

TRANSITIONS



2014

YEAR IN REVIEW



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | BEYOND THE CALL



THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MARK JAMES, CLAIRE MARSHALL, BARJ DHAHAN, DR. SHERRI MAGEE, MAYOR GREGOR ROBERTSON, CAROLYN ASKEW, DR. PETER WONG, THOMAS TAM.

THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT is governed by the Vancouver Police Board. The nine-person Board comprises eight citizens, plus the Mayor as Chair. In mid-2015, the Board assured continuing strong and progressive leadership for the VPD when it appointed current Chief Constable Adam Palmer to replace retired Chief Jim Chu. Robust, organizational leadership is a key responsibility of the Vancouver Police Board. In addition, the Board ensures financial accountability through oversight of the VPD budget. It approves policing policies, helps set goals and priorities, and participates in long-term strategic planning. By providing strong citizen oversight to the VPD, the Board promotes priorities and strategies that align with those of the community it serves.


The VPD is widely recognized as an excellent police organization. In 2014, the VPD continued to deliver high-quality, on-budget operations, responsive to the diverse needs of Vancouver’s communities. The measure of a good police department is the trust its citizens place in it. The Vancouver Police Board is proud to be part of the VPD team, and proud of the part it plays in earning citizens’ trust and ensuring ongoing success.



@VanPoliceBoard

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD, GO TO VANCOUVERPOLICEBOARD.CA.





*“ We will not waver from
our commitment to making
Vancouver the safest major
city in Canada. ”*



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

AS 2014 WRAPPED UP, Chief Constable Jim Chu finished his last full year with the Vancouver Police Department, bringing the VPD in on budget, as he did each of the eight years that he was Chief. In fact, the Department has stayed within budget for 10 consecutive years.

Overall, crime fell in 2014, with violent crime falling 11 per cent. While homicides were up from a historic low of six in 2013 to nine in 2014, sexual offences, assaults and robberies all saw substantial decreases.

Traffic-related statistics were also down, with impaired driving decreasing by 15 per cent.

Drug incidents fell by 10 per cent, and other crimes such as illegal weapons fell over 38 per cent.

What is concerning to us is the continued increase in property crime. Incidents were up in all types, from break-and-enter to theft-from-auto, to fraud and mischief – with the exception of possession of stolen property, which fell over 50 per cent. We continue to focus our resources in this area, including special projects and the creation of innovative crime prevention and awareness campaigns. We encourage reporting of what some might perceive as less serious offences.

In all, we had 235,959 calls for service in 2014, up almost nine per cent, while high-priority, emergency calls for service increased by seven per cent.

We know that it's not only the hard numbers that are important when we're fighting crime and working to make Vancouver Canada's safest major city. Public

perception plays a crucial role in people's sense of safety and well-being. I'm happy to report that in our annual residential survey, 79 per cent of Vancouver's residents said they felt safer in 2014.

In the fall of 2013, we spoke about the challenges and growing crisis the VPD and the City of Vancouver were facing when dealing with the mentally ill. VPD officers were spending 21 per cent of their time on calls involving people with mental health issues, who were also 23 times more likely to be the victims of a violent crime. As Chief Chu pointed out, "These people require health care, support and medical treatment, not the criminal justice system."

In addition to the VPD's Mental Health and Assertive Community Treatment teams, a new initiative began in March 2014 as a response to this crisis. The Assertive Outreach Team is a collaboration between the VPD and Vancouver Coastal Health, which consists of a team of nurses, social workers, police officers and administrative support, along with other specialists when needed. Their goal is to help people with mental health issues access services in the community. So far, they have seen a reduction in negative police interactions with Assertive Community Treatment and Assertive Outreach Team clients, fewer visits to the emergency room, and the team is improving the quality of life for some of our most vulnerable.

What remains a constant is the dedicated and determined men and women, sworn and civilian, who make up the VPD. They work hard every day to ensure the safety of residents, businesses, and visitors to our city. We will not waver from our commitment to making Vancouver the safest major city in Canada.



