2016 ANNUAL REPORT



ABBOTSFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



INTEGRITY • HONOUR • COURAGE • SERVICE













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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

On behalf of the Abbotsford Police Board, I am pleased to present the Abbotsford Police Department's 2016 Annual Report to the residents of Abbotsford. While highlighting 2016, this report also outlines our objectives for 2017.

The Abbotsford Police Board provides independent civilian oversight and governance of the Abbotsford Police Department to ensure measurable progress towards a safer community.

As Board Chair, I am very privileged to be working alongside the Abbotsford Police Department, Chief Constable Bob Rich and all of the Abbotsford Police Board members.

2016 has been an especially challenging year for the APD. Drugs, especially the fentanyl crisis, and gang violence have had tragic effects in our community. The APD has met these challenges head on through media campaigns, hosting public forums, and building strong connections in our community. All of this has served as a strong reminder that it takes our whole community to tackle some of our most challenging issues related to crime prevention and

I would like to thank the APD for their daily commitment to their work and for having an in-depth knowledge about the needs of our community. We respect the work you do to protect our city and save lives.

I would also like to thank the members of the Abbotsford Police Board for their continued commitment to the residents of Abbotsford and for their direction as we move into 2017. I look forward to working with you again to provide support and oversight to our dedicated Police Department.

Together, we are all working to make Abbotsford the safest city in BC.



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF CONSTABLE BOB RICH

Our job is to keep you safe. It is that simple and should be that focused. Of course, it becomes more complicated as you try to make that a reality, but all we do should come back to that simple mission.

This year our response to the Lower Mainland Gang Conflict is a priority. Members in this conflict live all over the Lower Mainland, but a very high number live here in Abbotsford. To date, we have announced firearms or drug charges against ten people stemming from five investigations this year. We are also working very hard to do interventions with families where a youth is getting involved with gangs. It is far better to convince a young man to make a different choice. However if being arrested is what it takes to deliver the message, we will make that happen.

Most of the street drugs sold in Abbotsford are laced with fentanyl or carfentanyl. They are poison. The only way to ensure you don't die from these drugs is not to take them. We need to deliver that information and also change the culture that makes it okay to take that kind of risk. The APD has released a paper on the opioid crisis, advocating for the Province to invest heavily in prevention. It is on our website: abbypd.ca.

Road safety affects every person in our community. We work with the City to design safe streets and enforce traffic laws in a way that reduces accidents. However, the best possible tool we have is to convince you to be careful. Careful when you drive and careful when you walk. Bluntly, many people are driving too fast in our community. It may seem fine to speed up a bit, until you don't have time to react to a

child running out from behind a car. Remember that thought, because it really does happen, and slow down. I also wonder if we will need to add a "distracted walking" offence when I watch someone step off a curb while staring at their phone. We tell our children to look both ways. We just need to listen to our own words.

We also devote proactive resources to reducing property crime, especially break ins to your house and auto theft. Last year was a bad year for us and we lost ground gained in earlier years. So far this year we are turning that around. I am pleased we are again making progress.

Abbotsford is a fantastic community. I want you to know the City is served by an engaged and professional police service, staffed with men and women who want to keep you safe. I am very proud of who they are and what they do.



MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY CHIEF MIKE SERR

To achieve our mission to make Abbotsford the safest city in BC we need to foster and promote the importance of having a healthy workforce. Ensuring public safety is both demanding and stressful for our sworn members and civilian staff and it is important that APD guarantees all employees have a healthy workplace and work / life balance. The APD provides ongoing programming that enhances and supports mental and physical health; that will continue

to be a priority.

Policing is continually evolving and it is important that APD continues to be forward thinking while at the same time ensuring fiscal responsibility. Approximately 90 percent of our annual budget is dedicated to staffing; therefore, identifying and implementing efficiencies to increase our capacity to protect the community with the level of service that has come to be expected continues to be a priority.



MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY CHIEF DAVE SCHMIRLER

Strategic reconfiguration of police resources led to a decrease in response times, despite a slight increase in crime rates, and saw the successful introduction of the Operational Support Officer program. The Valley Sweep Project, comprised of police from Abbotsford, Mission and Chilliwack, resulted in the arrest of 100 property crime subjects. This project was continued in Abbotsford, targeting suspects who had breached their release conditions. Operation Roundup was established to apprehend persons with outstanding warrants.

