



# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT



**ABBOTSFORD**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

## EXECUTIVE TEAM



Chief Constable  
Colin Watson

As we reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year, I am honoured to present to you the 2023 Annual Report of the Abbotsford Police Department. This report encapsulates our achievements in areas aligned with the newly developed 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

Our Strategic Plan, meticulously crafted with the input of our dedicated officers, staff, and community members, revolves around three central pillars: Our Work, Our People, and Our Community.

Firstly, in focusing on “Our Work,” we have dedicated ourselves to enhancing safety for the citizens of Abbotsford. We have worked hard on the prevention and suppression of crime, focused on road safety, and invested ourselves in the goal of reducing

property crime.

Secondly, “Our People” remain at the heart of everything we do. Our officers and staff are our greatest asset, and we are committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive work environment that enables them to thrive both personally and professionally. Through comprehensive training programs, mental health initiatives, and career development opportunities, we empower our team to perform at their best every day.

Lastly, “Our Community” stands as the cornerstone of our endeavours. We recognize that our success is intricately linked to the trust and collaboration of the communities we serve. I extend my deepest appreciation to the residents,

businesses, and organizations of Abbotsford for their unwavering support and partnership. Your trust fuels our determination to continuously improve and adapt to better meet your needs and expectations.

Furthermore, I must acknowledge the tremendous contributions of our dedicated staff and volunteers. Their unwavering dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to public service are the driving force behind our achievements. Whether on the front lines or behind the scenes, their tireless efforts embody the spirit of community and service excellence that defines the Abbotsford Police Department.

As we move forward into the next phase of our journey, I am confident that the incredible team will once again go above and beyond, and with the

continued support of our community, we will navigate any challenges and continue to work toward our mission of having the safest city in BC.

Thank you for your trust, partnership, and commitment to a safer, stronger Abbotsford.



Deputy Chief Constable  
Jason Burrows



Deputy Chief Constable  
Daniel Culbertson



Director  
Elaine Klassen



Director  
Bea Nicolato



Inspector  
Doug Moore



Inspector  
Monty McInnes



Inspector  
Crystal Jack



Inspector  
Kevin Murray



Inspector  
Tom Chesley



Inspector  
Casey Vinet

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

## POLICE BOARD



Mayor Ross Siemens

As chair of the Abbotsford Police Board, I am proud to present the Abbotsford Police Department's 2023 Annual Report to our community. The report provides a summary of policing data over the past year and highlights the work our police do to make Abbotsford the safest city in BC.

This year was exciting for us as AbbyPD welcomed its new Chief, Colin Watson. Chief Watson came to us from Victoria with a wealth of experience and diverse expertise that will serve him well and serve us well. We look forward to AbbyPD flourishing under his leadership. At the same time, we thank former Chief Mike Serr for his years of service and wish him a happy retirement from his distinguished

career.

As the cultural and economic hub of the Fraser Valley, our community continues to grow and change every year, and AbbyPD is growing and changing with it. That's why we have a new police building on the way to make sure officers and staff have the resources and room they need to do their job as safely and effectively as they can. The new building will provide additional workspaces and also allow for more growth in the years to come.

AbbyPD has a vision of "strength in community," and from its new expanded headquarters, officers and staff will be better equipped to continue the everyday work they do to make our community stronger. Sometimes it's by bravely

putting their lives on the line as they tackle the challenges faced by communities across the Fraser Valley, and sometimes it's through outreach and relationship building. The positive impact they have on Abbotsford goes beyond policing, as year after year our officers volunteer their time and participate in events in the community.

The Abbotsford Police Board also volunteers its time, and I would like to thank our members for their commitment to providing independent civilian oversight and governance of AbbyPD and their support in hiring our new Chief. Together we work to ensure progress towards making our community safer and I look forward to continuing to do this important

work with you in the coming year.

Finally, on behalf of the Abbotsford Police Board I'd like to express our appreciation for the hard work and commitment of everyone at AbbyPD, be they sworn officers, civilian staff or volunteers. Every day they exemplify their values of integrity, honour, courage and service, and every day they make great progress towards making Abbotsford the safest city in BC. Thank you for all you do for our community.



