offences in West Shore. **In 2024, there were 2,525 Offences Against Property, representing a 9% decrease compared to 2023, with 2,777 incidents.** Of the total 2,525 property offences, Shoplifting accounted for the highest number of offences, followed by Mischief (Damage Under \$5000), Fraud Under \$5000, Theft-Other, and Theft from Auto.

Figure 6: Top 5 Offences against property in 2024  
\*Figure does not depict all 2525 property offences that occurred in 2024. It only depicts 1768/2525 offences that were in the top 5 property offences being reported to police.

ALL PROPERTY CRIMES IN WEST SHORE

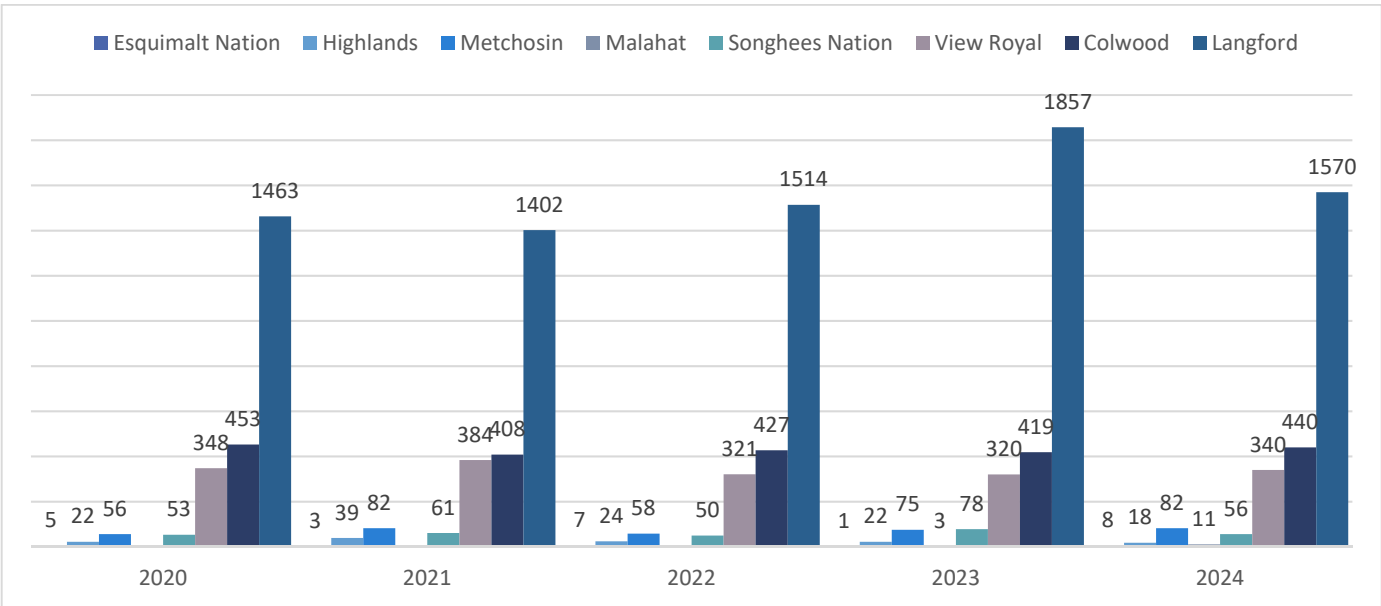


Figure 7- 2020-2024 Property Crime

Figure 7 depicts the property crimes in West Shore from 2020 – 2024 per community. A five-year comparison depicts an over all trend showing an increase in property crimes in West Shore.





## CRIME REDUCTION UNIT

West Shore RCMP's Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) is comprised of:

- 1 Corporal
- 4 Constables

They are overseen by the Sergeant in Charge of Street Crimes. CRU focusses on priority and repeat offenders in an effort to curb property related offences.

- CRU also runs the Curfew Check Program where they along with Frontline officers, actively monitor individuals placed on court ordered curfew or house arrest. Frontline officers also take part in this by conducting routine curfew checks to ensure offender compliance with court ordered conditions; a number of these checks have resulted in breach charges.
- In 2024, CRU undertook a proactive year-long initiative to target shoplifting in the West Shore. Commencing in March 2024, CRU sought and received \$111,000 in funding from the Provincial SITE Program. Enforcement action incorporated a multifaceted approach, addressing public safety issues such as violence while implementing programs to tackle underlying factors contributing to criminal behavior.
- This project aims to enhance public safety and loss prevention effectiveness through collaboration with local businesses and police. Not only does it target violent offenders, but it also mitigated the substantial threat these offenders pose to the general public through proper enforcement at various sites they frequent. To execute this project, CRU and Frontline officers deployed covert surveillance teams in coordination with Loss Prevention Officers at identified problematic sites. Further, CRU worked closely with Loss Prevention Officers to identify potential shoplifters and known offenders and utilized available intelligence to assist in risk assessment. Upon substantiating an offense, the surveillance team responded by arresting the suspect and in many cases were able to recover the stolen items and return them to the business.
- Notable investigation: In September 2024, CRU arrested two suspects who allegedly stole approximately \$10,000 worth of merchandise in one afternoon across the Capital Regional District at various big box stores. Additionally, a search warrant obtained by West Shore RCMP was executed at the home of one of the suspects in New Westminster.



- With the assistance of the New Westminster Police, West Shore RCMP seized:





- approximately \$30,000 worth of stolen merchandise including tools and electronics;
- approximately \$20,000 worth of stolen high-end luxury clothing with the tags still attached;
- approximately 180 grams of suspected cocaine;
- approximately 5600 suspected counterfeit Fentanyl pills;
- approximately 900 suspected hydromorphone pills;
- approximately 1000 suspected benzodiazepines pills;
- \$30,000 cash.

## CONTROLLED DRUGS & SUBSTANCES ACT VIOLATIONS

There were 103 CDSA offences in 2024, representing a 7% increase compared to 2023, with 96. The top five CDSA violations in 2024 were Possession of Other Schedule 1 Substances, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Methamphetamine, Trafficking Cocaine, and Possession of Fentanyl (Figure 8). Drug possession violations typically occur in conjunction with other offences (e.g. property crimes).

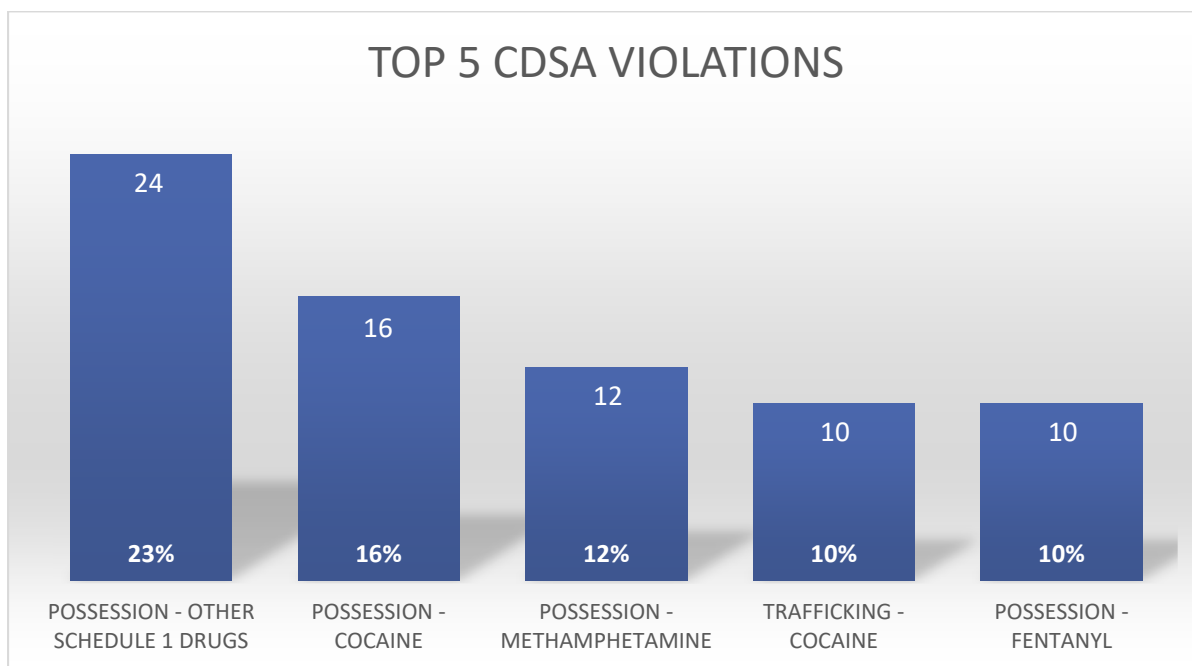


Figure 8 - Top 5 CDSA Violations

## DRUGS & ORGANIZED CRIME UNIT

The Drugs and Organized Crime Unit (DOCU) is comprised of:

- 1 Corporal
- 4 Constables

They are overseen by the Sergeant in Charge of Street Crimes. Their mandate is to target drug trafficking the West Shore which is directly linked to Organized Crime. DOCU also delivers the Inadmissible Patrons Program (IPP) in the West Shore area to protect businesses from the negative effects of organized crime.