This year's highlight was a nearly 30% reduction in Residential Break and Enter.

In response to the Fentanyl crisis, APD implemented many initiatives, including naloxone kits, ION Scanner, training for response to overdose/death, Canada-wide Drug Awareness committee, community-wide Fentanyl Working Group, Parents' Forum and Middle School presentations.

The Townline Hill Conflict continued, developing into a Lower Mainland Gang Conflict.

By hosting its first annual Awards Ceremony, the Department celebrated the outstanding actions of sworn members, civilian employees and members of the public who demonstrated courage, initiative, dedication and perseverance.

PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY

The Junior Police Academy is a program that the Abbotsford Police Department runs yearly with our local youth interested in policing as a career. This year, twenty-six grade eleven and twelve students from various Abbotsford high schools were carefully selected from a group of over 50 applicants to participate in the program which teaches basic law, police control tactics/self-defence, and included a day at the firearm range. The week-long program ended with the students applying what they learned during a scenario-based training day, where there were challenged as "police officers" to resolve problems. "This is a week we always really look forward to," said Youth Squad officer and JPA coordinator Cst. Steve Kern. "It provides students a glimpse of what it's like to be a police officer by testing their abilities as if they were one."



COPS FOR CANCER TOUR DE VALLEY

APD Officers partake in this annual event every fall, raising funds for children with cancer. Officers who volunteer for the Tour de Valley partner with over a hundred law enforcement and emergency services personnel from across the province, braving all types of weather as they cycle across the daunting terrain of Vancouver Island, Northern BC, BC's coast and the Fraser Valley.

Why? Because the impact of cancer on the life of a child and their family is devastating. Donations made to the Canadian Cancer Society through Cops for Cancer are used to fund life-saving research and caring support programs to reduce its impact.

INTEGRITY HONOUR COURAGE SERVICE



OPERATION REVEALUTION

The Abbotsford Police Department worked with community partners to develop #Speakup, to raise awareness of domestic violence within our high schools.

An important video on the topic of violence in relationships, called "Reveal'ution," was created and produced by Fire Canvas Productions and features amazing actors from the W.J. Mouat Secondary drama class. With the full support of the Abbotsford School District, the APD Domestic Violence Unit used the film as part of a discussion with students in grades 10-12 in schools throughout Abbotsford as a way to increase awareness of relationship violence and to encourage



youth to seek help if they witness or experience it. The Abbotsford Police Department and the APD Domestic Violence Unit encourage all citizens to join us in our effort to end relationship violence. The link to the video can be found here: https://youtu.be/yv8dtpWxFnU.



NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH

April is 911 Awareness and Education Month. In April 2016, the Abbotsford Police Communications Section coordinated a colouring contest and presented to numerous Abbotsford elementary schools. The Abbotsford Police Department Dispatchers, Police Officers and Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service Public Education Officers visited elementary schools, reaching over 2000 children, delivering 9-1-1 presentations outlining when and how to call in an emergency.

Our Communications Center received 57,645 calls for service in 2016; 78,452 were made to 911.



TEAM ALEXA

In 2009, Team Alexa was created in partnership between the Middelaer family, the BC Road Safety Foundation and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. Team Alexa is named for Alexa Middelaer, who was killed by an impaired driver in 2008 when she was four years old. In 2016, nine Abbotsford Police Officers were recognized for their work in reducing the number of impaired drivers on roads. Officers must complete a minimum of 12 impaired driving investigations in a year in order to qualify for the team. Three Abbotsford Police constables were recognized as "All Stars" for conducting more than 25 impaired driving investigations: John Davidson, Davin Turner and Renae Williams.

Other Abbotsford officers honoured were: Constables Larry Campbell, Jon Courtney, Jeff Gayger, Marc Lequesne, Michael Oakman and Leisa Shea.

