

Annual Policing Priorities Survey Results

RCMP and Enforcement Services

DATE: February 22, 2022



In January 2022, Strathcona County conducted an online survey regarding Annual Policing Priorities for the RCMP, and for Enforcement Services. The purpose of this survey is to ensure the public has a say in policing priorities in Strathcona County.

Survey Results

This past January, the public was invited to complete a survey about annual policing priorities. The survey was made available online through two platforms, The Strathcona County Online Opinion Panel (SCOOP), and an open online survey (open to residents and non-residents who were not members of SCOOP).

The survey ran between January 5 and January 19, 2022, during which 1,846 people took part in the survey. Surveys were received with 75.8% of respondents from urban areas, 21.1% from rural areas of Strathcona County, and the remaining 3.1% either worked in Strathcona County and did not live there, did not live or work in the county, or chose not to answer the question.

Most of the respondents who participated in the survey were over the age of 35, with 76.3% of the participants between the age of 35 and 74. Very few of the participants were under 25. Overall, of those who declared their gender, 52.8% of participants were female, while 39.4% were male. (There were 0.3% who chose to self-identify, while 7.5% chose not to disclose their gender).

RCMP PRIORITIES

"RCMP from the Strathcona County detachment create an Annual Policing Plan to ensure that, in addition to responding to calls for service, members focus on the policing issues identified by the public as being highly important. These priorities are determined by a number of factors including feedback the RCMP receives from residents of the municipality and communities they serve".

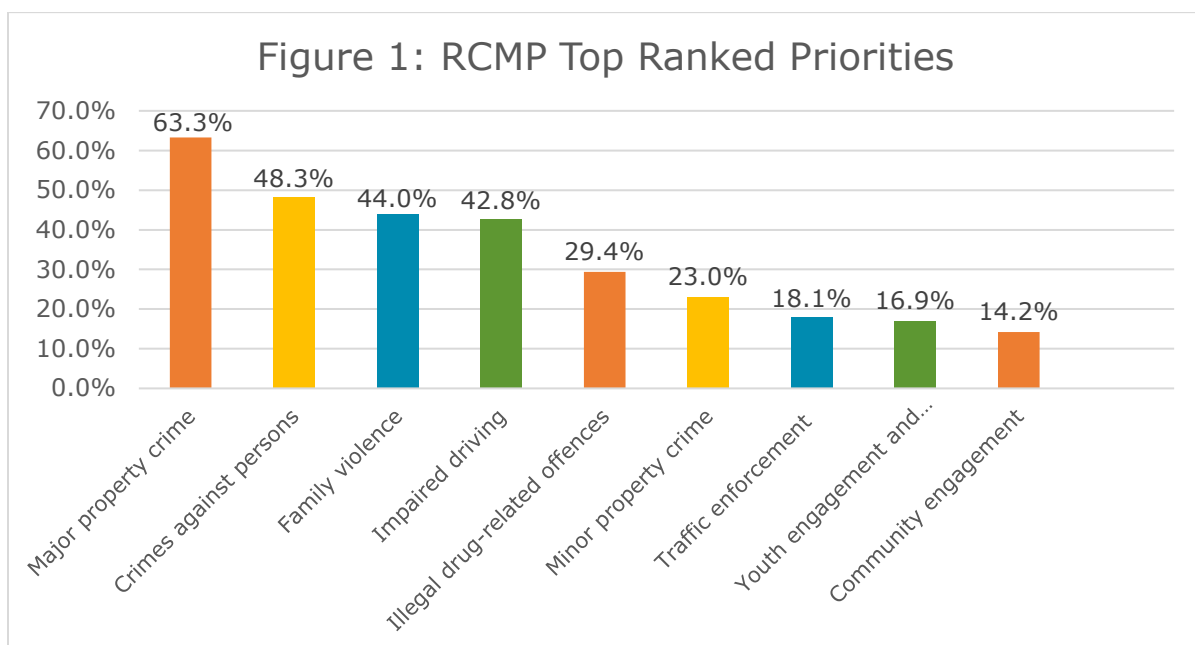
- Supt. Dale Kendall

Respondents were first asked to rank the RCMP services they felt were a priority for them.

Although respondents had different preferences as to where they believe the priorities should be, the most popular choices were as follows:

- “Major property crime” was the most popular among residents as a first (**22.0%**) and second choice (**24.6%**). There was also a sizable percentage (**16.7%**) who chose it as their third choice.
- “Impaired driving” (**20.5%**) was a close second by respondents and their first priority.
- “Family Violence” (**15.6%**) was a close second by respondents as their second priority.
- “Crimes against persons” scored the highest (**17.1%**) as the third priority.

Figure 1 illustrates the percent of respondents ranking the service as a first, second or third priority.



