VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE
from the chief

WELCOME TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 2025 ANNUAL REPORT.

This is my first annual report message as Chief Constable, and I am pleased to start by sharing some positive news. In 2025, property crime reports in Vancouver declined by more than three per cent, including a significant reduction of 14 per cent in auto theft. Reports of violent crime also decreased overall.

However, some challenges remain. Homicides increased from 11 in 2024 to 26 in 2025, which included the heartbreaking loss of 11 lives during the tragedy at the Lapu Lapu Festival in April. Reports involving offensive weapons rose by 41.7 per cent, and traffic fatalities increased from 16 to 20.

These numbers tell an important story about public safety in Vancouver. Behind every statistic is a person, a family, a neighbourhood, or a community impacted by crime or tragedy. They also reflect the dedication of our Vancouver Police Department sworn and civilian staff, who come to work every day committed to protecting and serving this city.

Policing has changed dramatically since the VPD began in 1886 as a one-person police force operating from a tent. Today's officers face increasingly complex challenges, from cybercrime and online fraud to organized crime and public safety threats that evolve as quickly as technology itself. To meet those challenges, we continue to invest in two critical areas: technology and our people.

Technology is an essential tool in modern policing. Automated licence plate readers, body-worn cameras, digital forensic tools, and real-time information systems help officers prevent crime, respond more quickly to emergencies, and investigate offences more effectively. In many situations, seconds matter. Better, faster information allows officers to make more efficient, informed decisions that can save lives, protect victims, and bring offenders to justice.

These investments also strengthen transparency and accountability. Body-worn cameras and enhanced data systems help ensure that police interactions are documented, reviewed, and understood. This builds public confidence and supports the trust that effective policing depends on.

But technology alone is not enough. The most important investment we make is in our people. Behind every piece of equipment and every technological advancement is a dedicated officer, civilian professional, or volunteer using those tools to serve the public. We continue to invest in training, leadership development, wellness, and specialized expertise to ensure our employees are prepared to meet the evolving needs of our city.



For Vancouver residents, these investments mean safer neighbourhoods, faster emergency responses, stronger investigations, greater accountability, and a police department that is better equipped to address complex challenges now and into the future.

Public safety is a shared responsibility, and our success depends on the partnerships we have built with residents, businesses, community organizations, Indigenous communities, and our policing partners. I am proud of what our employees accomplished in 2025, and I am grateful for the trust and support of the communities we serve. As we look ahead, we remain committed to innovation, accountability, and service excellence as we work to keep Vancouver safe for everyone.