APD CITY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Abbotsford Police Department City Basketball
Tournament has become one of the most exciting
events on the local sports calendar! In December the
seventh annual tournament hosted 63 teams, 100
games and over 900 athletes all competing for
city- wide bragging rights in three age groups!
This event includes boys' and girls' teams from
grade 8 to senior levels and is coordinated

through efforts of the APD, the Abbotsford Police Foundation, the Abbotsford School District, generous sponsors and many dedicated volunteers. This event is another opportunity for our community to come out to support the numerous youth who are making great choices and playing high caliber basketball. Packing the stands for these games is a tangible way that parents, grandparents, family, friends, neighbours and others in the community can demonstrate that our city, and the youth in it, really matter.

ABBOTSFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRITICAL EVENTS OF 2016

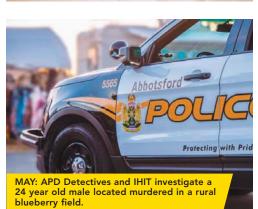
Policing is often about responding to serious and traumatic events. Here are some of the critical events from 2016.

























OCTOBER: APD and RCMP execute search warrant on Mt Lehman Road and locate large-scale methamphetamine lab inside residence, believed to be linked to organized crime. The environment of the residence was extremely toxic, dangerous and presented severe public safety risks prior to intervention by law enforcement.





NOVEMBER: Random stabbing of two high school students at Abbotsford Senior Secondary turns fatal. 21 year old male located and taken into police custody.



OVERALL CRIME IN 2016

In 2016, Abbotsford had one of the lowest overall crime rates (74), property crime rates (49) and violent crime rates (10) among all municipalities in the Fraser Valley with a population greater than 30,000

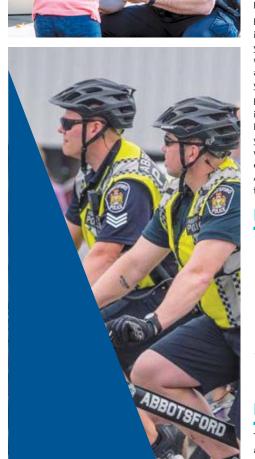
*Crime data download on June 14, 2017 from PRIME BC (2016).

**Note: Canada Census population totals for 2016: Abbotsford (141,397), Langley (117,285), Chilliwack (83,788), Surrey (517,887), Mission 38,833)

***Crime rate per 1000 formula = Total number of reported criminal code files/(Population/1000)







ABBOTSFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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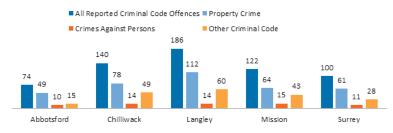
SERVICE

Crime Rate Per 1000 People on Reported Crimes in 2016

There were 10,396 Criminal Code offences reported in the City of

Abbotsford. Crimes against Property represented 66% (6,907) of all

Criminal Code offences; Crimes against Person accounted for 14% (1,427) and the remaining 20% (2,062) were other Criminal Code offences.



Despite successes, the Abbotsford Police Department continues to battle gang violence and the Fentanyl crisis. The Drug and Gang Unit have made some significant arrests:

December 2016: The Abbotsford Police Gang and Drug Unit investigate a drug distribution line. Jordan Thompson (23 years old) and Trinity Therrien (23 years old) were charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking and trafficking; and Gino Vitali (20 years old) (2 counts) and Kole Dicer (21 years old) (3 counts) were charged with trafficking.

December 2016: The APD Gang and Drug Unit initiated an investigation into the drug trafficking activities of Michael Bentley. As a result of the investigation, Michael Bentley (39 years old) and Joshua Seffelaar (30 years old) were charged with 2 counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking each and a search warrant was executed on a residence in the Abbotsford area. Trafficking quantities of cocaine, heroin and fentanyl were seized.

There were 5 drug/gang related homicides in 2016.

Fentanyl started to rear its ugly head in more drug seizures and overdoses in 2016.

Deputy Chief Serr, Fraser Health Authority and mental health and substance abuse specialists held our first Community Forum to address concerns and present information.

Over 100 APD sworn and civilian staff have now been trained in administrating intra-nasal naloxone. Front line officers to date have reversed 6 overdoses. This is an important tool for public and officer safety.

Youth Education - APD Youth Squad presented to high school students the facts about street drugs. With the assistance of the Abbotsford Police Foundation and School District 34 a contest for all students great 8 and above called Youth Making Positive Choices was initiated to raise awareness.