- Drug trafficking has a direct impact on both violent and non-violent crime. It has strong links to property crime in the West Shore as police often come across stolen property that was being used to trade for drugs or to pay off existing drug debts.
- DOCU NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS:







- In December 2024, West Shore RCMP Drugs and Organized Crime Unit executed a search warrant on a residential property in Langford in relation to suspected trafficking of illicit tobacco. Police seized approximately 17,100 cartons, equal to about 171,000 individual packs of contraband cigarettes with an estimated retail value of over \$1.7 million dollars.

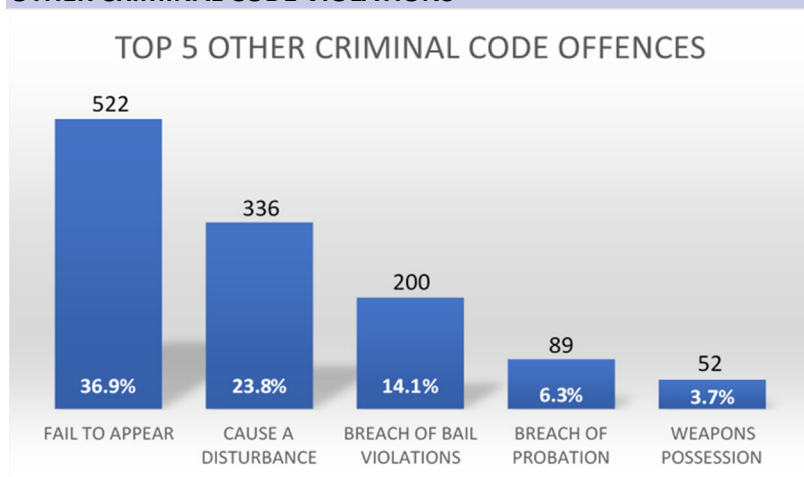


- In January 2024, approximately 40 police officers from West Shore RCMP along with other police agencies in the CRD, executed 12 search warrants on properties and vehicles in the Greater Victoria area including the Savages Clubhouse on Spencer Road. The search warrants were a part of a months-long investigation lead by West Shore RCMP Drugs and Organized Crime Unit into drug trafficking taking place in the West Shore and Greater Victoria area. Drugs, weapons, and nearly \$50 000 cash was seized by police. Shortly after this the Savages Clubhouse closed down for good.

As of February, 2023, the BC Provincial Government requested an exemption from Health Canada under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) whereby small quantities of illicit drugs were decriminalized for a three-year period. We anticipated a

small change to criminal charges under the CDSA for people in possession of small quantities (2.5 grams and under) of the following drugs: methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine (its derivatives, crack cocaine) and fentanyl. It should be noted that prior to this change, police very seldom charged individuals who were in possession of small quantities of illicit drugs. Often, police would seize these drugs without charging the individual unless they were found breaching court ordered conditions to not be in possession of drugs.

## OTHER CRIMINAL CODE VIOLATIONS



Other Criminal Code Violations (Other CC) consist of a variety of violations that do not fall under Crimes Against Persons or Offences Against Property. Other CC violations include, but are not limited to, Cause Disturbance, Breach of Probation, Fail to Appear and Obstruction.

Figure 9 - Top 5 Other Criminal Code Violations





There were **1,414 Other CC violations in 2024, representing a very slight increase in offences compared to 2023, with 1404**. Fail to Appear was the most prevalent violation, representing 36.9% of files (Figure 9). Cause Disturbance was the second highest violation followed by Breach/Bail Violations, Breach of Probation (Adult) and Weapons Possession.

ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY AND DETERRING YOUTH CRIME

LICENSED PREMISE CHECKS

West Shore hosts several establishments that are open late into the evening and are popular drinking locations. The Inadmissible Patrons Program aims to prevent people who are wearing or displaying gang colors/insignia or whose lifestyle associations and activities, directly or indirectly, pose a risk to public safety from being served at licenced establishments. Frontline officers regularly patrol these establishments in an effort to mitigate any issues. The Inadmissible Patrons Program is a way for police to proactively prevent and disrupt overt gang activity in local establishments.

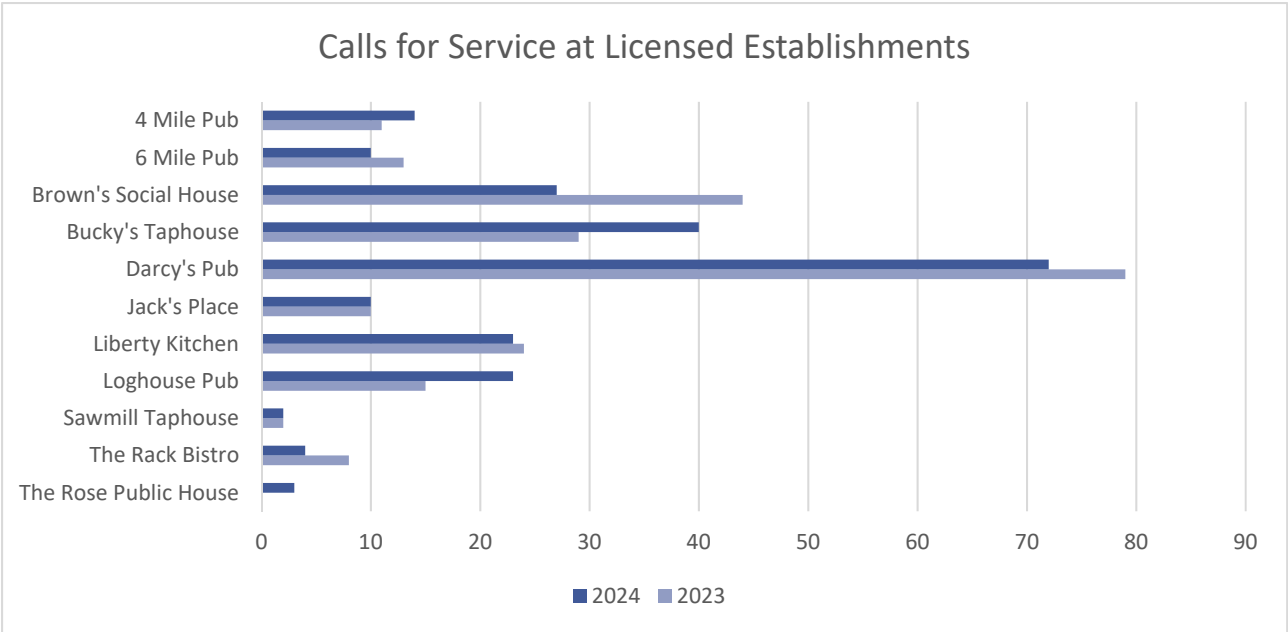


Figure 10 - Calls for Service at Licensed Establishments

Figure 10 illustrates the calls for service at licensed premises in West Shore in 2023 and 2024. The number of calls differ by establishment, with some establishments having more calls than others. **Overall, there was a 3% decrease in calls for service at licensed establishments in 2024 compared to 2023.**

CRU sought Provincial SITE funding for several initiatives in 2024. This funding went towards shoplifting deterrence initiatives and for Enhanced Public Safety Patrols. The Enhanced Public Safety Patrols Program addresses immediate public safety concerns while facilitating investigations and strategic planning. By monitoring high-crime areas during Friday and Saturday nights, officers collected valuable data on crime patterns and potential areas of concern. This information was used to guide further investigations and develop targeted strategies to prevent future incidents.

During these public safety patrols, officers recognized they were coming across large groups of youth who were gathering at local businesses during late evening hours. Business owners conveyed their concerns to police regarding some of the individual youths who were causing disturbances. Police addressed the particular youths and connected them with additional resources which included the West Shore Youth Outreach Team as well other





West Shore community supports. Additionally, the proactive presence of uniformed officers acted as a deterrent, contributing to a safer community environment.

**In this project, from April to October 2024, CRU and Frontline officers conducted 632 foot patrols, made 25 arrests, forwarded seven charges, and issued 53 violation tickets.** During these patrols, they seized various drugs and weapons while providing critical support to other detachment members.

This visible presence has been widely appreciated by both the public and local businesses. Officers prioritize attending community events and conducting foot patrols to ensure safety remains a central focus. These efforts are part of a comprehensive strategy to prevent crime, deter offenders, and maintain a secure community for all.



In December 2024, during their involvement with the Enhanced Public Safety Patrols, the West Shore Crime Reduction Unit encountered a suspect with a known gang affiliation who was engaged in drug trafficking. This initiated a larger drug investigation resulting in the arrest of 6 suspects. Police seized evidence of drug trafficking including drugs, approximately \$25 000 in cash, approximately 1 kilogram of combined suspected cocaine, methamphetamine, fentanyl, and hundreds of unidentified pills.

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

West Shore RCMP has a robust Restorative Justice program that has been growing year over year from 22 referrals in 2022 to 38 referrals in 2024. West Shore Restorative Justice is a program facilitated by volunteers with the West Shore RCMP. The primary mandate of the West Shore Restorative Justice Program is to facilitate Community Justice Forums where the accused take ownership of their actions and agree to reparations thereby **diverting low-risk offenders, especially youth offenders, away from criminal courts.**

In 2024, West Shore RCMP referred 38 investigations to Restorative Justice. The vast majority of the offenders were arrested for theft under \$5000. Restorative Justice Forums were held to decide how the offender could repair the harm. Here are some of the statistics from this years Restorative Justice forums:

- Out of the 38 investigations, 24 offenders were adults, **32 offenders were youth;**
- Offender's completed 408 community service hours;
- \$900 in financial restitution was collected;
- Approximately \$9422 worth of stolen merchandise was recovered and returned to the business/owner.

