

# YOUR SAFETY, YOUR PRIORITIES.

## Fort Saskatchewan RCMP Policing Priorities Survey 2026/2027



### Appendix B - What We Heard: 2026–2027 Policing Survey Results

The Policing Committee reviewed feedback from the 2026–2027 Annual Policing Priorities Survey to support its mandate to advise on local policing priorities. A total of 425 responses were received during the 2026-2027 APP survey period of January 31, 2026, to February 28, 2026. The response rate represents a 174% increase from the 2025-2026 APP survey.

#### Key Messages

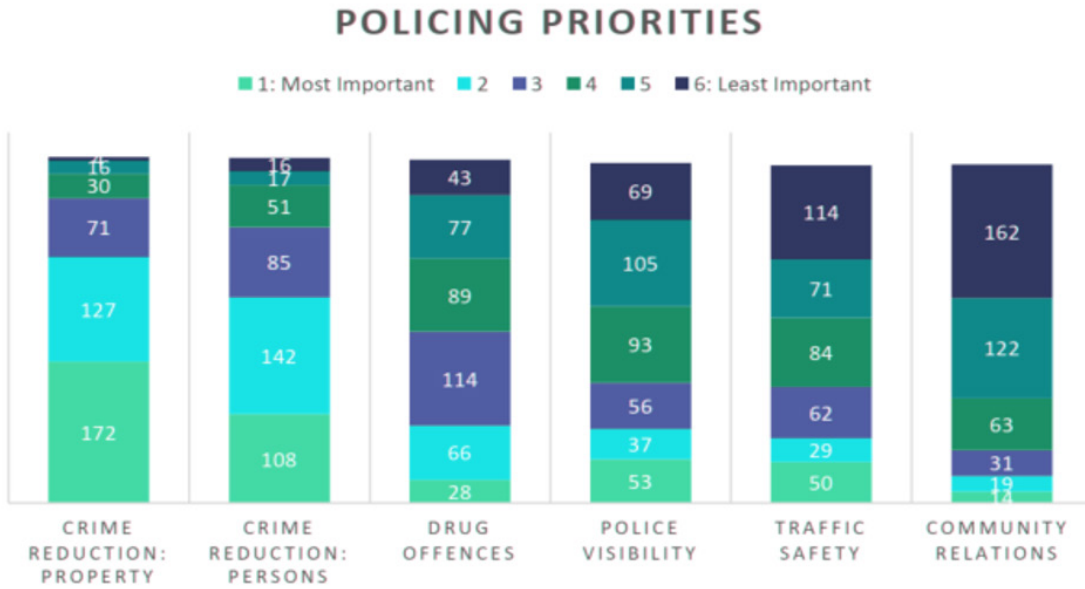
Residents are concerned about public safety, want visible and proactive policing, and value transparency about policing decisions and limitations. A portion of comments did provide initiative suggestions, such as educational programs, community policing approaches, better communication and/or transparency. Specific examples included: crime statistics, explanation of call-triage process, newsletter and detachment updates, coffee with a cop, youth engagement in schools, more checkstops and positive ticketing. Other key themes are as follows:

- **Public safety concerns are increasing.** Many residents feel safety has declined, particularly related to property crime, public disorder, and nighttime activity.
- **Visibility matters.** Seeing police presence is closely tied to feelings of safety and deterrence, even when crime rates are stable.
- **Residents want focus and follow-through.** The community supports prioritizing serious crime, repeat offenders, and high-risk areas over low-impact enforcement.
- **Communication builds trust.** Clear explanations about priorities, response times, and what police are doing help manage expectations and improve confidence.