Paula Olmstead



Chris Dominato



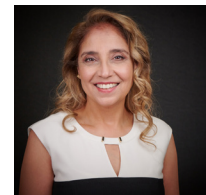
Michelle Sagert



Amrik Narang



Gordon Holloway

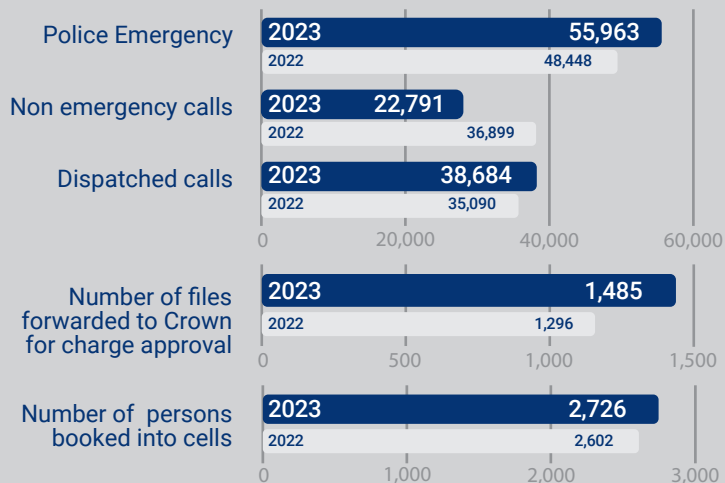


Mandy Padda

# STATISTICS

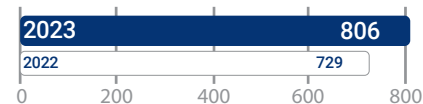
## Public Safety

### CALLS FOR SERVICE AND WORKLOAD

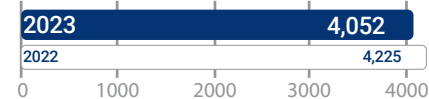


### NON-CRIMINAL FILES

Missing Persons calls



Mental Health calls



### VEHICLE-RELATED

Traffic fatalities



Roadside drug/alcohol prohibitions issued and criminal impaired charges



Speeding violations



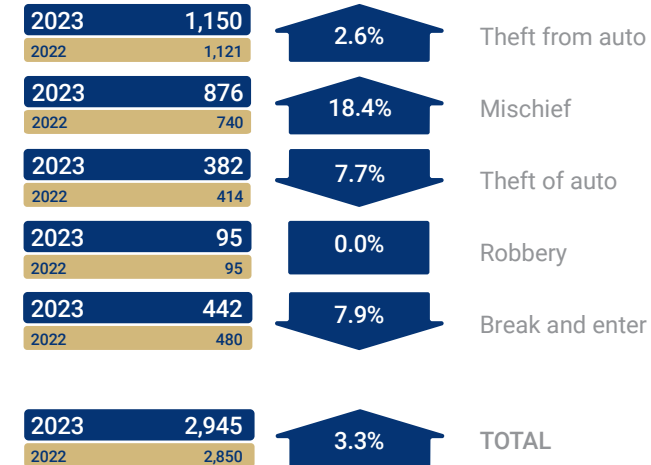
Distracted driving violations



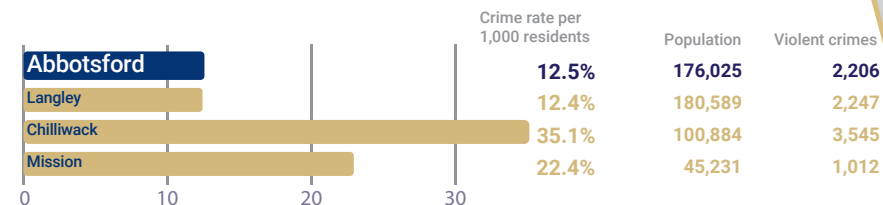
Other traffic violations



### CRIME



### 2023 VIOLENT CRIME RATE COMPARISON



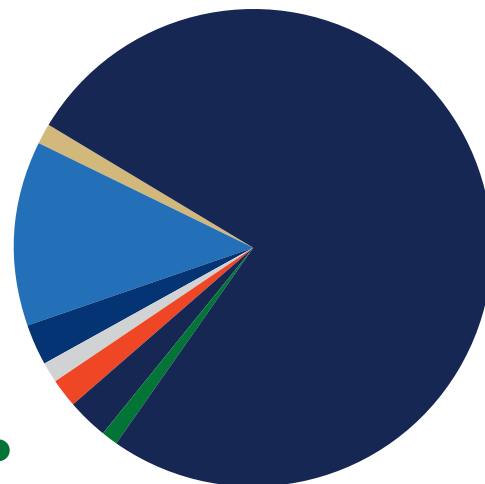
# STATISTICS

## Financial & Personnel

### FINANCIAL

December 31, 2023

Salaries	\$49,701,456	●
Training/Conferences/Memberships	\$763,329	●
Supplies/Contract Services	\$9,183,467	●
Administration Costs	\$2,197,980	●
Uniforms and Equipment	\$537,014	●
E-Comm Equipment Lease	\$909,394	●
Vehicle Operating Costs	\$1,446,069	●
Police Buildings	\$379,947	●
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$65,118,656</b>	



### PERSONNEL

December 31, 2023

<b>Sworn positions</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>Civilian positions</b>	<b>86</b> <small>includes full time and part time</small>
<b>New hires - experienced officers</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Reserve constables</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>New hires - recruit constables</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>136</b>

# TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The AbbyPD's Traffic Enforcement Unit's mandate is to address dangerous driving behaviour, including speeding, street racing, impaired driving, prohibited driving, and distracted driving, utilizing an overt and covert approach to enforcement. In 2023, TEU developed various partnerships with our law enforcement partners for enforcement-led initiatives that were vital in keeping our community safe. During 2023, TEU contributed to removing over eight hundred and forty impaired drivers from Abbotsford Roadways.

TEU provides road safety education and training for our community and in-service training to our frontline patrol staff. TEU continues to develop technology-based strategies to support