***West Shore Restorative Justice also held proactive youth education talks. The focus is to encourage youth to employ critical thinking skills when faced with peer situations that may involve pressure to commit offences.***





## YOUTH RELATED CRIME

In 2023 there were 296 investigations involving youth who were listed as the main perpetrators. In 2024, there were 267 investigations, representing a 9% decrease.

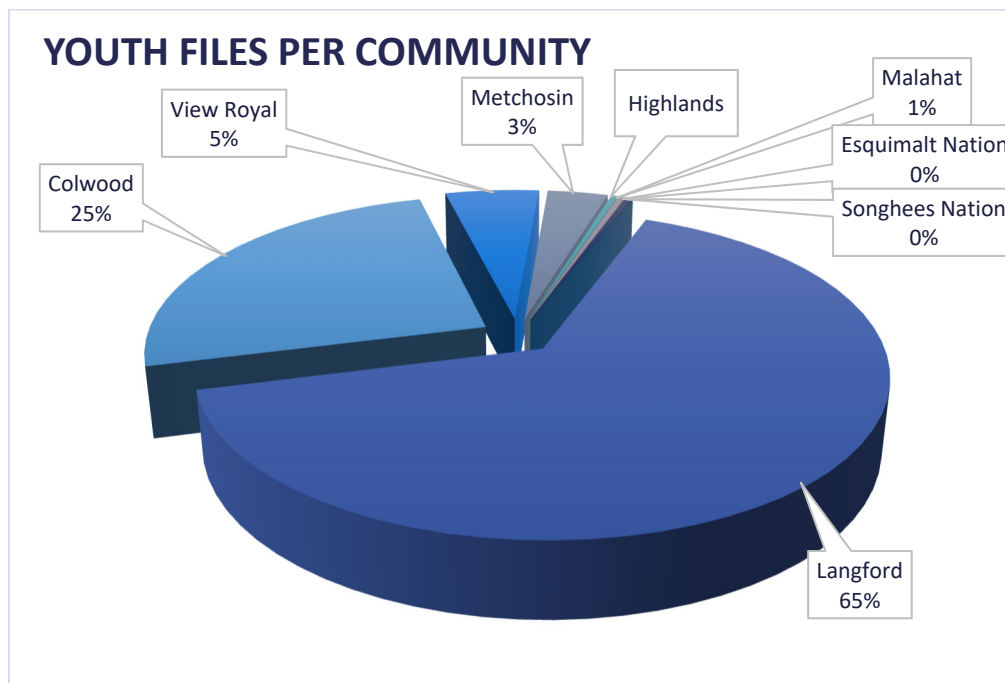


Figure 11 - % Files Involving Youth in 2024

Figure 11 depicts the percentage of crimes involving youth per community in 2024. The youth involved in these investigations were classified as either Charged, Charges Recommended, Suspect Chargeable, or Suspect. When it comes to violent crime involving youth specifically, Assault with a Weapon involving youth has increased 54%, from 11 occurrences in 2023 to 17 occurrences in 2024.

Addressing the underlying causes of youth crime is a priority for West Shore RCMP. Several policing strategies have been implemented in this endeavour including:

- Increasing proactive patrols in areas where youth congregate.
- Meeting with business owners whose properties attract youth and providing strategies and advice on how to handle disruptive patrons.
- Engaging with community partners to reach out to at-risk youth and their families to provide support.
- In 2021, West Shore RCMP Community Police Section created an integrated team involving a youth councillor from Pacific Family Services Centre to work with officers and troubled high-risk youth. They are referral based and their involvement prioritize mentoring and prevention strategies.





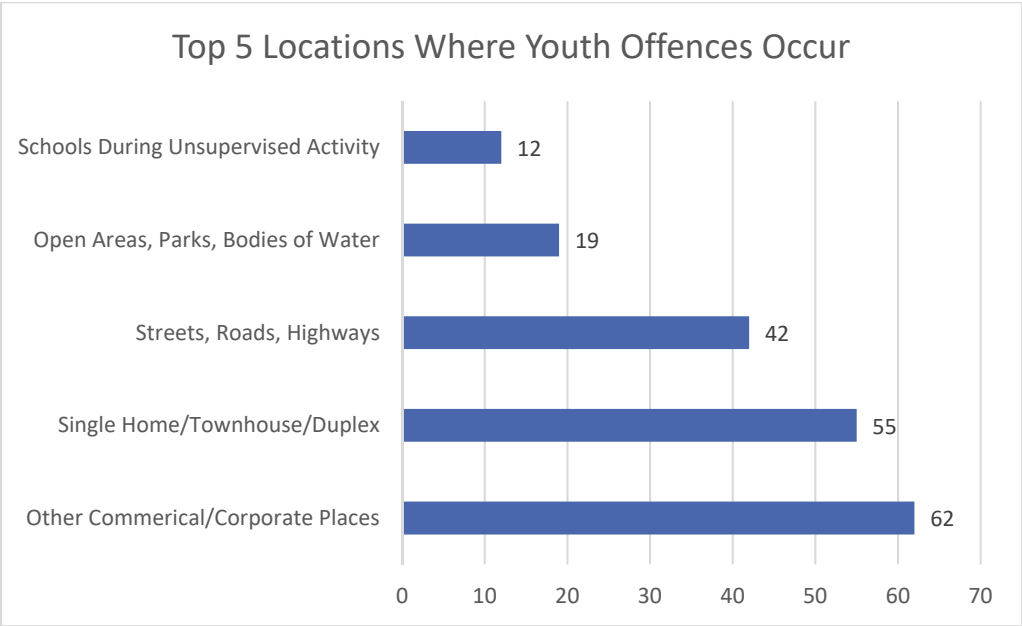


Figure 12: Top Locations Relating to Youth Offences

**YOUTH OUT REACH TEAM**

West Shore RCMP recognizes that specialized services with a focus on at-risk youth is a priority, therefore we created the position of Youth Outreach Officer in 2021. The Youth Outreach Officer’s mandate is to focus on at-risk youth via a partnership with a counsellor from Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA).



Together, they work as a team addressing at-risk youth by being both proactive and referral based. They focus on mentoring and prevention strategies. This team offers more concentrated efforts on the West Shore.

West Shore RCMP will remain in contact with MYST to ensure that at-risk youth who may travel between jurisdictions are provided with consistent support. It is important to note, that the MYST youth counsellor is also attached to PCFSA, allowing this transition and information sharing to remain seamless.

Photo: West Shore RCMP Cpl. Brewer with PCFSA Youth Counsellor Caitlin Anderson







## ENHANCING RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND RECONCILIATION

In 2024, West Shore RCMP combined its Indigenous Policing and Community Policing Unit into one unit. The unit is now referred to as Community and Indigenous Policing Unit (CIPU). The reason for this was simple, both have similar mandates and previously both units were attending the vast majority of community events together as a team.

We have expanded the CIPU by 1 additional officer in 2024. CIPU is made up of:

- 1 Corporal
- 5 Constables

One of the five constables is a dedicated Indigenous Police Officer who works directly with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to continue our relationship building. This position was previously held by Cst. Cole Brewer for a number of years, however he has recently been promoted to the rank of Corporal in charge of CIPU. We are now in the process of filling the Indigenous Police Officer position. In the mean time, Cpl. Brewer remains fully engaged with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

### TL'CHES SPIRIT CANOE PROGRAM

TL'Ches Spirit Canoe Program is run by CIPU and features a 35-foot Pacific Dancer Canoe named TL'Ches Spirit. The canoe boasts traditional Indigenous artwork and is used by the West Shore RCMP CIPU for community and cultural events to connect with Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.

This year we hosted students from School District 62 and partner agencies around West Shore aboard our canoe.

***The goal is to teach students about water safety and Indigenous cultural connection to the sea as it was taught to us by Elder Joan Morris, traditional name Sellemah, from Songhees Nation. We are honoured to be sharing this knowledge.***

West Shore RCMP also created an education video on the TL'Ches Spirit Canoe Program which can be viewed on our [website](#).



Photo: TL'Ches Spirit Canoe Participating in an Indigenous Peoples Day Ceremony

### SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS (SLO)



In 2023, School District 61 Board banned School Liaison Officers (SLO) from attending their schools. CIPU also act as West Shore RCMP School Liaison Officers. This deeply impacted service delivery of CIPU to elementary schools in View Royal, specifically Craigflower and Shoreline Elementary schools where the majority of Songhees and Esquimalt Nation children attended. We were unable to meet with children at these schools and sought other ways to enhance our relationships with Indigenous youth outside of school settings by hosting open houses at the Nations and attending cultural events. CIPU also hosted its annual camping weekend at Bamberton Provincial Park with Indigenous youth

from both Nations as another way to build stronger relationships. In 2024, our School Liaison Officers continued to engage in meaningful work with School District 62. SLO's took part in a number of activities and events with students across SD 62 schools.





CIPU actively engages with the West Shore communities through the delivery of a variety of educational and prevention programs.

We believe that connecting with youth outside of an enforcement capacity, allows for youth to have positive relationships with police. This relationship building with youth is critical and has proven invaluable in situations where youth who are being victimized feel safe speaking to SLO's.