FINANCIAL

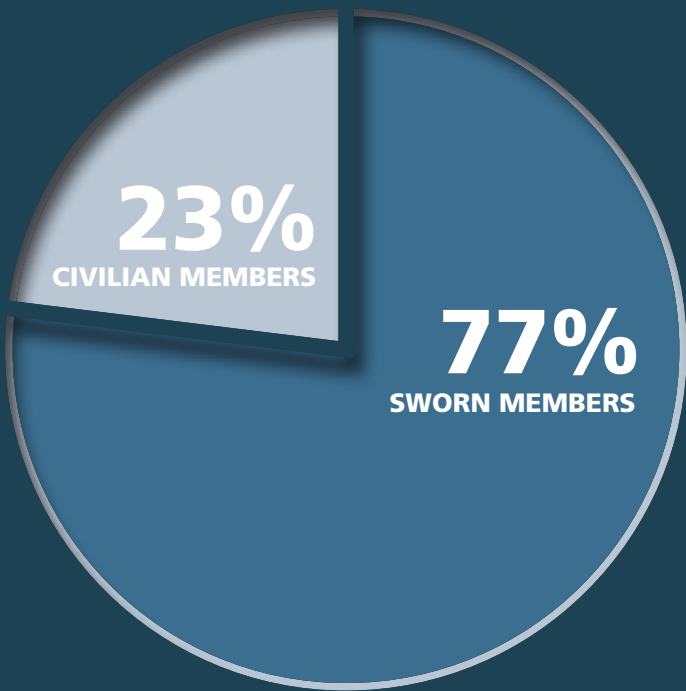
SUMMARY

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	2013 (1000)	2014 (1000)	% CHANGE
Budget	\$219,769	\$226,132	2.9%
Cost	\$219,148	\$225,656	3.0%
UNDERBUDGET	\$620	\$476	

This is the tenth consecutive year the VPD has finished the year within budget.

For more details, visit:
<http://vancouver.ca/police/policeboard/financial.htm>.

AUTHORIZED STRENGTH	2013	2014	% CHANGE
VPD Sworn Members	1,327	1,327	0%
VPD Civilian Members	388.5	388.5	0%
TOTAL POSITIONS:	1,715.5	1,715.5	0%



CRIME BY THE

CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	2013	2014¹	2013 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2014 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE* (CRIME RATE)
VIOLENT CRIME	5,742	5,141	9.0	8.0	-11.1%
Culpable Homicide	6	9	0.0	0.0	48.9%
Attempted Murder	17	15	0.0	0.0	-12.4%
Sexual Offences	493	427	0.8	0.7	-14.0%
Assaults	4,387	4,039	6.9	6.3	-8.6%
Robbery	839	651	1.3	1.0	-23.0%
PROPERTY CRIME	32,098	35,686	50.5	55.7	10.3%
Break-and-Enter	4,751	5,256	7.5	8.2	9.8%
Theft of Auto	1,072	1,319	1.7	2.1	22.1%
Theft from Auto	8,021	9,726	12.6	15.2	20.3%
Theft (Over/Under \$5K)	11,621	12,574	18.3	19.6	7.4%
Possession of Stolen Property	684	338	1.1	0.5	-51.0%
Fraud	2,240	2,356	3.5	3.7	4.4%
Arson	197	206	0.3	0.3	3.8%
Mischief (Over/Under \$5K)	3,512	3,911	5.5	6.1	10.5%
OTHER CRIME	8,770	5,446	13.8	8.5	-38.4%
Prostitution	37	26	0.1	0.0	-30.3%
Gaming and Betting	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Offensive Weapons	910	487	1.4	0.8	-46.9%
Other Criminal Code	7,823	4,933	12.3	7.7	-37.4%
DRUGS	2,291	2,075	3.6	3.2	-10.1%
Cannabis	1,057	991	1.7	1.5	-6.9%
Cocaine	855	652	1.3	1.0	-24.3%
Heroin	228	260	0.4	0.4	13.2%
Other Drugs	151	172	0.2	0.3	13.1%
TRAFFIC	905	851	1.4	1.3	-6.7%
Dangerous Operation of MV	11	25	0.0	0.0	125.6%
Impaired Operation of MV	774	661	1.2	1.0	-15.2%
Fail/Refuse Breath/Blood Sample	104	131	0.2	0.2	25.0%
Fail to Stop/Remain at Scene	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Driving while Prohibited	16	34	0.0	0.1	110.9%
TOTAL INCIDENTS	49,806	49,199	78.4	76.8	-2.0%

