



Newsletter

Spring 2018

**Serving our Canadian Volunteers
working together with Police and the Community**

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SASKATCHEWAN CITIZENS ON PATROL

The Saskatchewan National Board Representative, **Sandeep Kumar**, has reached out to the rest of the COP groups in Saskatchewan in an effort to organize all the COP groups in the province.

The Battleford Citizens on Patrol Program has been making great progress with their projects, as well as increasing their membership. This group is piloting a Surveillance Map project, which is a confidential interactive map that the RCMP and Community Safety Officers in the Battleford area can use to quickly and easily determine where surveillance exists and provide contact information to export footage if required. We currently have over 20 registrations, and the project is still very young.

Battleford COP has also been vigilant documenting graffiti and vandalism through the COP program, allowing the local CSO's to get property owners to clean up their property, as well as document gang activity in the area. Battleford COP has 30 active members who patrol during all hours of the day. Some of them work on the graffiti project during the day, while others spend time well after midnight patrolling for suspicious activity.

Constable Greg Hugo and Community Safety Coordinator Herb Sutton are assisting Sandeep to reach out to several RCMP detachments in communities with known active COP programs including: Yorkton, Wilkie, Rosetown, Unity, Meota, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, and Meadow Lake.

Rosetown indicated their membership was down from around 80 members at one point to only 10 currently. The rest of the detachments were rightfully concerned about

their COP members' privacy, so we'll have to come up with some other ideas to contact the rest of the groups. Attempts to advertise about the COP program are being met with differing levels of success. Our membership has nearly doubled in the past year, but mostly from word of mouth.

Concerns from the citizens about becoming a COP member include:

- Some seem not to want to stand up to the crime problem in the area. They are frustrated with the lack of support from our justice system.
- Some business owners, homeowners and friends simply don't think it's worth it, or that they'll be able to make a difference or not.
- Some think Neighbourhood Watch is a better option, citing they can go out by themselves, and there's less hassle involved.

North Battleford has implemented a program named "Eyes that Care" which promotes:

- Meeting your neighbours and sharing contact information.
- Watching for any suspicious activity.
- Reporting any suspicious activity to the RCMP.
- Removing all valuables from vehicles and locking up personal property.
- Removing keys from vehicles and keeping them on your person.

In exchange for residents signing up for the Eyes that Care program, North Battleford and Canadian Tire supply residents with a solar motion light, and signs for their

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windows. Block parties to get residents to interact with their neighbours are being promoted.

Great strides towards improving the COP program over the past year can be directly attributed to our communication with the National COPP Board. Saskatchewan COP has been introduced to both the iPatrol+ and ACOPA apps for our mobile devices, as well as checking in and out with the 310-RCMP line instead of bothering the local detachment.

Recently, Battleford COP has received a lot of support from another group that is backed by the local Chamber of Commerce. The group is named **Action Battleford** and have boosted several posts about Battleford COP and are actively fundraising to allow the COP program to grow. This group is filled with very motivated local business owners, and other supporters in the community.

Saskatchewan is in the beginning stages of getting all the COP programs unified and working together.

THE PAS & AREA COP MANITOBA

The Pas & Area COPP Group, in Manitoba, had a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for their members for being active for 25 years in The Pas & Area. There were three members who have been with the Group from the beginning. The MC was the staff Sgt at the start-up time and it was very special. The Assistant Commissioner and Commanding Officer for Manitoba RCMP attended and gave an appreciation speech which the members were so proud to receive.

Congratulations to all the members of The Pas Citizens On Patrol Program for their 25 years of service to their community!



ALBERTA COP

The Citizens On Patrol program in Alberta continues to grow. Presently, there are 71 groups operating in the province, with 6 communities working to set up the COP program. In the past year, close to 300 people have passed their criminal record checks.

