



NEWS RELEASE

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Incident: Project Valley Sweep

April 20, 2016

The Abbotsford Police Department, Chilliwack RCMP and Mission RCMP have created a dedicated unit of officers to target property crime in the three jurisdictions. Project Valley Sweep will be led by seven officers from the three policing agencies and augmented by other police resources as required to carry out this important work.

The Fraser Valley has been especially hard hit by property crime in recent months and this combined effort will focus on the crime categories of Theft of Autos, Theft from Autos and Break & Enters. Those three categories have seen 35%, 28% and 20% increases respectively in the combined region (2015 compared to 2014). The team will investigate repeat and chronic property crime offenders who ply their trade throughout the region. Crime Analysts from the three police agencies will play an integral role in identifying the targets for the project.

Project Valley Sweep will include a mandate for longer term solutions to the property crime problem. Those arrested who are drug addicted will be offered help in order to break the repeating pattern that is so impactful on the individual and the community. The police agencies involved in this three-month project are aiming to significantly reduce property crime in the region.

“An unfortunate aspect of repeat property crime offenders who we are dealing with is that they are addicted to drugs and steal to be able to buy drugs. They will continue to commit crime until they are either helped to beat their addiction, or they get locked up. One part of this program is to offer help to offenders we arrest who want to get off this vicious cycle. We will also be working with Crown Counsel and Regional Probation to advocate for stiffer sentences for those unwilling to make efforts to change their behaviours,” said Abbotsford Chief Constable Bob Rich.

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To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.***

"The notable increase in property crime throughout the eastern Fraser Valley is an issue that affects us all. This Joint Forces Operation allows us to target the offenders who create the most havoc for our communities and hold them accountable to their court imposed conditions. While this sweep will go on for several months, it is an excellent example of how our agencies work hand in hand for the protection of our communities," said Inspector Ted De Jager, Detachment Commander, Mission RCMP.

"Together, Mission RCMP, Abbotsford Police Department and the RCMP Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment, we are aiming to reduce and prevent property crime in our communities. We are overtly targeting property crime offenders as part of our commitment to keeping our citizens and their property safe. We take property crime seriously and through enforcement will hold the offenders accountable. These offenders commit crime across jurisdictions therefore to be effective, we are policing across jurisdictions," said Superintendent Deanne Burleigh Officer in Charge of the Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment.

The objective of this initiative is to reduce property crime in the three cities by working together to create results that benefit each community. Criminals are not confined by jurisdictional boundaries and the Valley Sweep team won't be either.

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