

Impact Recap

Highlights and outcomes from your Chamber events



Downtown Safety, Crime Prevention & Community Action

A Conversation with the RCMP

Downtown safety remains a common concern raised by Chamber members. To help businesses better understand current policing priorities, crime trends, and available prevention tools, the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce welcomed **Inspector Troy Swift** and **Staff Sergeant Sabrina Clayton** of the Wood Buffalo RCMP for an open discussion on crime prevention, community safety, and practical steps businesses can take to protect their employees, customers, and property.



Downtown crime levels remain relatively stable

RCMP shared that downtown file volumes have remained relatively consistent between 2025 and the first half of 2026, with no significant increases observed.

While calls fluctuate throughout the year, the overall volume has remained steady.

Property crime continues to be the biggest concern for businesses

While violent crime remains the community's highest perceived concern, RCMP data showed that the most common downtown police files involve:

- Mischief
- Shoplifting
- Theft under \$5,000
- Well-being checks

This reinforces the importance of prevention, reporting, and environmental design in reducing opportunities for crime.

Prevention works best when businesses and police work together

Inspector Swift emphasized that policing is most effective when businesses consistently report incidents.

Accurate reporting allows RCMP to identify crime patterns, deploy resources where they are needed most, and investigate repeat offenders.

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FORT MCMURRAY
Chamber of Commerce

Community priorities are shaping RCMP policing

Public consultation identified the community's top policing priorities:

- Violent offences
- Property crime and theft
- Drug-related offences
- Community policing
- Traffic enforcement



SURVEY TRENDS

#1



**VIOLENT
PERSON
OFFENCES**

#2



**PROPERTY
CRIME &
THEFT**

#3



**ILLEGAL
DRUG RELATED
OFFENCES**

#4



**COMMUNITY
POLICING**

#5



**TRAFFIC SAFETY
&
ENFORCEMENT**

New tools are available for businesses

RCMP highlighted several initiatives available to local businesses, including:

- Agent Status Forms allowing RCMP to act on behalf of participating businesses when addressing trespassing.
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments.
- ProtechDNA property identification kits.
- Increased Beat Team patrols throughout the downtown core.



This premise has designated the Wood Buffalo RCMP as authorized representatives (agents) of the owner pursuant to the Trespass to Premises Act. Any person deemed not to be a lawful user, or whose conduct is detrimental to the safe and orderly operation of the premises, may be denied entry or removed from the premises by the Wood Buffalo RCMP.

AGENT

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What We Heard

A significant portion of the discussion focused on member experiences operating downtown.

Businesses shared concerns regarding:

- repeat trespassing
- homelessness and encampments
- employee safety
- communication following police reports
- the need for continued collaboration between businesses, RCMP, and the Regional Municipality.

RCMP acknowledged these concerns, encouraged continued reporting of every incident, and committed to improving follow-up communication with complainants.

"Public safety is fundamental to a strong business community. We appreciate the RCMP's openness in listening to our members, answering difficult questions, and providing practical tools businesses can use today."

The Chamber remains committed to advocating for collaborative solutions that support both a vibrant downtown and a safe environment for businesses, employees, and visitors."

— Dianna de Sousa, President & CEO, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce

Looking Ahead

The Chamber will continue working with the RCMP, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and community partners to advocate for practical solutions that strengthen downtown safety, support local businesses, and encourage ongoing collaboration across our region.

Continue the Conversation

Your feedback helps shape the Chamber's advocacy efforts. We'd love to hear from you.
Email us at accounting@fortmcmurraychamber.ca