



Manitoba Safety Officer Program Newsletter

July 2023

Connecting with Community

Training

The Safety Officer training curriculum is being revised to expand Level 1 Induction training to four (4) weeks. Level 1 training will now include Qualified Persons Training under the Mental Health Act.

Level 2 training will incorporate operational skill development with 40 hours of ‘element specific in field training’ which places Safety Officers with police to observe, assist and learn relevant skills, including;

- Road safety & traffic enforcement
- Impaired driving enforcement
- Crisis response skills
- Arrest processing
- Road weight restriction enforcement

Community Safety News

STEINBACH RCMP - STE. ANNE PS – MB Motor Carriers

The Town of Ste. Anne is an ‘early adopter’ of the Safety Officer Program having created a strong partnership between CSOs and the Ste. Anne Police Service. With a focus on both municipal by-law and Highway Traffic Act, Ste. Anne has improved community and road safety through enactment enforcement and removal of impaired drivers from their roadways.

The City of Steinbach has recently implemented a Transportation and Infrastructure ‘protection program’ by hiring a Safety Officer (SO) dedicated to Truck Weight monitoring. Steinbach’s SO Program works to collaboratively support the RCMP. Manitoba Motor Carrier’s Enforcement (MMCE) not only played a key role in training Steinbach’s SO but continues to support through radio channel access, equipment loan, expertise, oversight and support.



Ste. Anne PS and Steinbach RCMP have developed a strong inter-agency partnership allowing Ste. Anne SO's to support Steinbach RCMP with Mental Health escort duties, freeing RCMP Officers for core policing duties.



Manitoba's Public Safety Division commends the exemplary teamwork created through effective inter-agency resource sharing which has enhanced efficiency and community safety.

SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION FNSO PROGRAM & VIRDEN RCMP

Sioux Valley FNSO Justice Coordinator Helena Mazawasicuna has developed a strong working relationship with the Virden RCMP Sergeant Helen Goodman. Virden RCMP have embraced the FNSO Program and are working collaboratively with Sioux Valley by;

- *Engaging FNSOs support on major cases to locate witnesses and suspects.*
- *Connecting FNSOs with Crown Attorneys to prepare reports and witness evidence.*
- *Teaming up on traffic projects and teaching HTA section numbers and legal authorities.*
- *Sharing court ordered conditions including warrant status for wanted offenders in community.*
- *Collaborating on community safety wellbeing issues, problem solving and resource sharing.*



Submitted by Sioux Valley FNSO Justice Coordinator Helena Mazawasicuna.

Manitoba Justice commends FNSO Mazawasicuna and Sergeant Goodman for their excellent public safety collaboration.



University of Manitoba – Institutional Safety Officer Program: Gord Perrier – “On campus, we respond to around 6,800 calls, and there’s a good portion of those calls that, before, would have been pure police events,” Perrier explained. “So this is really folding in as a community, assisting our police services, and having the ability to act under different pieces of legislation.”
<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/the-enhanced-security-measures-coming-to-the-university-of-manitoba-1.6341127>
 (April 3, 2023)

Association of Manitoba Municipalities

Kam Blight, president of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, says safety officers could perform some of the same tasks police currently do. (CBC)

"The AMM has long called on the Manitoba government to provide greater flexibility to move some enforcement and social services functions from police forces to other funded authorities," said Blight, who is also reeve for the rural municipality of Portage la Prairie.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-community-safety-officers-police-services-act-1.6831072> (May 3, 2023)

"Today's announcement ... recognizes the importance of having multiple resources at one's discretion and need for additional options when responding to situations that pose a safety threat." Kam Blight



Victoria Beach CSO Program



CSO Tony Ayre with Cst. Jules Buers

Victoria Beach recently acquired electric bicycles thanks to Criminal Property Forfeiture (CPF) funding.

CSO Tony Ayre says, "The bikes are perfect for patrolling the cottage area. We can move quickly across our district and navigate the narrow access roads into the Beach area. The cottagers really like to see us out on the bikes".

Vic Beach CSOs enforces their municipal bylaws via the MBEA and assist VB Police Service with HTA matters such as speeding and other traffic related matters.

Legislation update

The Police Services Amendment Act – Bill 34 - amending *The Police Services Act*

Bill 34 was presented in the Manitoba Legislature in April and passed 3d reading on May 15th.

Key amendments include;

- The Director of Policing may establish standards respecting police service operations, facilities and equipment
- A police service may provide a specialized policing service and conduct specialized investigation only if it meets the required standards.
- Establish standards for dealing with criminal intelligence
- **Expanding the role of Community and First Nation Safety Officers** to provide;
 - ✓ An initial response to situations that pose a safety threat before police can attend
 - ✓ Administrative and logistical support to local police in relation to criminal and non-criminal matters
 - ✓ Two or more municipalities may jointly operate a regional community safety officer program.



Partner Agencies