### CIPU actively engages in the following initiatives:

- CIPU provides RCMP School Liaison Officers for all SD62 within the West Shore (and formerly SD61, prior to 2023 ban on SLO's). SLO's are connected to the SD62 schools and conduct daily check-in's with staff and students.
- Investigate reports to police of suspicious and criminal activity in and around the school or related to students/staff.
- Regularly host educational talks with various classes throughout SD62.
- Conduct Lock Down and Hold and Secure drills with students and staff.
- Organize youth activities with schools like floor and ice hockey games; recently we have been teaching students who are new to Canada how to skate, an initiative that is aimed at welcoming new students and building relationships with them.
- Keeping with the Hockey theme, CIPU also hosted an NHL street hockey program for kids in the summer. This is outside of school hours and open to all youth in the West Shore.
- CIPU participates in the Greater Victoria Diversity Advisory Committee; this committee brings together police and community representatives for meaningful engagement and reports to the area Chiefs of Police.
- Cops for Cancer Fundraising – we are top fundraisers for this charity. All proceeds go to pediatric cancer research and Camp Good Times for sick kids and their families. In 2024, we raised over \$60 000 for this charity.
- Fundraising for Special Olympics BC via Polar Plunge. All proceeds go to helping athletes with intellectual disabilities.
- CIPU offers Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- CIPU and volunteers operate the West Shore RCMP Speed Watch Program, an important tool to educate the public on safe driving.
- CIPU and volunteers operate the Keep in Touch Program, volunteers call elderly citizens who live alone and signed up for this program, in West Shore daily to ensure they are safe. Should any elder citizen need assistance a police officer is sent to check on their wellbeing.
- CIPU hosts an annual basketball tournament for senior girls at Royal Bay Secondary and Belmont Secondary called "The Mountie Cup". The tournament is free for all teams to enter and West Shore RCMP have number

Sooke School District  
@SD62\_Sooke

Literacy Week activities are underway!

From literacy bingo to "read to your stuffie" to exploring new genres, reading with family and enjoying guest readers, there is something for everyone to celebrate the joy of reading.





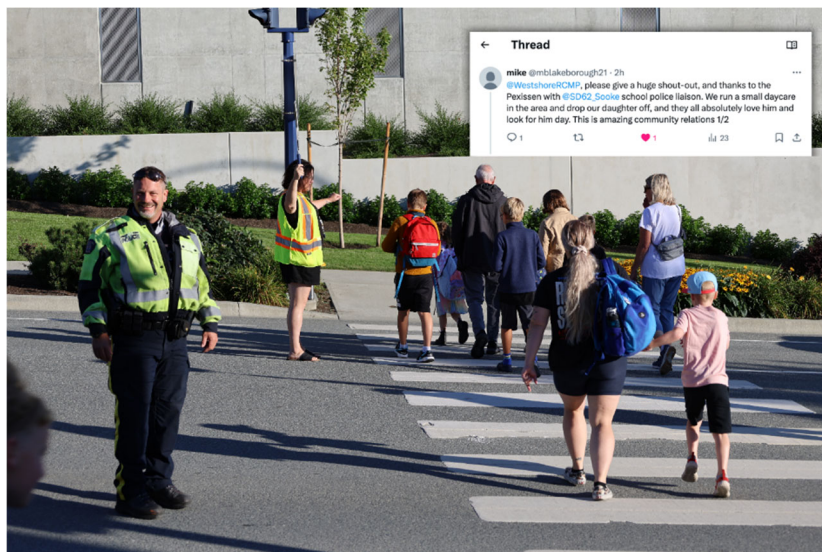


of display tables at the schools during the tournament, highlighting our different units and the diversity of jobs available within policing and the RCMP.

- CIPU recently hosted Corey Hirsch, former Stanley Cup winning goalie and mental health advocate, at both Royal Bay and Belmont Secondary Schools. Corey spoke to grade 12 students about his own mental health journey and how to support those experiencing their own mental health challenges.



CIPU is a reflection of West Shore RCMP's commitment to meaningful engagement and efforts to build relationships with our community.





ENHANCING ROAD SAFETY

Year over year, enhancing road safety has remained a priority identified by each of the West Shore communities.

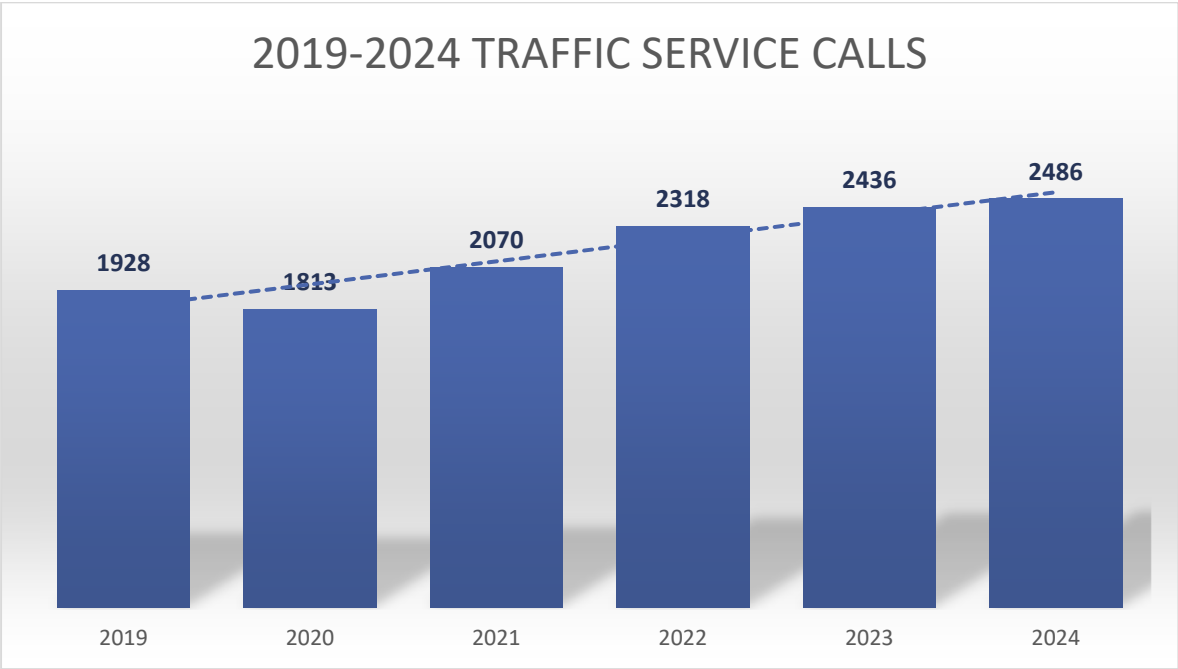


Figure 13 - 2019-2024 Traffic Service Calls

Figure 13 depicts the traffic related calls for service from 2019 through 2024. There were 1,928 calls in 2019 which dropped to 1,813 in 2020, consistent with the decrease in vehicle traffic due to pandemic restrictions. Since restrictions have lifted, the traffic reports have increased significantly with 2,486 reports in 2024, representing a 29% increase over a 6-year period.

TRAFFIC SERVICES UNIT

West Shore RCMP Traffic Unit is made up of:

- 1 Corporal
- 4 Constables.

Their mandate is to investigate collisions, enforce the Motor Vehicle Act and enhance pedestrian and motorist safety via educational campaigns.

Throughout the year, the Traffic Unit conducted enhanced patrols and enforcement efforts in identified high-collision and traffic areas of concern. These locations are often referred to as hot-spots. Some of the hot-spots include school zones across the West Shore, Ocean Boulevard in Colwood, Island Highway and Adams Road in View Royal, Veterans Memorial Parkway in Langford, Happy Valley Road in Metchosin, and Millstream and Finlayson Arm Road in Highlands. Officers concentrated their patrol efforts in these areas. Officers conduct proactive patrols in these hot-spot areas, working to address and deter traffic offences.







## TRAFFIC HIGHLIGHTS





In July 2024, West Shore RCMP teamed up with BC Highway Patrol and ICBC to remind drivers to stay focused on the road and avoid distractions. The distracted driving campaign was widely advertised with RCMP warning motorists in advance of where officers were going to be posted. Announcements were made on the local radio, newspaper, and tv stations. Signs were also placed up and down Veterans Memorial Parkway. The distracted driving messaging was even posted on Highway digital billboards in the area. Officers and volunteers were stationed at three locations along Veterans Memorial Parkway. This area was chosen due to the high volume of traffic during the afternoon hours.

West Shore RCMP Traffic Unit vehicles are equipped with Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR), which alert the officer to potential traffic violators in the vicinity as they are patrolling. One of the top alerts continues to be uninsured vehicles. ALPR detects vehicles without insurance, vehicles registered to prohibited drivers and notifies officers of potential violations.

**In 2024, West Shore RCMP issued 678 violation tickets to drivers with uninsured vehicles.**



*Note: The concentration of uninsured vehicles on the roadway continues to be higher than experienced prior to the discontinuation of the Validation Decals by ICBC.*

 **West Shore RCMP** @WestshoreRCMP · Nov 15, 2024  
Last night, our West Shore RCMP Traffic Unit was out conducting speed enforcement on the Island Hwy when they clocked a truck driving 100 km/h in a 50 km/h zone near the border of Colwood and View Royal.  ...  
After the officer activated their emergency lights and sirens, the truck [Show more](#)



9 3 24 2.4K

**Traffic incidents were the most prevalent calls for service in 2024, representing 14% of all calls received.**

**In 2024, West Shore issued 955 written warnings and 2,220 violation tickets - meaning over 3,000 in-person interactions with motorists in the West Shore.**

Traffic related calls include, but are not limited to, Fail to Stop, Insurance Violations, Collisions, Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Driving While Prohibited.