CHIEF CONSTABLE STEVE RAI
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

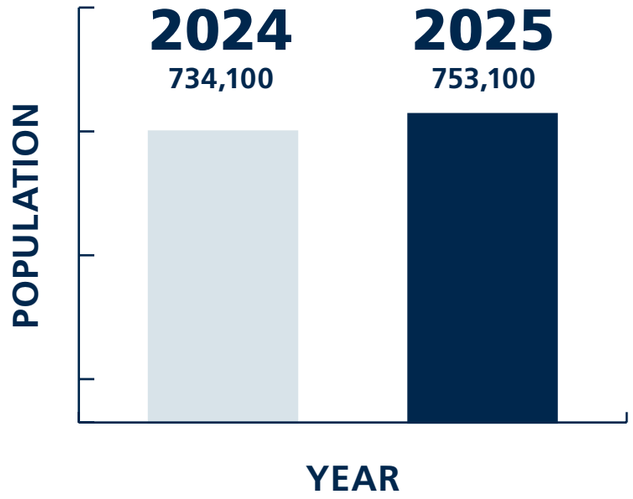


CRIME BY THE NUMBERS

CASE TYPE	2024 NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	2025 NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	2024 RATE/ 1,000 POP	2025 RATE/ 1,000 POP	% CHANGE (RATE)
VIOLENT CRIME	**5,860**	**5,343**	**8.06**	**7.09**	**-12.0%**
Culpable Homicide	11	26	0.01	0.03	-130.4%
Attempted Murder	8	4	0.01	0.01	—
Sexual Offences	680	679	0.93	0.90	-2.7%
Assaults	4,584	4,141	6.24	5.50	-11.9%
Robbery	636	493	0.87	0.65	-24.4%
PROPERTY CRIME	**30,863**	**30,625**	**42.04**	**40.67**	**-3.3%**
Break-and-Enter	2,262	2,157	3.08	2.86	-7.0%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	651	573	0.89	0.76	-14.2%
Theft from Auto	5,793	5,390	7.89	7.16	-9.3%
Theft (Over/Under $5K)	13,060	13,317	17.79	17.68	-0.6%
Possession of Stolen Property	368	352	0.50	0.71	40.9%
Fraud	3,436	3,580	4.68	4.75	1.6%
Arson	254	210	0.35	0.28	-19.4%
Mischief (Over/Under $5K)	5,039	4,866	6.86	6.46	-5.9%
OTHER CRIME	**6,292**	**6,501**	**8.57**	**8.63**	**0.7%**
Disorderly Houses, Gaming & Betting	0	1	0.00	0.00	—
Offensive Weapons	839	1,220	1.14	1.62	41.7%
Other Criminal Code	5,453	5,280	7.43	7.01	-5.6%
TOTAL CRIME	**43,074**	**42,469**	**58.68**	**56.39**	**-3.9%**
DRUGS	**967**	**1,470**	**1.32**	**1.95**	**48.2%**
Cannabis	37	61	0.05	0.08	60.7%
Cocaine	199	247	0.27	0.33	21.0%
Fentanyl	352	632	0.48	0.84	75.0%
Heroin	19	9	0.03	0.01	-53.6%
Methamphetamine	120	194	0.16	0.26	57.6%
Other	240	327	033	0.43	32.8%

CASE TYPE	2024 NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	2025 NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	2024 RATE/ 1,000 POP	2025 RATE/ 1,000 POP	% CHANGE (RATE)
TRAFFIC	**896**	**792**	**1.22**	**1.05**	**-13.8%**
Dangerous Operation of Motor Vehicle	140	98	0.19	0.13	-31.8%
Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle	429	423	0.58	0.56	-3.9%
Fail / Refuse Breath / Blood Sample	91	93	0.12	0.12	-0.4%
Fail to Stop / Remain at Scene	122	78	0.17	0.10	-37.7%
Drive while Prohibited	114	100	0.16	0.13	-14.5%
OTHER					
Traffic Fatalities	16	20	0.02	0.03	**21.8%**
Calls for Service	240,339	248,160	326.03	329.52	**1.1%**

JURISDICTION POPULATION



DATA RUN AS OF JANUARY 15, 2026

- Rate change not presented for counts less than or equal to five.
- 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: **https://vpd.ca/crime-statistics/**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	2024 ($1,000)	2025 ($1,000)	% CHANGE
Budget	$461,019	$429,310	7.4%
Actual Costs	$461,054	$429,297	7.4%
Under / (OVER) budget	($35)	$13	

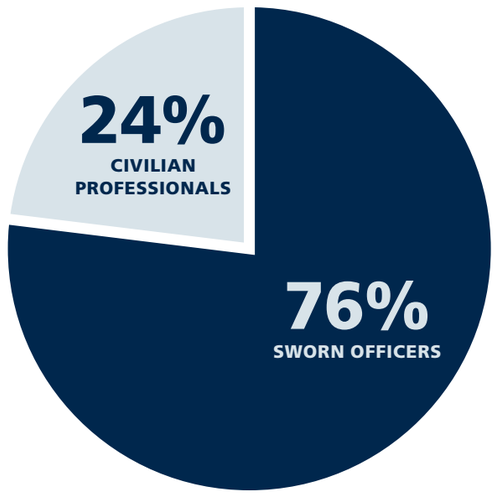
The VPD has finished within budget in 18 of the past 20 years.

In 2023, geopolitical tensions led to an increase in protests and demonstrations in Vancouver. The additional demands for police resources resulted in higher officer overtime costs.

In 2021, City Council held the VPD's budget at 2020 levels, leaving a funding shortfall for recurring operational costs, a mid-year benefits adjustment, and an arbitrated wage settlement. The Vancouver Police Board appealed the decision, and the provincial government restored the funding shortfall in 2022.

For more details, visit:
vancouverpoliceboard.ca/reports

AUTHORIZED STRENGTH	2023	2024	% CHANGE
VPD Sworn Members	1,448	1,452	0.03%
VPD Civilian Professionals	462	482.5	4.4%
TOTAL POSITIONS	**1,910**	**1,934.50**	**1.3%**



POLICE BOARD

Navigating Challenge

NAVIGATING A YEAR OF EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGE

The year 2025 was significant for the Vancouver Police Board. Work continued to strengthen civilian governance, strategic oversight, and community engagement, while supporting organizational stability and modernization within the Vancouver Police Department. Throughout the year, the Board remained focused on its legislated mandate under the Police Act to ensure accountable, transparent, and effective policing services for Vancouver residents and visitors.