In September 2017, ACOPA hired retired RCMP Officer, Robert Gollan, to produce a training Power Point and to be the presenter to “Train the Trainer” across the province. Forty COP members attend each training session and are getting trained in how to train others. Those who attend are expected to go back to their own group and train the rest of the members in their groups. The training is based on the ACOPA Reference Manual. So far, 7 sessions have been presented.

In October, the ACOPA Patrol app for Android users was completed and ready to use. Over the past 2 years, apps for both Apple and Android users have been developed so that all patrollers will have the app available for electronic reporting. The patrol app for Apple is available on the App store and the Android app is available through PlayStation. The app allows for photos to be taken and embedded in the report. The final report shows a map of where the patrol took place, including times, as long as data is available.

In January of 2018, ACOPA hired a videographer to produce a series of videos that will promote the COP program. Interviews are being set up with key RCMP members. Several COP groups will be involved in the production of the videos to highlight the special activities that they are doing. Some of those include the Speed Watch program, the Auto Theft Awareness Ticket education, Secure it or Lose it, Auto Theft Education, garage sale, security. This initiative is expected to be completed by August.

PETITION FOR C.O.P. VOLUNTEERS

There is a petition circulating in Canada asking for a tax credit for Citizens On Patrol volunteers. If you have not seen this petition, or have not signed it, please check out the following link.

The deadline date to sign the petition for giving a tax credit for members of Citizens On Patrol is July 12.

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1581>

NOVA SCOTIA COP

Some of the Nova Scotia COP Group co-ordinators join in one of the Provincial Crime Prevention Association's monthly meetings to stay abreast of what other Provincial Crime Prevention groups are doing in their endeavours to make our province a safer place to live. ie: Crimestoppers, MADD, Victim Services, EH Emergency Response Association, RCMP, etc.

There is a possibility of different "policing" groups setting up shop for half a day per month in communities to greet the public, deal with local issues, etc. The CPO would take a laptop and be prepared to take complaints, open pro-active patrol files for the area – whatever is needed to get more visibility and engagement in these less-served areas.

The last provincial consultative meeting held at H. Division revealed that there seems to be no enthusiasm to create a provincial COP group, with most content to share news and views at the consultative meetings.

Some of the areas within Nova Scotia which have active COP groups seem to be short on RCMP member availability and visibility. A rash of transfers, retirements and illness seem to be taking their toll on our RCMP, but we will stand strong and support them as they continue to support COP.

BRITISH COLUMBIA REPORT

Very little to report. There have been no matters of any consequence to report from British Columbia. several COP groups remain in the province but there seems to be little connection with the program and police. Some detachments have a good volunteer turn-out but the COP program is not utilized so police continue to do what volunteers could do such as organizing themselves, reporting of crime and license plate recognition programs.

We continue to be plagued by distracted drivers and, of course, alcohol-related incidents and with the introduction of cannabis, related infractions will increase the police workload.

We look forward to working with the new Commissioner, Brenda Lucki, and her connection with us.

ACOPA Workshop/AGM 2017

In Alberta, C.O.P. groups take turns hosting the Annual Workshop/AGM weekend. In September of 2017, the High River C.O.P. hosted over 150 attendees for a fun-filled weekend of presentations, meeting patrollers from around the province, a silent auction, great food and entertainment. Topics covered included Search and Rescue, RCMP with Fentanyl-trained dog Hunter, ID theft and scams, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention and Impairment Vision Goggles. Several law enforcement members also attended the Workshop.

Sunday morning saw the first presentation on "Train the Trainer" from retired R.C.M.P. Robert Gollan with 72 in attendance. The 2018 Workshop will be hosted by the Sexsmith C.O.P. members.

K9 officer Cpl. Paul Cook, with PSD Hunter, was one of the presenters at the ACOPA Workshop. Cpl. Cook has been with the K9 unit since 2006. Hunter is about 3 years old and is the first dog trained to detect fentanyl as well as other drugs. The fentanyl is diluted in water and absorbed in a pad so the dog smells it instead of breathing it.

The 2018 Workshop will be hosted by the Sexsmith C.O.P. members.