NUMBERS

	2013	2014 ¹	2013 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	2014 CRIME RATE /1,000 POP	% CHANGE* (CRIME RATE)
TRAFFIC COLLISIONS	10,022	4,127	15.8	6.4	-59.1%
MV - Fatal	16	14	0.0	0.0	-13.2%
MV - Non Fatal ²	8,861	2,735	13.9	4.3	-69.4% (as per note ²)
Property Damage	1,145	1,378	1.8	2.2	19.4%

CALLS FOR SERVICE	2013	2014	3.2	3.1	-0.7%
Total	215,663	235,959	339.3	368.4	8.6%
Dispatched	163,521	180,183	257.2	281.3	9.4%
% Dispatched	75.8%	76.4%			0.7%
Population ³	635,660	640,469			0.8%

* Rate change not presented for counts less than or equal to five

¹ 2013 and 2014 data run on 2015/07/02

² ICBC data not available due to significant changes in their technological infrastructure

³ Source: BC Stats as of 2015/07/02

These statistics are produced using the “most serious offence method.”
Note: Small baseline offence numbers make large percentage changes.

Numbers are subject to change due to ongoing investigations or reclassifications of incidents.

For more information on our data disclaimers and limitations, please refer to:
www.vancouver.ca/police/organization/planning-research-audit/stats-accuracy-comparing-data.html.



VANCOUVER POLICE FOUNDATION

FOUNDED IN 1976, the Vancouver Police Foundation is one of the oldest, most established police foundations in North America. The Foundation fosters community partnerships to enhance VPD’s capacity to save lives, prevent crime and build safer communities. To date, the Foundation has granted over \$6 million toward hundreds of innovative policing tools and community outreach programs not included in the VPD’s annual operating budget.

OUR FOCUS

The Vancouver Police Foundation bridges the gap between public funding and community needs, whether it is programing for youth-at-risk, safety education for marginalized populations, innovative policing tools or community policing initiatives. We focus on four major areas of involvement to achieve our goals of community safety:



YOUTH PROGRAMS
We fund programs that keep kids engaged, active and away from high-risk activities.



MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS
We work with our partners to improve the quality of life of those in crisis.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT
We engage with local groups to fund programs that will have an impact on the community.



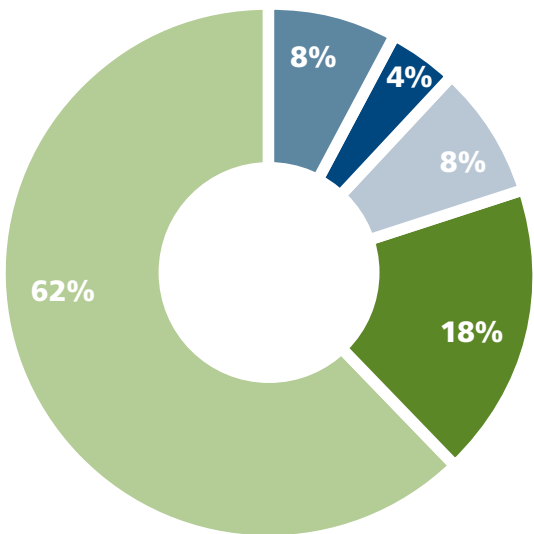
TECHNOLOGY AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT
We assist the VPD with innovative, state-of-the-art tools that save lives and prevent crime.