In 2024, West Shore RCMP received 848 collision reports, up 16% from 2023 with 725 collisions.

Figure 14 depicts the overall percentage of fatal collisions, injury collisions and non-injury collisions. Non-injury collisions were the most prevalent of all collisions.

Along with traffic enforcement, the Traffic Services Unit investigates vehicle collisions resulting in fatalities. Fortunately, the West Shore has not had any fatal collisions within the last two years.

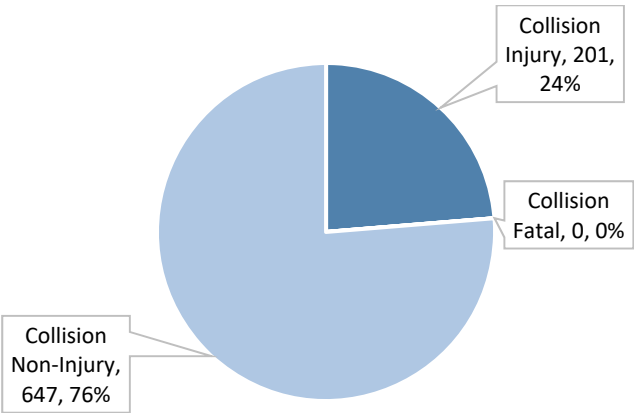


Figure 14 – 2024 Collisions

The most serious injury causing collisions have taken place at the following locations in the West Shore:

- Trans Canada Hwy (TCH) / West Shore Parkway
- Trans Canada Hwy / Helmcken Road
- Island Hwy / Wale Road
- Trans Canada Hwy between Exit 11 (Six Mile Rd) and Exit 14 (Millstream Rd)
- Island Hwy / Burnside Road West
- McCallum Rd / Millstream Road
- Highway 14

Printers were recently installed in nearly all general duty and traffic enforcement vehicles that allow officers to print digital tickets.

The Traffic Services Unit regularly engage with other detachment officers by holding educational sessions focusing on training and proper application of the law and provincial statutes.

**CRIMINAL TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS**

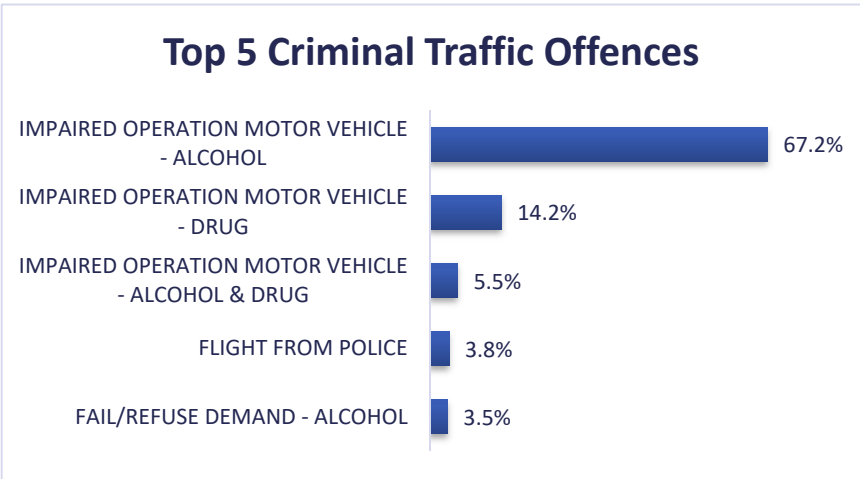
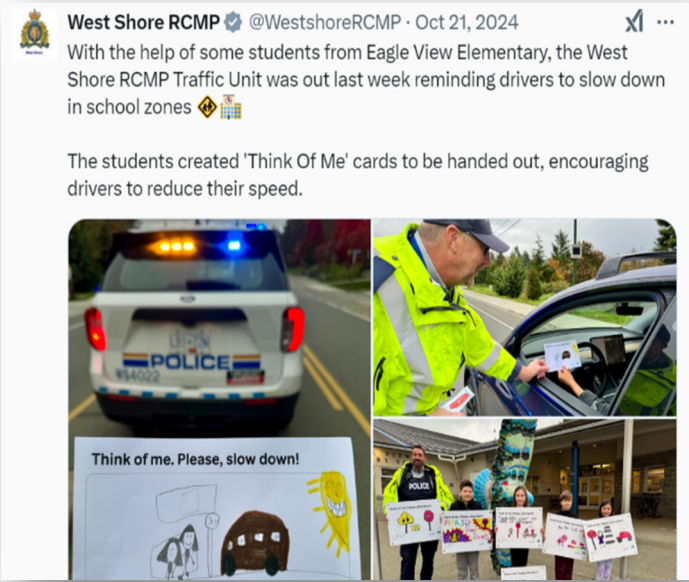


Figure 15 highlights the top 5 Criminal Traffic Violations<sup>4</sup> in West Shore in 2024. Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle by Alcohol was the most prevalent violation followed by Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle by Drug, Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle by Alcohol and Drug, Flight from Police, and Fail or Refuse Demand – Alcohol.

Figure 15 - Top 5 Criminal Traffic Violations

<sup>4</sup> Not all traffic violations generate a police file (e.g. speeding, seatbelts, etc.) & these figures are not comprehensive.





**CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES**

West Shore RCMP officers respond to a vast array of service calls, including Criminal Code offences and non-criminal incidents.

**CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS – VIOLENT CRIME**

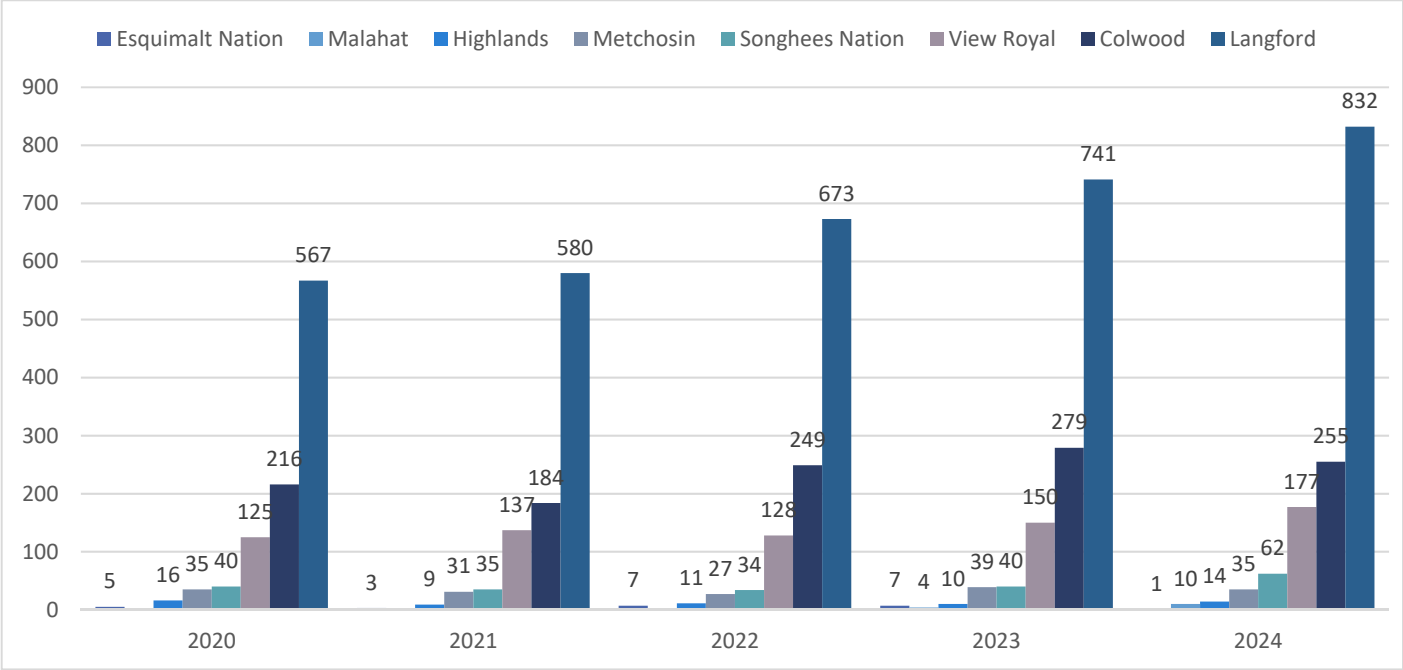


Figure 16 – 2020 – 2024 Crimes Against Persons per Community

Figure 16 depicts the number of violent crimes in West Shore communities from 2020-2024. Langford experienced a 12% increase in persons offences from the year prior, and View Royal experienced an 18% increase.