However, 2025 was also one of the most consequential years in the Vancouver Police Board's recent history. It was marked by tragedy on April 26. On that day, a vehicle-ramming attack at the Lapu-Lapu Day Block Party on Fraser Street took the lives of 11 people and injured dozens more, in what Chief Steve Rai would call the darkest in the city's history. The tragedy tested the Board's capacity for crisis governance, demanded swift institutional leadership, and called on every dimension of its oversight mandate.

The Board's response was immediate and deliberate: it stood publicly alongside the Filipino community and ensured the VPD's emergency and victim services response was fully resourced. In the weeks that followed, Board members worked in close partnership with the City of Vancouver on a Joint Review of Outdoor Special Events Planning and Safety. This was an expression of the Board's oversight mandate in its fullest extent: to ensure first responders proactively execute systemic improvements to prevent future harm. To date, the Board continues to support the families of the victims, recognizing the breadth and depth of impact caused.

The year also brought a landmark leadership transition. After a decade of service, Chief Constable Adam Palmer retired, and the Board undertook a rigorous national search, supported by an executive search firm, to identify his successor. In May 2025, the Board appointed Deputy Chief Steve Rai as the VPD's 32nd Chief Constable—the first South Asian Chief in the Department's 140-year history, and the first in Canada of a large municipal department. A VPD veteran of over 35 years, Chief Rai served as Interim Chief through the Lapu-Lapu tragedy, demonstrating precisely the steadiness and community-centered leadership the Board sought to lead the VPD into its next era. Board Chair Frank Chong described the vision for the appointment as a policing service that is "accountable, equitable, transparent, and trusted by all members of the community," a standard that will guide the Department's duties under new leadership for years to come.



Left to right: Raza Mirani, Lorraine Lowe, Danica Djurkovic, Gerald Matier, Jason Murray, Jordan Point, Simmy Sandhu, Ken Sim, Mary-Jane Yee

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

2025 Annual Report

GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEES

The Vancouver Police Board has five standing committees, one sub-committee, and one task group as follows:

Governance, Finance Audit and Risk Committee

- Human Resources Committee
- Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Committee
- Executive Standing Committee
- Service and Policy Complaint Review Sub-Committee
- UNDRIP Implementation Task Group

In 2025, the committees carried out the essential work of civilian oversight throughout the year to address a range of forward-looking priorities. Some of the highlights include:

BOARD ACHIEVEMENTS

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- Development of efficiencies in the governance model of the Board, which was identified in 2024, and implemented in 2025. This included a review of the committees' terms of reference and structures, a review of the number of Board meetings and their content, and review of the number and frequency of the reports received from the VPD. Consequently, a new process was implemented to ensure the reports are reviewed extensively at the corresponding committee(s) prior to the Board's review, approval or endorsement.

  Moreover, a comprehensive Key Performance Indicator framework was developed collaboratively with VPD. The Board will receive the new "VPD Annual Performance Report" in the first quarter of 2026. Through this report, interested parties will be able to see clear, measurable data on how the VPD is performing against the four goals of the 2022–2026 Strategic Plan: serving the community, community safety, community well-being, and supporting the Department's people.

  The Board also continued to modernize and enhance its governance framework through regular updates to the Governance Manual and Board policies. In 2025, the Board advanced and approved several important initiatives, which included updates to policies such as unbiased policing, procurement, service or complaint review, travel and expense, enterprise risk management, and more.

- Engagement with various stakeholder groups was a priority in 2025 in preparation for the Strategic Planning of 2027 2030. Through the Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Committee, the Board expanded opportunities for dialogue with residents, community organizations, Indigenous partners, business, and public safety groups.

- Continued modernization initiatives were a top priority for the Board and VPD in 2025. Throughout the year, the Board supported such initiatives within the Department aimed at improving operational effectiveness, organizational efficiencies, and public safety outcomes. This included oversight and support for enhanced data and performance reporting modernization of operational equipment and systems, advancements in digital infrastructure, and the growing use of emerging technologies, including specialized drone capabilities and AI-assisted tools designed to support evidence-based, efficient, and responsive policing services.

BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2025

In 2025, the Board maintained a high level of accountability and engagement, contributing a total of 1,168.5 hours to Board-related activities. This included 212 hours dedicated to Board meetings, 259 hours spent in committee meetings, and 371 hours contributed to other necessary meetings such as participation in internal VPD events and ceremonial functions. Board members also devoted 283.5 hours to stakeholder and community engagement meetings, as well as 43 hours toward training and governance education such as participating in workshops, operational tours, ride-alongs, and provincially delivered programs.