an intelligence-led traffic enforcement model. TEU continues to enhance visibility within our community, partnering with ICBC and our Community Police Office volunteers on the road safety team.

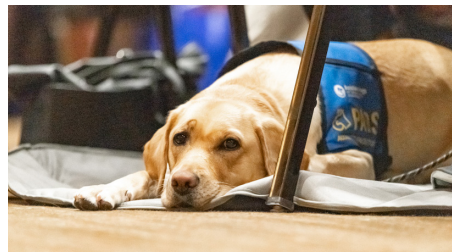
Road Safety in Abbotsford remains TEU's top priority for 2024. TEU will continue to find innovative ways to combat dangerous driving behaviour within Abbotsford, ensuring our roadways are safe for all road users.



# VICTIM SERVICES

The AbbyPD Victim Services Unit consists of two full time Coordinators, a part time VS Support Worker and a volunteer staff of 30. The Victim Services Unit's mandate is to lessen trauma, prevent re-victimization, empower their clients, and make appropriate referrals. With this mandate and the goal of always completing their duties with a trauma informed approach, the Victim Services Unit decided that the addition of an Accredited Justice Facility Dog would be significant in assisting their clients.

The Victim Services Unit was matched with their Accredited Justice Facility Dog 'Cheddar' in June of 2023, and they have been working together ever since. Cheddar was bred, raised, and trained by the Pacific Assistance



Dogs Society (PADS). PADS is an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI).

Cheddar's role is quite extraordinary. She helps victims manage stress and trauma symptoms, including calming clients by lowering their heart rate or blood pressure. She provides emotional support and comforts her clients throughout the legal process, including during court proceedings, Crown Counsel interviews and police interviews.

Cheddar has been deployed in a number of ways. The comfort she provides the clients she serves is unequivocally visible - she makes such a difference! Cheddar supports a wide age demographic, but her work has been particularly notable with youth. From police statements to court testimony, Cheddar's presence allows young victims the comfort and confidence to give statements and provide critical testimony.

When Cheddar isn't being utilized in court or police proceedings, her handlers endeavour to routinely visit staff for some informal comfort; everything is better with Cheddar! If you would like to learn more about Cheddar's activities, make sure to follow her on Instagram [@pads.betterwithcheddar](https://www.instagram.com/pads.betterwithcheddar).





**INTEGRITY**

**HONOUR**

**COURAGE**

**SERVICE**