### 2024 Persons Offences per Jurisdiction

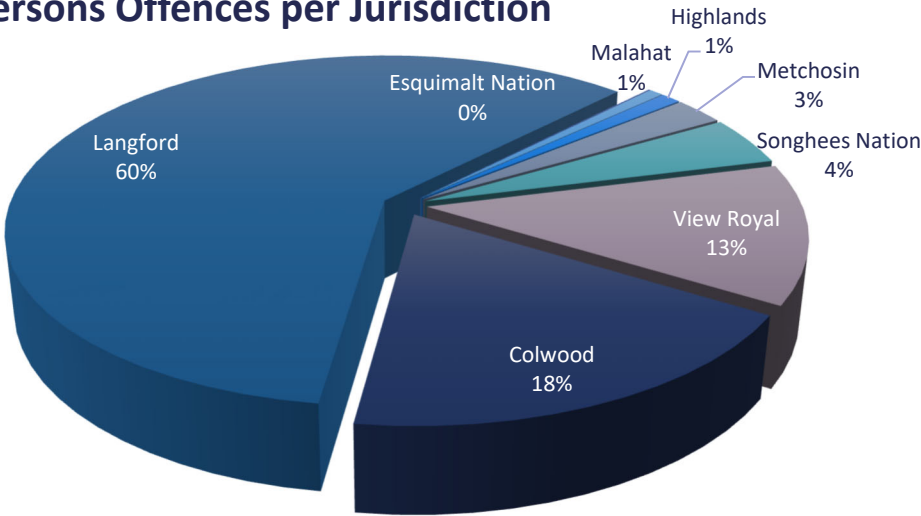


Figure 17 – 2024 Percentage of Persons Offences per Community

Figure 17 depicts the percentage of violent crimes per West Shore community. Langford had the highest percentage with 60% of violent crimes, followed by Colwood (18%), View Royal (13%), Songhees Nation (4%), Metchosin (3%), Highlands (1%) and Esquimalt Nation (only 1 reported offence).

**There were 1,386 Crimes Against Persons in 2024, representing an 8.9% increase compared to 2023, with 1,272.** Of the 1,386 offences, Assaults accounted for the highest incidence of offences followed by Uttering Threats, Harassing Communications, Assault with a Weapon and Sexual Assault. (Figure 18).

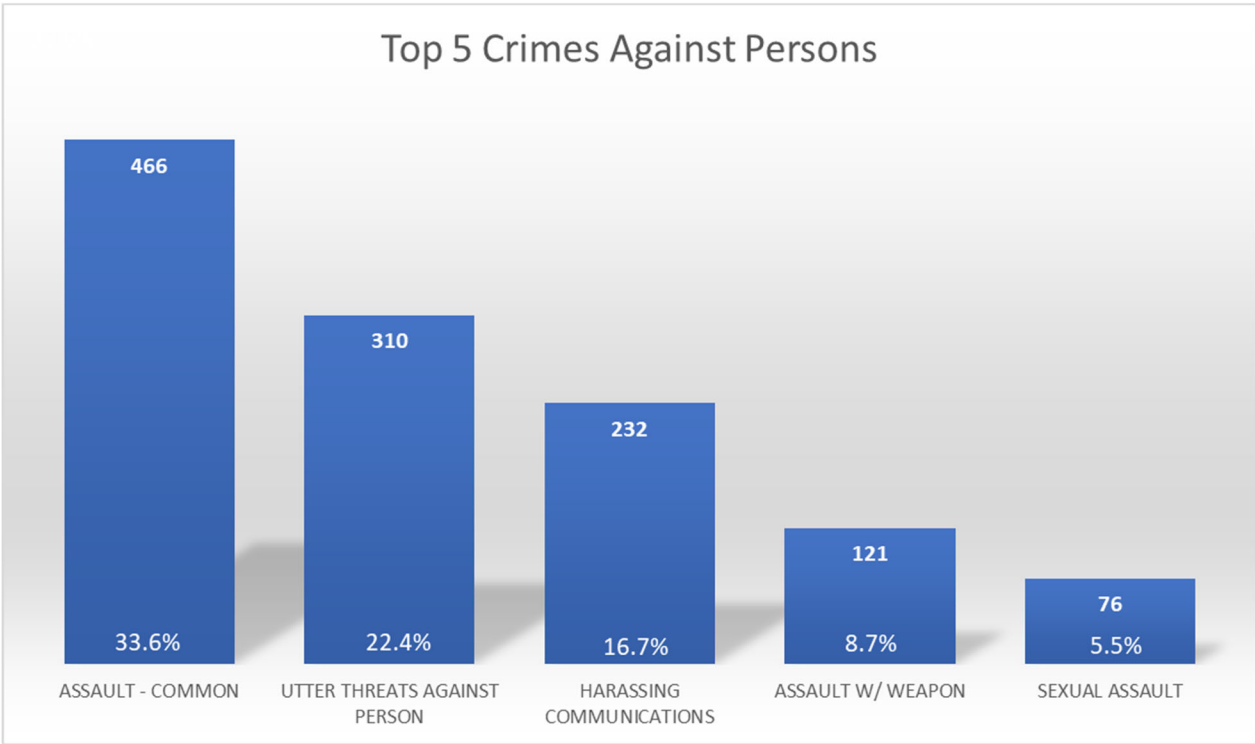


Figure 18 - Top 5 Crimes Against Persons – Violent Crime





## SEX-BASED OFFENCES

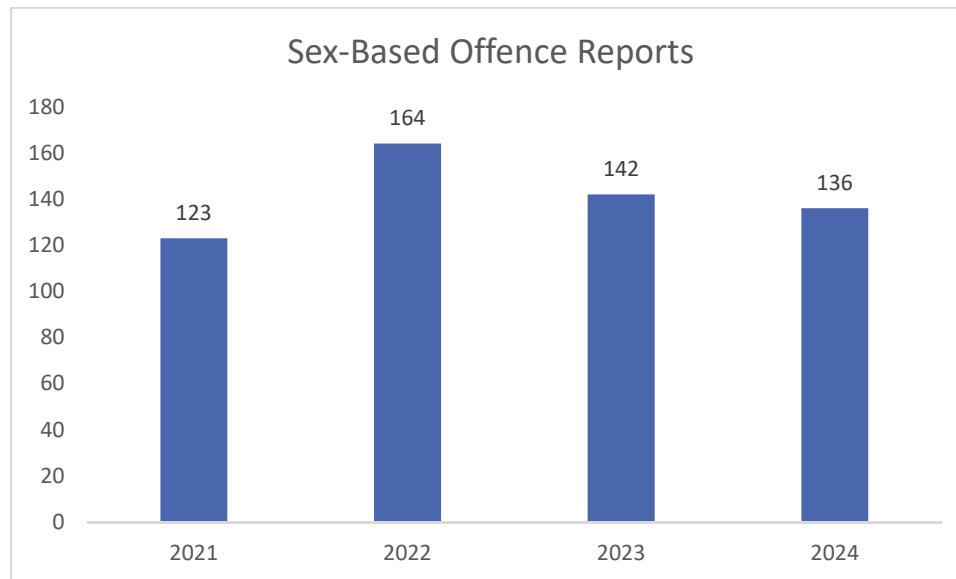


Figure 19 - Sexual Offences between 2021-2024

Figure 19 depicts Sex-Based Offences Reported to West Shore RCMP over a 4-year period. Offences listed in the chart include: sexual assaults, invitation to sexual touching, indecent acts, child luring, sexual interference, voyeurism, incest etc. *(This chart does not include Child Sexual Exploitative Abuse Materials, often referred to as Child Pornography).*

## SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) was created in 2022 to investigate Sex-Based Offences, as these types of investigations are sensitive in nature and complex, requiring the need for a specialized unit to investigate these crimes. SVU is comprised of:

- 1 Corporal
- 4 Constables

They are overseen by the Sergeant in Charge of Serious Crimes. The unit reviews all reports involving sexual assault and will take over complex investigations of this nature including: Sexual Assaults, Sexual Interference/Invitation to sexual touching and other sexual offences like Indecent Acts, Voyeurism and Child Abuse.

SVU also:

- Interviews children under the age of six and monitors child and youth statements (6-14 years of age)
- Provides guidance to Frontline officers for Sexual Offence investigations
- Oversees the West Shore RCMP contributions to the National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR)

SVU officers are highly skilled and specifically trained in critical investigative techniques including interviewing children, writing search warrants and supporting victims who are at risk of being re-victimized. SVU investigators routinely connect with other agencies who are also providing supports to victims. Unit members also provide guidance to Frontline officers to ensure that a trauma informed approach is utilized in investigations.

***In 2024, all West Shore RCMP officers were required to complete a new course for investigators on Sexual Offences. The course covered best practices, policy and procedure regarding Sexual Offence investigations as well as focused on trauma informed policing.***





SERIOUS CRIME UNIT

The Serious Crime Unit (SCU) handles large scale complex investigations. The majority of their workload encompasses violent crime. However, they also investigate suspicious deaths, serious workplace injuries/fatalities and Child Sexual Exploitative and Abusive Material (commonly referred to as Child Pornography).

There have been several high-profile incidents that SCU has investigated in 2024. In the last half of the year SCU investigated the following high-profile incidents including, but not limited to:

- August 2024 – multiple over-doses resulting in 2 deaths in Metchosin.
- September 2024 – An arson and shooting at a popular International singer’s home in Colwood. This investigation garnered international attention. Two suspects were identified by police, one of which has been arrested and remains in custody and one suspect is outstanding and believed to be outside Canada.
- September 2024 – Fatal workplace injury at a construction site in Langford.
- December 2024 – A man was found with gunshot wounds on Kangaroo Road in Metchosin, which is currently under investigation.