 **63%** OF RESPONDENTS RANKED MAJORITY PROPERTY CRIME AS THEIR FIRST, SECOND OR THRID PRIORITY

OPEN COMMENTS – RCMP

Respondents were asked to provide any comments regarding services provided by the RCMP in Strathcona County. All comments were reviewed by the appropriate parties for consideration. The comments summary can be categorized as follows:

- Out of 1,846 total survey respondents, approximately 30% chose to provide additional comments.
- 66.8% of comments were neutral (not overly positive or negative, just respondents providing advice or opinions, etc.).
- 21.1% of the comments were very positive (representing approx. 6.3% of respondents)
- 12.1% of the comments had a negative tone (representing approx. 3.6% of respondents)
- The common themes taken from the comments were traffic and/or driving related, and sentiments of officer visibility and patrols.
- Many comments mentioned several different topics or viewpoints within one answer.

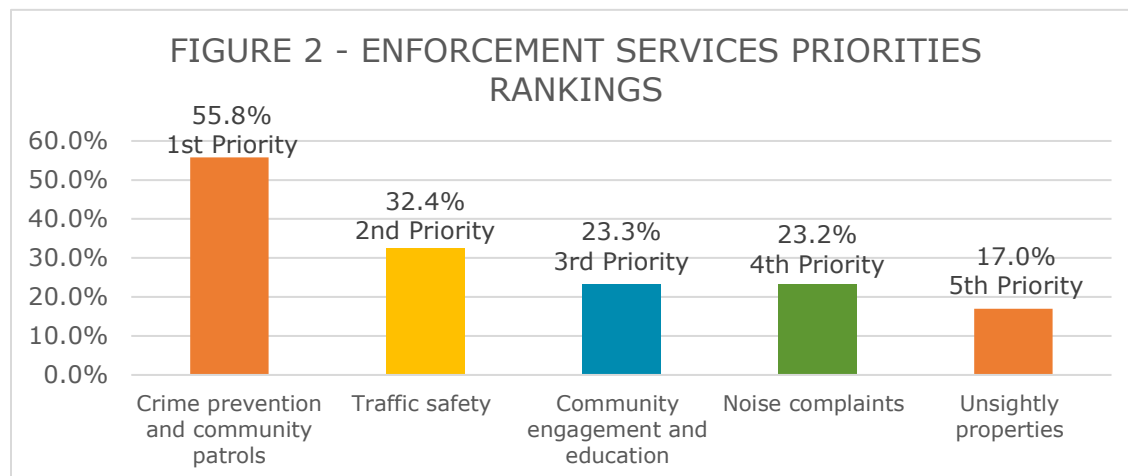
ENFORCEMENT SERVICES PRIORITIES

Community Peace Officers are municipal employees whose duties include bylaw enforcement (this include responding to complaints concerning dog licensing, parking, alarm permitting, property standards, etc.) and the enforcement of provincial traffic laws. Respondents were asked to rank the services provided by Community Peace Officers highest priority to lowest.

TOP 5 ENFORCEMENT SERVICES PRIORITIES

Figure 2 represents the ratings of services by it's most common ranking. Although respondents have different preferences regarding the priorities, the most popular top 5 choices were as follows:

- 55.8% of respondents picked "Crime prevention and community patrols" as their first priority.
- 32.4% of respondents picked "Traffic Safety" as their second priority.
- 23.3% of respondents picked "Community engagement" as their third priority.
- 23.2% of respondents picked "Noise complaints" as their fourth priority.
- 17.0% of respondents picked "Unsightly properties" as their fifth priority.



OPEN COMMENTS – ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Question #5 asked respondents to provide any comments regarding services provided by Community Peace Officers in Strathcona County. All comments have been reviewed by the appropriate parties for consideration. The general comments can be categorized as follows;

- Out of 1,846 survey respondents, approximately 16% chose to provide additional comments.
- 66.4% of comments were seen as neutral comments (not overly positive or negative, just respondents providing advice or opinions etc.).
- 19.8% of the comments were seen as very positive (representing 3.2% of respondents)
- 13.8% of the comments had a negative tone to them (representing 2.2% of respondents)
- Some themes taken from the comments were of traffic and/or driving related (mixed feelings for and against traffic safety operations), and themes of officer visibility and patrols.
- Many comments mentioned several different topics or viewpoints in one answer.

Community Involvement

Each year, RCMP and Enforcement Services establish policing and municipal enforcement priorities to ensure their members focus on issues the public identifies as important.

In addition to priorities, responses to calls for service help the departments allocate resources for the year. Statistics, crime trends and community partner and stakeholder input are also considered.

By collaborating with the community on priorities and planning, RCMP and Enforcement Services is better able to support community safety, resiliency and overall well-being while reducing crime and other harmful social impacts.

RCMP and Enforcement Services work together to ensure Strathcona County is a safe community to live, work and play. They are integrated in the overall responsibility for public safety, law enforcement, evidence gathering, support for victims of crime, traffic enforcement, and education and public awareness through community policing.

Together, they are committed to preserving the peace, upholding the law and providing quality service in partnership with the community.

What's Next?

Join RCMP Officer in Charge Supt. Dale Kendall and RCMP and Enforcement Services Director Tom Sutton for a community information session on police and enforcement services opportunities in Strathcona County, as well as an opportunity for questions. March 3, 2022, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.



**DID YOU KNOW: FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
POLICING PRIORITIES AT STRATHCONA.CA**

More Information

Website: [Strathcona.ca/RCMPtownhall](https://strathcona.ca/RCMPtownhall)