#### Community-Ranked Policing Priorities

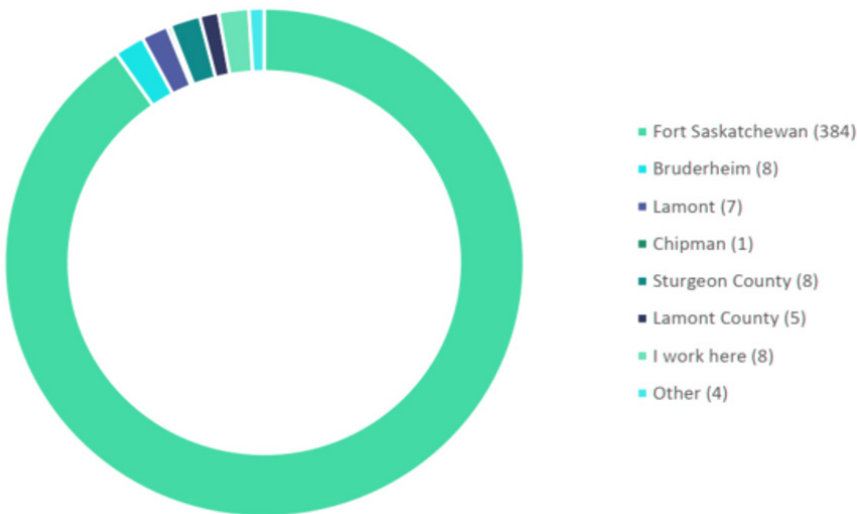
1. Crime Reduction – Property Crime
2. Crime Reduction – Person’s Crime
3. Reduce Drug Offences and Public Disorder
4. Traffic Safety and Vision Zero
5. Police Visibility
6. Police Community Relations

The table below shows how the community ranked the six priorities:



This chart below shows where the respondents lived in the RCMP jurisdiction, combining both municipal and provincial feedback.

- 90% of survey respondents live in the City of Fort Saskatchewan.
- 3% of survey respondents do not live within the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction.
- Other (4): 2x Redwater, 1x Strathcona County, 1x N/A



## What We Heard from the Community

### Crime Reduction – Property Crime

Property crime was the most frequently raised concern. Residents described repeated thefts from vehicles, yards, garages, and downtown areas, often occurring overnight. These incidents contribute to frustration, fear, and a sense that crime is not being deterred.

- “Stop the rampant thefts. You don’t even come out for theft reports anymore.”
- “More patrols are needed; thefts keep happening even when caught on camera.”
- “Property crime, especially downtown, makes people feel unsafe.”

### Crime Reduction – Person’s Crime

Residents expressed concern about personal safety, including violent behaviour, domestic violence, and repeat offenders. Fear for youth and vulnerable individuals was a common theme, particularly during evening and night hours.

- “Better follow-through on domestic violence is needed to keep people safe.”
- “I no longer allow my teenagers out in the evenings.”
- “Get violent crime under control before someone gets seriously hurt.”

### Reduce Drug Offences and Public Disorder

Visible drug use, encampments, and disorder in public spaces such as downtown, trails, and parks were strongly linked to declining feelings of safety. Residents want enforcement balanced with compassion and coordinated support.

- “People doing drugs in public spaces makes areas feel unsafe.”
- “I am more afraid to use the river valley paths now.”
- “Address homelessness and drug use while keeping public spaces safe.”

### Traffic Safety and Vision Zero

Traffic safety generated a high volume of concern, particularly speeding, distracted driving, and aggressive driving in residential areas, school zones, and major corridors. Residents view traffic enforcement as a core safety issue.

- “Speeding everywhere, especially near schools and playgrounds.”
- “Crack down on cell phone use while driving.”
- “More enforcement is needed where pedestrians are at risk.”



## Police Visibility

Residents consistently linked police visibility with deterrence and reassurance. Many expressed that policing feels reactive rather than preventative, particularly outside of emergency response.

- “I rarely see police unless a crime is reported.”
- “Any visibility would be great; it helps people feel safer.”
- “More patrols in neighbourhoods would deter crime.”

## Police Community Relations

While ranked lowest, community relations were still seen as important. Residents value respectful interactions, community engagement, and understanding how policing decisions are made.

- “Explain how calls are prioritized so people understand response times.”
- “Coffee with a cop and community events help build trust.”
- “We appreciate the RCMP and want to hear more about what they are doing.”

## How This Informed the 2026–2027 Community Prioritization Plan (Policing Priorities)

In fulfilling its mandate to advise Council on local policing priorities, the Policing Committee reviewed the results of the 2026–2027 Policing Survey alongside RCMP crime statistics and operational information provided by the RCMP.

The Committee considered both the quantitative rankings and the qualitative comments submitted by residents to understand not only what concerns were most important, but how those issues are experienced in the community. This evidence informed approach, combined with discussion and consultation with the Detachment Commander, guided the identification and endorsement of the 2026–2027 Community Prioritization Plan. The resulting priorities reflect a balanced consideration of community expectations, crime trends, and operational realities, ensuring policing efforts are aligned with the areas of greatest community impact and risk.