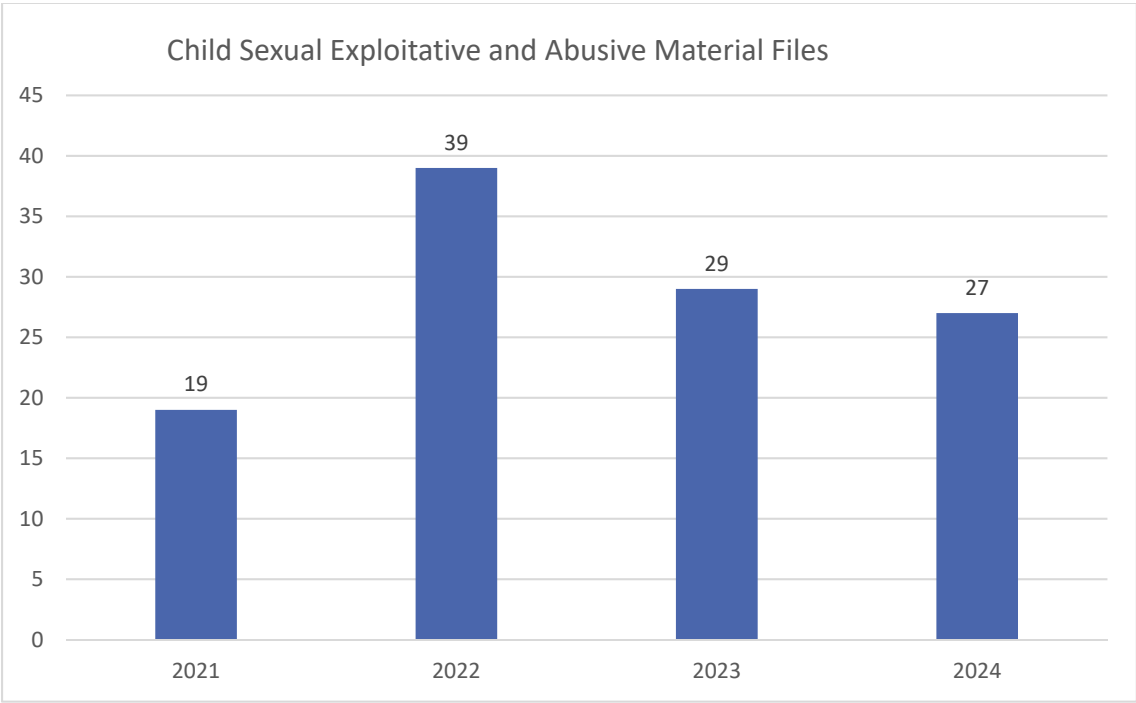


Figure 20 – 2021-2024 Child Pornography Investigations

Figure 20 depicts the number of Child Sexual Exploitative and Abusive Material files over the last four years. In 2024, West Shore RCMP investigated 27 Child Sexual Exploitative and Abusive Material cases. These investigations were largely handled by our Serious Crime Unit. These investigations require technologically advanced forensic techniques and are extremely time-consuming. Often, these investigations take multiple years to complete as digital devices seized by police in these investigations require forensic examination. There have been 28 investigations of this nature per year over the last 4 years.

Note: In 2024, R v. Bykovets rendered a decision which temporarily effecting the rate of referrals of Child Pornography cases to police agencies. The slight decline in these investigations in 2024 and potentially into 2025 may be reflective of this ruling.







MENTAL HEALTH AND MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

West Shore RCMP often respond to calls where there is a mental health component. Under the Mental Health Act (MHA), police may apprehend individuals for their protection and for public safety. Individuals apprehended under the MHA are taken to Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria (for adults) or to the Victoria General Hospital (for youth) for medical assistance. MHA apprehensions are time consuming, as police officers are required to take individuals to a physician for examination and must remain with the individual until the physician has determined if they will be committed under the Mental Health Act.



In April of 2024, West Shore RCMP established a Mental Health Unit made up of:

- 1 Corporal
- Constables
- 2 Registered Nurses from Island Health.

Together, they form two Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Teams (MICR). The co-responding teams work together to meet community members where they are at – often in their homes. RCMP and health-care teams respond with a timely, supportive and empathetic approach to not only the person who is experiencing a crisis, but also to their families and caregivers. In partnership, RCMP and Island Health

teams strive to provide the right support, at the right time, via the best possible response.

In 2024, West Shore received 1,904 mental health related service calls representing a **7% increase** compared to 1,782 service calls in 2023 (Figure 21). **Over the last six years, we have experienced a 46% increase in mental health calls for service.** These calls include check well-being, suicidal persons and Mental Health Act apprehensions, but can also include calls for crimes committed by an individual in crisis.

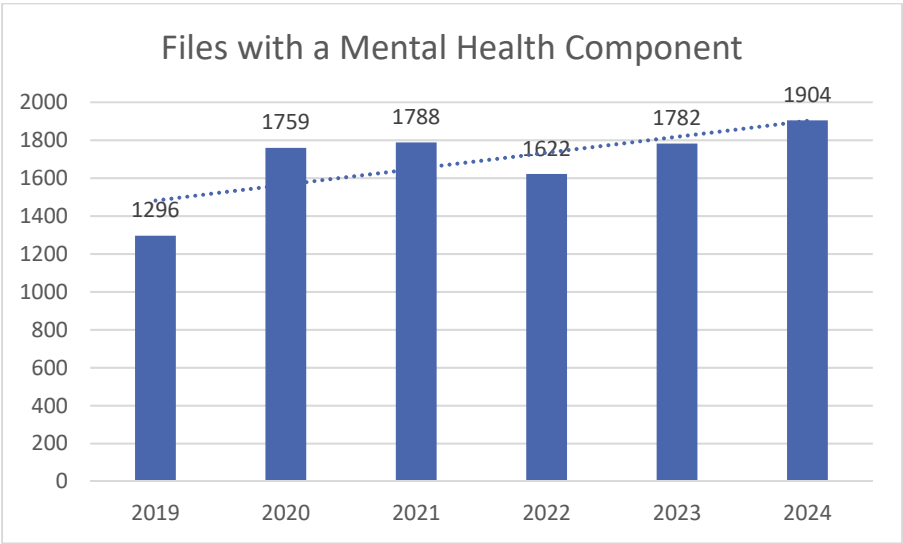
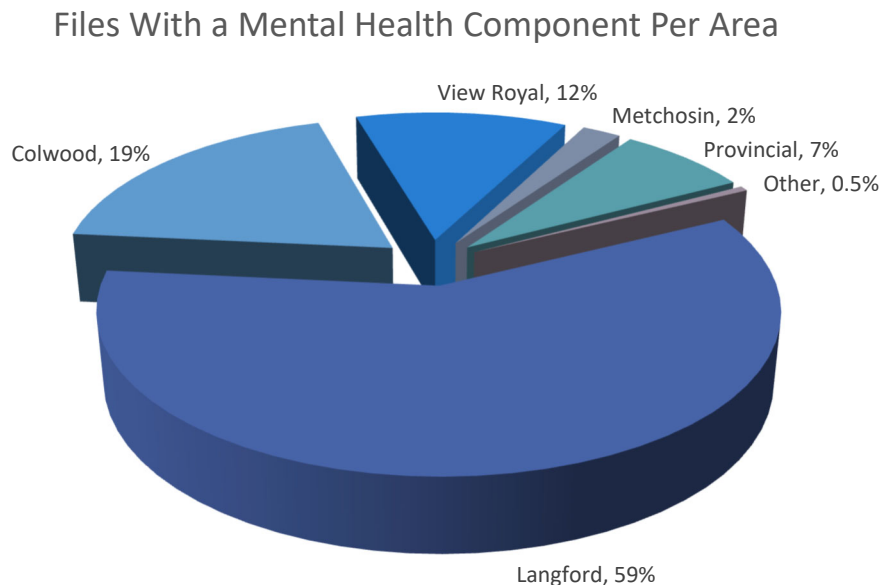


Figure 21 - Service Calls with Mental Health Component





Figure 22 depicts the percentage of files with a mental health component for each West Shore community. Langford had the highest percentage of files, followed by Colwood, View Royal, Provincial areas, Metchosin, then other areas.



*Figure 22 - 2024 % Files with a Mental Health Component per Area*

When making an apprehension under the Mental Health Act, the law requires a police officer to take an individual to a designated medical facility immediately for assessment by a medical doctor.

There were 254 individuals apprehended under the Mental Health Act in 2024, of those 182 were admitted to the hospital for further psychological care. **In 2024 West Shore RCMP officer spent 646 hours at the hospital waiting with apprehended individuals to be assessed, averaging approximately 54 hours per month.**

Currently the MICR Teams are available during daytime hours. When on shift they will prioritize answering the highest risk mental health call for service as it is common to receive multiple overlapping calls of this nature. We are advocating to expand these teams to 24-hour availability.

MICR is well connected to other mental health resources in the community. Having a Registered Nurse with a background in mental health and substance use care allows the teams to triage individuals in the comfort of their own home and ensure only the highest-risk individuals are appended and taken to hospital.





## BIKE PATROL UNIT

West Shore RCMP's Bike Patrol Unit (BPU) is comprised of:

- 1 Corporal
- 4 Constables

BPU provides a visible uniformed enforcement presence that conducts year-round bicycle patrol in areas not easily accessible by vehicle. This mode of transportation allows police officers to respond to situations quickly and quietly day or night.

Bicycle patrol enforcement limits the carbon footprint of police vehicles and the officers are we believe the officers are considered more approachable than officers in a vehicle.