The Vancouver Police Board would like to extend its sincere appreciation to the leadership and members of the Vancouver Police Department, civilian professionals, volunteers, community partners, and stakeholders whose professionalism, collaboration, and dedication contributed to public safety and community wellbeing throughout 2025. The Board also recognizes and thanks its directors for their continued leadership, governance, and commitment to civilian oversight through extensive participation in Board and Committee meetings, community engagement initiatives, stakeholder consultations, ceremonies, workshops, and public safety events throughout the year.

As the Board looks ahead, it remains committed to strengthening public trust, enhancing governance excellence, and supporting modern, accountable, and community-focused policing for the residents of Vancouver.

VPD ACHIEVEMENTS

- A review of the VPD's draft UNDRIP policies to ensure the Department's approach reflects Vancouver's obligations to approximately 70,000 Indigenous residents and rights-holders in the city.

- Collaboration in the development of a standalone Sexual Misconduct Policy for the VPD to ensure clear and robust standards are implemented and followed to protect all sworn and civilian personnel.

- Approval of the Body-Worn Camera Policy, which led to equipping each frontline officer with a camera. The policy was reviewed by the B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner and was designed to enhance accountability and public confidence, and support timely and objective resolution of complaints and investigations through the use of video evidence. It will enable officers to be more efficiently cleared of unfounded allegations, assist oversight bodies such as the Independent Investigations Office of B.C., and facilitate the timely return of officers to operational duties where appropriate.

- Deployment of CCTV cameras at Main and Hastings, and Carrall and Hastings, with a four-day footage retention protocol and strict restrictions on recording private spaces, reflecting the Board's philosophy that transparency and public safety are not competing values.

- A rigorous review of the VPD's resources and budget request for 2026 ahead of its submission to Council by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee was done diligently to make the necessary adjustments given protest policing costs and other such emerging priorities.

DRONES



As drone use becomes increasingly common in policing agencies around the world, their practical value continues to grow. You may have seen them overhead at festivals or large public events, such as protests and demonstrations, providing an extra set of eyes for first responders.

From above, drones help officers quickly identify emerging issues, monitor crowd movement, and direct resources where they're needed most. They can detect suspicious activity, track persons of interest, and even estimate crowd sizes to support safe and effective deployment of personnel.

Their use is not limited to outdoor settings. Drones can be deployed inside buildings to search for suspects or locate victims, while also giving incident commanders real-time situational awareness to guide response efforts. Newer models are also capable of delivering equipment—transporting drop kits, spotlights, cameras, or even life-saving flotation devices to officers or members of the public in hard-to-reach areas.

Drones also play a critical role in investigations. They are used to map collision scenes and serious crime locations, creating detailed 3D renderings that support forensic analysis and court proceedings. Equipped with thermal imaging that can detect heat sources such as the human body makes them highly effective in searching for missing persons.

In September 2024, a random knife attack in downtown Vancouver left one man dead and another with a severed hand. Approximately one hour later, a police drone helped locate the suspect, leading to his arrest. In another incident, two people in a kayak were caught in a powerful outgoing tide off English Bay, where they were being pushed toward anchored tankers. A drone operator quickly located them and guided the Vancouver Police Marine Unit to their position, ensuring a safe rescue.

The Vancouver Police Department's Remotely Piloted Aircraft Section (RPAS) was established in 2018. Today, five full-time officers operate a fleet of 24 drones. They have also trained numerous additional members across the department. In addition to drones launched from headquarters, specially trained frontline officers carry drones in their patrol vehicles, enabling rapid deployment when time is critical.

Drones also play an important role during major events, like FIFA World Cup. Our fleet helps support public safety operations by monitoring large crowds, enhancing situational awareness, and helping coordinate a swift response to any developing incidents.

As technology evolves and drone capabilities expand, they are increasingly integrated into VPD operations.



HEARING COUNTER LOOPS

The Vancouver Police Department has improved accessibility and inclusive service, with the installation of assistive listening technology at its 2120 Cambie Street public service counter.

The system is designed to support people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard-of-Hearing, by making in-person communication clearer and more effective. For people using hearing aids or cochlear implants equipped with telecoils (T-coils), the technology transmits sound directly to their devices, reducing background noise and enhancing speech clarity during conversations with front counter staff.

The initiative is part of an ongoing partnership between the Vancouver Police Department, the Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility, and the Vancouver Police Foundation, which provided funding for the initiative.

The VPD is working to remove barriers and ensure more equitable access to police services for all members of the community, and at every point of contact.

FARADAY ROOM

When most people think of police evidence, they probably think of fingerprints and paper trails, or weapons and witnesses. But in modern policing, digital evidence has become central to how police officers investigate crime. Everyday devices, such as phones and computers, can hold a wealth of information, including texts, call histories, images, and location data. In many serious investigations, from homicide and organized crime to human trafficking and online child exploitation, that data can make the difference between cases stalling and cases being solved.