PROJECT VALLEY SWEEP

Police in the Fraser Valley are crediting Project Valley Sweep for a decline in property crime over the 2016 summer months. This joint effort involved seven dedicated officers from Abbotsford Police Department, Chilliwack and Mission RCMP. Created in response to an increase in property crime throughout the region, the three-month project aimed to reduce theft of autos, theft from autos and break and enters, by focusing enforcement actions on repeat and chronic offenders.

The project resulted in police making contact with 582 individuals during street, vehicle, and curfew compliance checks, which led to 94 arrests and 54 individuals facing

91 charges ranging from the breach of court ordered conditions to possession for the purpose of trafficking. On one occasion an offender was caught breaching a court-ordered curfew, when the person left their residence after a curfew check, not realizing officers would return to complete a second check.

Recognizing that drug and alcohol addictions often lead individuals to commit property crimes, a mandate to offer those wanting help was included, with access to resources that would assist them in addressing addiction issues. There were 33 offers of outreach programs to those caught up in the sweep.

ROAD SAFETY, SPEED WATCH AND COUNTER ATTACK

The Abbotsford Police uses targeted enforcement and initiatives to enforce traffic safety throughout our community. In 2016, we investigated seven fatal crashes, an increase of one incident from 2015. Through public education, proactive enforcement, social media educational campaigns and programs, our goal is to encourage a positive roadway environment and to reduce injuries. By respecting other drivers and taking responsibility as safe drivers, we can increase safety for all road users.

Speed Watch is an educational program aimed at reducing incidents of speeding. It is designed to raise public awareness of the actual speeds drivers are traveling. The Speed Watch program is conducted in partnership with the police, citizen volunteers and ICBC.

Did you know:

- The Speed Watch Program monitors speeding in your
- Using portable RADAR equipment and an electronic sign for instant feedback, drivers will be made aware of

their speed as they travel along neighbourhood streets.

- Information about speeding locations will be given to the police and Speed Watch
- Schools can obtain volunteers by utilizing the display unit at open house sessions.

Speed Watch helps address traffic issues by raising public and community awareness, encouraging neighbourhoods to take action, gathering speed-related data, providing traffic calming and raising police awareness to problem areas.

Counterattack Campaign

Impaired driving continues as one of the top contributing factors of serious injury or fatal crashes in our Province. The Counterattack Campaign involves teams of officers working day and night shifts throughout the week and weekends to target impaired drivers. This campaign runs at various times throughout the year, primarily summer and December/January. However, targeted enforcement by officers occurs throughout the year.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2016, the Abbotsford Police Board Members directed the staff of the Abbotsford Police Department to research and develop an updated Strategic Plan. The Abbotsford Police Management Team, Police Board Members, Strategic Plan Facilitator and Community Stake Holders ventured out to consult with our community.

Through Town Hall meetings, online Public Surveys, community partner conversations, employee consultation and strategic planning meetings, a three year Strategic Plan was developed. Four Strategic Priorities were identified:

1. Focus on Enforcement and Prevention

 The Abbotsford Police Department will establish and report annually on operational targets for priority enforcement and prevention activities.

2. Support and Develop our People

- To continue to develop and promote a healthy workplace.
- To implement proactive supervisory and leadership succession plan.
- Ensure effective development and training for our staff throughout the police department.

3. Engage with Our Community

- The Abbotsford Police Department will continue to connect with citizens to enhance public safety.
- Engage with community partners on issues of shared priority.
- Continue building a department that reflects our community.

4. Manage for Sustainability

- Maintain effective and efficient fiscal management.
- Plan to meet future capacity needs.

Successful implementation of any multi-year strategic plan relies on implementation of effective annual plans for operations and financial management and oversight. The Abbotsford Police Management Team will develop and implement a comprehensive system for reporting on performance to the Police Board. This will include operational, financial and human resource measures. Looking ahead, the Abbotsford Police Department will align performance measures with the Provincial standards, once these are developed.