OUR INVOLVEMENT

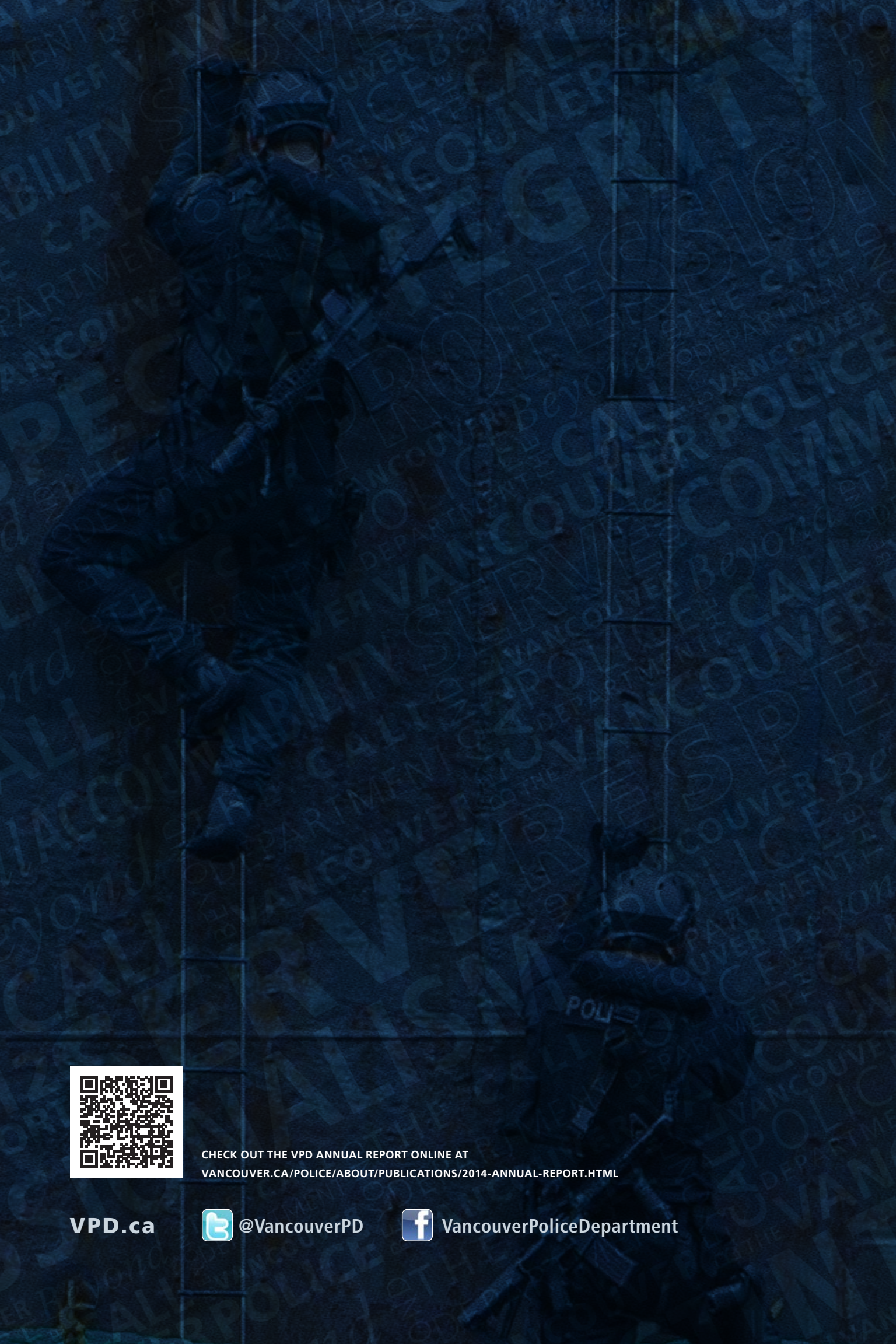
In 2014, the Vancouver Police Foundation committed over \$610,000 in grant awards. Funds are disbursed to projects under the direct control of the VPD, or to an outside organization that has developed a strong relationship with the VPD. The generous spirit of the Vancouver Police Foundation members and supporters plays a vital role in the Foundation’s ability to fund these important projects. By working together, we become partners in building stronger communities and making Vancouver the safest major city in Canada.

2014 GRANTS – AREAS OF IMPACT

23 GRANTS – \$610,000



- Community Outreach
- Youth Programs
- Special Equipment
- Technology
- Mental Health Program



CHECK OUT THE VPD ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE AT
VANCOUVER.CA/POLICE/ABOUT/PUBLICATIONS/2014-ANNUAL-REPORT.HTML

VPD.ca



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VancouverPoliceDepartment