Working with digital evidence is complex; extracting data safely and preserving it for court requires highly controlled conditions. One of the most effective tools is a radio frequency-shielded space, known as a Faraday Room, which prevents outside signals from remotely altering or erasing data while it is being examined.

For years, the Vancouver Police Department relied on a small Faraday Room built in 2007—an eight-by-eight-foot unit that has increasingly struggled to keep pace with demand. As digital evidence has increased, so has the need for more capacity and modern infrastructure.

To address that gap, the Vancouver Police Foundation supported the development of a new, purpose-built Faraday Room. Designed to handle significantly higher workloads, the upgraded space can accommodate multiple examiners at once and includes features such as a double interlock door system, video monitoring, anti-static flooring, and a built-in power supply to keep devices charged throughout the forensic process. These enhancements will help speed up examinations, reduce the risk of compromised evidence, and improve overall efficiency.

The new facility is also built with the future in mind. Its scalable design allows for expansion as digital investigations continue to grow in both volume and complexity.

This investment complements broader upgrades within the Digital Forensics Unit. Together, these changes will strengthen the Department's ability to manage increasingly sophisticated investigations and reinforce its commitment to delivering timely, reliable evidence in the pursuit of justice.

R.G. MCBEATH

The Vancouver Police Marine Unit patrols Vancouver's waterways, covering more than 160 kilometres of coastline and 11 marinas across Coal Harbour, English Bay, and False Creek. They respond to approximately 1,000 calls for service each year, ranging from suspect apprehensions and search-and-rescue operations to vessel inspections for safety regulations and law enforcement.

As the R.G. McBeath police vessel reached the end of its service life, a four-year project was launched to design and build its replacement. Expectations were high: the Marine Unit required a vessel capable of responding quickly and safely to high-risk incidents in all weather and sea conditions. When it came to adopting new technology to enhance safety, the new vessel would be no exception.

The new R.G. McBeath, launched in October 2025, is a state-of-the-art 45-foot cabin rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB), powered by four Suzuki 350 V6 outboard engines, and is capable of cruising at speeds of up to 40 knots.

The vessel is equipped with advanced technology, including a FLIR camera system that enables officers to track vessels in low visibility and rough seas, and to detect heat sources, used to locate people in the water.

An Optimus steering system enhances maneuverability, allowing the vessel to move laterally as well as forward and backward. In tight or congested environments, this provides greater precision and control. The fingertip steering enables 360-degree movement and rotation on the vessel's own axis, while the auto-helm feature can hold position, freeing the operator to assist with other operational tasks.

Officers are also equipped with voice-activated communication headsets that provide both hearing protection and seamless coordination. With a range of up to 100 metres, the system ensures clear communication whether members are on board, on shore, or operating across multiple vessels.

The use of outboard engines significantly reduces maintenance time and costs. If one engine requires servicing, it can be removed and repaired independently, allowing the vessel to remain operational with the remaining engines. Their design also simplifies cleaning and minimizes damage from prolonged exposure to salt water.

The new R.G. McBeath was funded through a partnership between the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Police Foundation. It enhances safety for officers on board and for those in distress on the water, by enabling a rapid response in any weather or sea condition.

INTERPRETATION SOFTWARE

Language barriers are not only frustrating—they can be dangerous when critical information is needed during an emergency. In a city as diverse as Vancouver, effective communication is essential. Nearly half of Vancouver residents speak a first language other than English, and thousands of visitors from around the world come to our city each year. As a result, language barriers are a very real challenge for both the public and police.

In 2025, the Vancouver Police Department began using the Languages in Motion app, which allows officers to communicate in real time with people who do not speak English. Through a secure web-based platform, the app provides access to more than 6,000 interpreters covering 264 languages, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The interpreters are legally trained and court-approved, ensuring accurate and reliable communication. Conversations are transcribed and saved as PDF files for investigative and evidentiary purposes.

More than 1,000 VPD officers have the app installed on their phones, and it is also available on iPads at both VPD front counters. This ensures that people seeking police assistance—whether in the field or at a police station—can communicate effectively and access services regardless of the language they speak.

Accurate communication reduces misunderstandings that can lead to confusion, delays, or safety risks. By quickly obtaining critical information, officers can better assess situations, make informed decisions, and respond appropriately. Ultimately, the app enhances the safety of both police officers and the public, while ensuring that language is never a barrier to reporting a crime, seeking help, or accessing police services.

The Department continues to explore technology enhancements to facilitate effective communication with all residents and visitors to Vancouver.



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