1. FOCUS ON ENFORCEMENT AND PREVENTION

The results of our consultation confirmed public and partner expectations that we continue to focus on priority enforcement and crime prevention activities. Today, these include suppressing gang violence, dealing with the fentanyl crisis, enhancing road safety and reducing property crime. This goal reflects our commitment to build on past success, and take proactive measures to address whatever current priorities may emerge over the duration of this plan. Our aim is to maintain, and where possible, to improve, the overall effectiveness of our enforcement and prevention activities.

Although property crime has increased over the past year, by focusing on prolific and repeat offenders, we will try to reduce the upward trend for the remainder of the year. Our goal is to reduce property crime by 10%.

PLEASE WORK WITH US BY:

- 1. REMOVING VALUABLES FROM YOUR CAR. People will break into a car for loose change. Parking in a well-lit area will also deter some would-be thieves.
- 2. USING AN ANTI-THEFT DEVICE LIKE A "CLUB" on your older-model vehicle. Check your vehicle doors to ensure they are locked.
- **3. PHONING 911** if you think something suspicious is happening and there may be a crime in progress.
- **4. WATCHING OUT FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURS.** We are a community and we look after each other.

We are committed to a comprehensive anti-gang strategy that emphasizes both prevention and enforcement.

This strategy includes community involvement and youth intervention to not only target active criminals, but encourage, promote awareness and educate our community about the pitfalls of gang life and to intervene with youth to discourage gang involvement.

The Abbotsford Police Gang Unit is dedicated to the youth of Abbotsford and actively identify at risk youth for targeted intervention.

Parents are involved early in the process to engage positive messaging to the youth as well as education for the parents.

Please contact the Abbotsford Police Gang Unit for information on warning signs for gang involvement and risk factors as well as help with getting yourself or someone you care about out of the gang life.

2. SUPPORT AND DEVELOP OUR PEOPLE

It is no secret that physical and mental strain have serious consequences for your well-being. It is also not surprising to learn that researchers have found that working in the stress of a police environment can contribute to health problems. To combat the health hazards, individual officers and entire agencies are looking to wellness programs for our staff.

HONOUR

The core of an effective police

COURAGE

force is its people: both sworn members and civilian employees. This priority restates our commitment to providing a healthy work environment that support our members, and reflects organizational values, provides appropriate tools, and offers opportunities for learning and growth. A key part of this support is leadership, and this priority also recognizes the importance of ensuring that we identify, recruit and develop leaders at all levels who champion and personify the Department's values.

Across Canada, first responders are struggling with their own emotional wellbeing as they respond to crisis after crisis. The cumulative toll on the people that respond when people in the community are in trouble is now something we must address. The men and women of the APD proudly serve this community and know that what they do matters. But they are being affected by the traumatic events they witness and other pressures they deal with.

An essential part of providing an excellent police service now must include a plan to keep our staff well. We are working to create a culture where members take time to work on both their physical and emotional health. The APD is striving to be an organization that supports its staff and provides the services they need to access to stay healthy throughout their careers.

Some of the steps needed are support after critical incidents, training in emotional health and professional assistance when the job we ask them to do has taken its toll

The Abbotsford Police Department has developed a consensus-built employee wellness program, which includes a wellness month in May. This program has promoted a healthy workplace and has enabled staff members to stay active and engaged with colleagues. In addition, the APD is implementing a proactive supervisory and leadership succession plan, and is also ensuring that effective personal development and training across the department is being achieved.

The APD will implement an employee wellness plan in 2017 that will incorporate the various programs and services already in place and next steps we will take to keep members well.

ABBOTSFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

SERVICE

3. ENGAGE WITH THE COMMUNITY

The foundation for municipal policing is the relationship with the community. This includes all parts of the community, regardless of age, ethnicity, religion, orientation or background. Maintaining the public trust, through ethical policing, responding to complaints and providing positive interactions is essential for the APD to be able to both keep the community safe and provide citizens with an assurance that they are safe and protected.

We achieve this connection through all aspects of how we interact with the community, including our use of traditional and social media, our community and crime prevention programs and our daily interaction with the public. We will continually assess what steps are needed to maintain this essential relationship and where exceptional steps should be taken as we respond to current issues in the community. This priority on relationship extends to our partners, the other stakeholder agencies in our community, so we can effectively address concerns in the community together.