- BPU is a proactive unit and will actively search for individuals with outstanding arrest warrants living in the West Shore. In 2024, they arrested 36 individuals with outstanding warrants, issued over 50 violation tickets for various infractions, conducted over 70 curfew checks (for individuals on court order curfew), and logged hundreds of kilometers patrolling the West Shore trails and urban areas.
- BPU works closely with CRD and Municipal Bylaw Officers to address community concerns such as unwanted solicitation, unhoused encampments, aggressive animal reports and provide support when dealing with belligerent individuals.
- In October 2024, Bike Patrol Unit officers investigated alleged drug trafficking occurring at a Langford residence. The search warrant resulted in police seizing drugs weapons and cash and evidence related to drug trafficking including the following:

*Photo of drugs, weapons and cash seized by BPU:*



- Approx. 583 grams of suspected Cocaine;
- Approx. 95 grams of suspected Fentanyl;
- Approx. 111 grams of suspected Methamphetamine;
- Approx. 29 grams of suspected Ketamine;
- Approx. 13 grams of suspected MDMA;
- Approx. 2 grams of suspected Benzodiazepines;
- Approx. 150 pills of suspected Hydromorphone;
- Approx. 50 pills of suspected Methadone;
- Drug trafficking and packaging materials

like buffering agents, weigh scales, small bags etc.;

- Just over \$1500 cash.







## EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

West Shore RCMP identified Employee Wellness as a key priority for our staff. Along with available psychological services, we have developed a robust physical health portfolio at the detachment. We have a well-equipped in-house gym and multi-purpose fitness studio which is used for group fitness classes. We encourage our members and municipal staff to take the opportunity to workout at their convenience.

Shift work is a reality of policing requiring officers and support staff to work long hours. With this in mind, we converted one office into a quiet room where members and support staff can take time to regroup after a traumatic event or long day.

Critical Incident Stress Debriefings are also offered when officers experience traumatic calls. Support staff who may have been affected by traumatic calls are also invited to participate in the debriefings.

We have several trained Peer Support Employees who are skilled in providing the right supports to officers/staff who are encountering stressful situations. Whether the stress be in a personal or professional capacity our Peer Supports are available to help our staff navigate through hardships.

The RCMP also has a number of Wellness programs including:

- Peer to Peer Coordinators
- Officer and Executive Peer to Peer Volunteers
- Support for Operational Stress Injury (SOSI) Coordinators
- National Reintegration Program Coordinators
- Divisional Fitness and Health Promotion Advisors
- Divisional Chaplains
- Occupational Health and Safety Services offices
- Occupational Safety Officers
- Informal Conflict Management Practitioners
- Well-Being Ambassador

## NEW ROADS THERAPEUTIC RECOVERY COMMUNITY

New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community (Operated by Our Place Society), located at 94 Talcott Rd, View Royal, is a secured long-term treatment facility for men who are experiencing substance abuse issues.<sup>5</sup> Therapeutic housing is available for 9 – 24 months. In 2024, the facility housed upwards of 40 residents (usually 15-30 residences at a time), many of which are subject to court orders and must remain at the facility.

West Shore RCMP has protocols with the Director of the facility when attending calls for service. The Director also notifies West Shore RCMP of new residents in order to ensure police can respond appropriately if called.

## GREATER VICTORIA POLICE VICTIM SERVICES (GVPVS)

Victim Services is a volunteer-based program that works with police to assist people that have been impacted by crime and trauma. Their vision is to help victims achieve a state of well-being and assist in their recovery. They provide services to victims of crime or trauma who may or may not have reported the crime to police or be involved with the criminal justice system. Their clients can include children as well as adults.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ourplacesociety.com/new-roads>, <https://gowestshore.com/a-healing-pathway-to-hope/>





#### Victim Services:

- Provide emotional and practical support;
- Make referrals to government and private services;
- Devise safety plans;
- Assist with Crime Victim Assistance applications;
- Assist with Victim Impact Statements;
- Provide information about the court and criminal justice systems;
- Accompany victims to court;
- Provide education on victim rights and services.

#### CASES REFERRED BY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR 2024

Saanich	493
West Shore	339
Sidney/ North Saanich	129
Victoria	99
Oak Bay	12
Central Saanich	15
Other Police Agency	6
CFB Esquimalt	1
<i>2024 Total</i>	<i>1094</i>

## MEDIA RELATIONS UNIT AND SOCIAL MEDIA



West shore RCMP Media Relations Unit is comprised of one Corporal and one Media Relations Assistant. The Media Relations Assistant position was added in April 2024, and aims to address the need to connect with more community members via social media channels.

The unit responds to media enquires from journalists and news agencies. We strive to keep the public informed by publishing timely media releases on public safety issues/concerns as well as noteworthy police investigations that align with the Annual Performance Plan.

In 2024, we were able to solve numerous investigations by publishing media releases and enlisting the help of the public in identifying suspects. We are grateful for our followers on social media who reached out to police and assisted with these identifications.

#### WEBSITE

West Shore RCMP website is continuously updated to reflect the latest policing news. The website contains information pertaining to some of the most commonly asked questions including Police Information Checks, contact information, volunteer and other programs and the various services West Shore RCMP Detachment offers. The public is able to view emerging West Shore RCMP news releases, report non-violent crime online, access a direct link to Crime Stoppers, and more. West Shore RCMP's website is set to be refreshed and updated to reflect







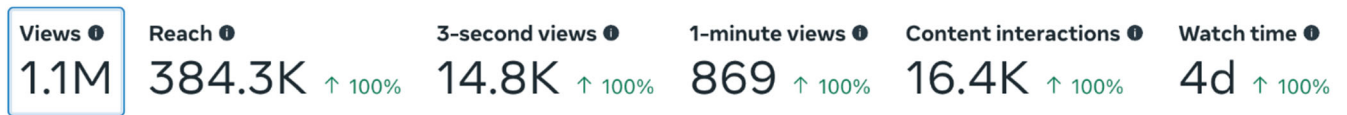
more modern branding and easier user navigation in 2025. We have also started to focus on educational videos featuring the West Shore RCMP highlighting different units, initiatives and specialized services.

**X (FORMERLY KNOWN AS TWITTER)**

Since February 2015, West Shore RCMP has been actively engaging the communities on social media via X (@WestshoreRCMP). The West Shore RCMP’s X account has over 10 000 followers.

**FACEBOOK**

West Shore RCMP started a Facebook page in Jun 2024, since then we have had:



**GREEN TECHNOLOGY**

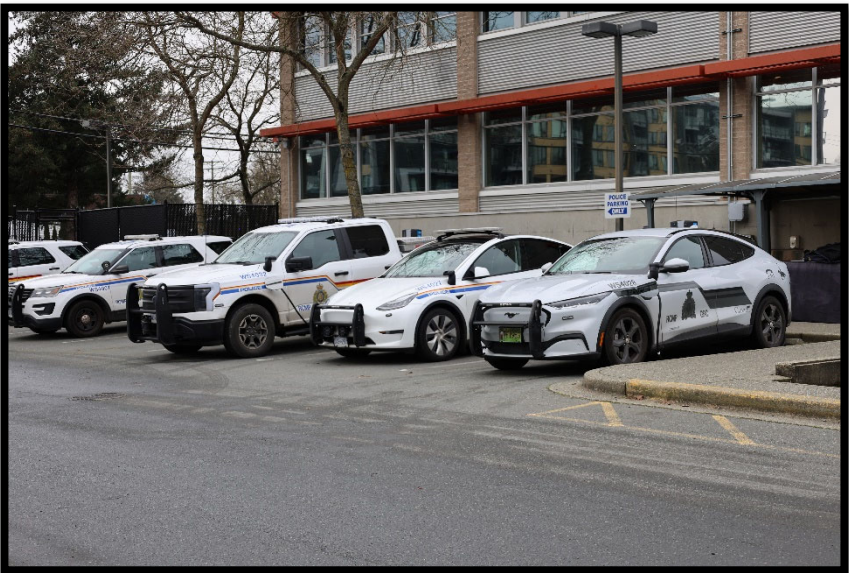
**VEHICLES**

In February 2023, we unveiled the first electric police vehicle, a Tesla Model Y.

In 2024 we added the Mustang Mach-E and Ford F-150 Lightning, which have been outfitted to meet policing standards.

West Shore RCMP is also home to five hybrid police vehicles.

We are commitment to reducing the RCMP’s carbon footprint and comply with the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act.



*Important Note: In 2020, the average general duty West Shore police vehicle cost approximately \$11,100 in fuel and maintenance fees. Since then, costs have gone up due to soaring fuel prices and inflation. The cost of charging and maintaining an electric vehicle is significantly lower and fiscally responsible.*





## STATS AND FACTS

The West Shore RCMP Annual Report provides an overview of various statistics and policing in West Shore and is not comprehensive. The statistics presented in this report were retrieved from RCMP E Division Business Intelligence and the British Columbia Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME) and are accurate on the retrieval date. All data is preliminary and is subject to change based on investigational factors and data quality processes. In cases of discrepancy with previous/subsequent data, the most current data will take precedence. Data collection utilized “most serious offence” scoring consistent with Statistics Canada and the British Columbia Ministry of Justice (Police Services Division (PSD) data collection practices. Police Services Division provides population data. Collision data is not complete as it only includes files where police attended and not all collisions reported to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC).

Founded occurrences gathered as of January 2019 include offences where it has been determined that the reported incident did occur or was attempted, or there was no credible evidence to confirm that the incident did not take place. Prior to 2019, only offences that were proven to have occurred were included in founded occurrences. This change in reporting may result in an increase when comparing post 2019 founded occurrences with reports from previous years.