We recognize that citizens must not only be safe but must also perceive that their community is safe and secure. Through this objective, we re-commit to working with citizens individually and in community groups to enhance both actual and perceived safety across Abbotsford. We will:

- Work with citizens and their representative groups to prevent crime and improve road safety;
- Conduct a public satisfaction and victimization survey every two years;
- Continue liaison with community groups to work on issues of joint concern.

Public safety (Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service, BC Ambulance Service, Search and Rescue, etc.), Border Security, health and social services agencies are just some of the community partners with whom we work on a daily basis on issues of shared concern. In addition to preventing crime and improving traffic safety, we also heard strong encouragement for our continued work with youth to prevent their involvement in criminal activity in the future. This collaboration will continue to

be a priority focus for us. We will continue to work with our community partners to prevent crime, partner with youth outreach initiatives, and improve road safety.

In a multi-cultural city like Abbotsford, it is important that our police service reflects the community. The Abbotsford Police Department will continue initiatives that focus on recruiting to reflect Abbotsford demographics, within common standards for skills and experience.

WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

- Child ID
- Citizens Patrol
- CPO Office
- Cell Watch
- Speed Watch
- Lock Out Auto Crime
- Special Events Team
- Reserve Constable Program
- Victim Services

4. MANAGE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

This Priority reflects the essential work involved in taking advantage of opportunities and mitigating against major changes in the Department's operating context in the years to come. Key factors in this context include financial sustainability, growth in population and demographic changes in our community. It also includes forecasting the corresponding capital and facilities investments needed to meet the needs of the community in the years to come.

Maintaining effective and efficient fiscal management is one of the Abbotsford Police objectives. This reflects the importance of ensuring that the Department spends this public money wisely, by developing and implementing a fair labour relations strategy that contains expenditures and reflects the cost of living in our community.

The Abbotsford Police Board faces choices and options in relation to budget recommendations to City Council, balancing efficiency, fair labour practices and the cost of policing as part of the City's overall costs. Overall, we seek to ensure the sustainability of policing within the means of municipal taxpayers.

Plan to meet future capacity needs. This objective anticipates a focus on planning to ensure we have appropriately qualified people working in our organization and governing the Department, and that they have a healthy and modern physical environment in which to work.

OVERVIEW 2017

APD is making gang and fentanyl investigations a priority.

TARGETED ENFORCEMENT

Our Drug Enforcement Unit and newly formed Gang Suppression Unit have initiated several high-level fentanyl investigations. APD is committed to disrupting the distribution of fentanyl on our streets. Focused on the Lower Mainland Gang Conflict, these Units will work to terminate gang violence and trafficking, especially Fentanyl.

ABBOTSFORD DRUG OVERDOSE WORKING GROUP

This inter-agency working group is chaired by the Abbotsford Police Department and includes community partners from the City of Abbotsford, Abbotsford Community Services, Fraser Health, School District 34, BC Ambulance Service, Abbotsford Fire and Rescue Service, and the University of Fraser Valley. This group is committed to identifying initiatives to disrupt the current overdose trends in Abbotsford. To date, the Abbotsford Drug Overdose Working Group has sponsored two public forums to enhance public education and awareness. One of these forums was specifically for our community's youth. Another 2017 initiative was the development of Information Cards. These cards are available the public and are to assist persons seeking assistance with their drug dependency.

Chief Report – The Opioid Crisis: The Case for Prevention. The Abbotsford Police Department

recognizes the importance of harm reduction strategies to assist those currently dealing with addiction. However, just as important is looking at a long term plan which addresses the root of addiction and to prevent new users. The Abbotsford Police Department is advocating for a more robust prevention and treatment plan. The Opiod Crisis: The Case for Prevention can be found at abbypd.ca

The Provincial Government has provided funding to the Abbotsford Police Department to purchase an lon scanner. This tool with assist members in quickly determining if seized drugs contain fentanyl or its analogues and as appropriate can then message out public safety notices.

If you are concerned about youth getting involved in gangs, need help or advice, email helpyouth@abbypd.ca or call 604-864-4777. Report information regarding gang activity or associates to gangbusters@abbypd.ca.

HONOUR COURAGE

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