



# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2020 First Quarter



## MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

The first months of 2020 are a marked departure from how the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) and our city are accustomed to operating. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us in new and unfamiliar ways but, in times of uncertainty and crisis, the need for policing does not decrease. In fact, EPS' role becomes even more vital in ensuring the safety and security fundamental to Edmonton's wellbeing.

EPS continues to find resourceful solutions for upholding the service levels Edmonton has come to know while keeping the health and safety of our members and the public top of mind. This is largely thanks to the dedication of our people, both civilian and sworn, who are committed to helping EPS monitor and adapt to this ever-evolving situation. We remain responsive to the direction set by all levels of government and the health authorities and continue to work closely with our partners to ensure Edmontonians receive the service and support needed throughout the pandemic.

As an essential service, EPS' work does not and cannot stop. Policing has permanently changed because of the pandemic, and rather than expecting a return to normal, we are looking at how our operations will evolve into the future.

We are vigilant in our approach to proactive, safety-minded policing during these rapidly changing circumstances and are grateful for the support of all citizens and the Edmonton Police Commission as we navigate this new reality together.

**Dale McFee**  
**Chief of Police**



On behalf of the Edmonton Police Commission I would like to update the community on our efforts and response to the current pandemic crisis.

All the Commissioners and staff are concerned about the spread of the virus and keeping themselves and their family healthy. We are taking every precaution to limit the potential of exposure to COVID-19 and to prevent its spread. With that, we have closed our downtown office to the public until further notice. You can still access information through our website at [edmontonpolicecommission.com](http://edmontonpolicecommission.com) or we can assist you over the phone through our main line at 780-414-7510.

We also want to ensure the citizens of Edmonton that the Commission is still performing their duties of police governance and oversight through frequent meetings with the Service and ongoing accountability is maintained by regular financial and service level reporting. Although we are unable to currently hold meetings in public at this time we will ensure all agenda items normally presented in this forum will be posted to our website in a timely manner.

The Commission would also like to take this opportunity to thank all citizens and the Edmonton Police Service for their efforts in these unprecedented times.

**Micki Ruth**  
**Chair, Edmonton Police Commission**





## POLICING THROUGH CRISIS

In accordance with COVID-19 public health orders, EPS has implemented various measures to prevent the virus' spread while fulfilling its commitment to serve Edmonton. These new measures intend to protect the health and well-being of officers and community members.

EPS has modified a variety of processes to ensure members and citizens follow physical distancing guidelines, including:

- An online application tool for citizens who require police information checks.
- An appointment-based system for fingerprinting services.

Just as public are encouraged to practice safe physical distancing, EPS asks its officers to do the same. While not always practical on the frontlines, common policing practices are modified to prioritize health and safety, including:

- The use of smart phone cameras to photograph documents at vehicle stops and other interactions to provide adequate physical distance and minimize the handling of documentation.
- Increased sanitization of equipment and holding cells while monitoring individuals for any flu-like symptoms, as well as regular cleaning of all EPS facilities.
- The Police Communications Branch asks callers a series of COVID-19-related questions to assess risk to officers and citizens.
- The use of personal protective equipment and physical distancing measures where possible when responding to calls for service.

Communication and education are the primary objective for EPS members responding to non-compliance of Public Health Act orders. However, in cases where there is utter disregard or public safety is at risk, EPS will enforce orders as appropriate.

EPS continues to monitor and adjust to the constantly changing situation to ensure the health and wellbeing of both officers and the public are always top of mind.



## EPS' 2020-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

Edmonton is a growing city with a diverse population. As a modern police service committed to increasing community safety, EPS balances traditional enforcement with social needs by establishing strong community partnerships, leveraging data-driven evidence and cultivating an innovative workforce reflective of the city it serves.

With that in mind, EPS has published its 2020-2022 Strategic Plan. The plan is a people-focused blueprint that unifies the organization in a common direction by defining a clear vision and mission while targeting specific goals.

**Vision: A forward-thinking police service that strengthens public trust through addressing crime, harm and disorder.**

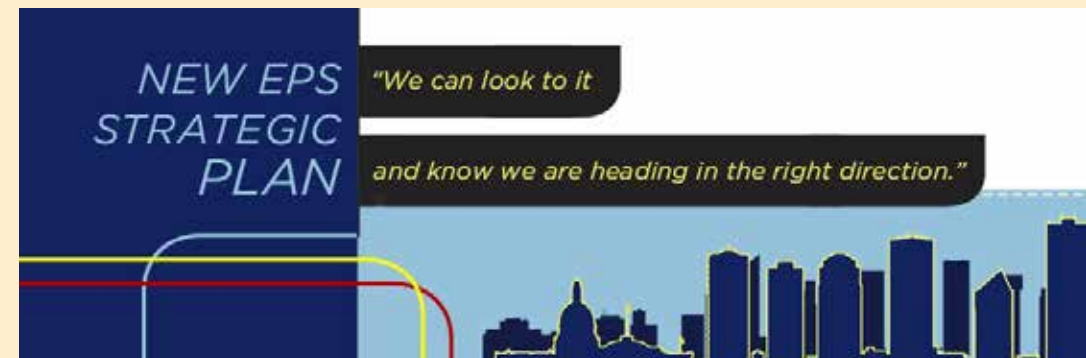
**Mission: To be relentless on crime and a leading partner in building community safety.**

The Strategic Plan, which replaces the Annual Policing Plan, sets the course for EPS to make Edmonton a safer place through continuous evolution and the ability to learn, adjust and develop innovative approaches to policing.

This report reflects the new goals of the Strategic Plan, which are:

- Balance support and enforcement
- Partner and advocate
- Innovate and advance
- Grow diverse talents

The plan was developed in partnership with the Edmonton Police Commission and the Edmonton Police Association. Progress and findings are presented by EPS to the Commission through an annual reporting process that ensures the plan continues to meet the needs of Edmontonians now and into the future.



## LENGTHY INVESTIGATION RECOVERS 25 FIREARMS AND THOUSANDS OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

EPS laid over 70 charges against two individuals after 28 firearms and thousands of identity documents were recovered in connection to a 16-month-long investigation

In late 2018, police were called to a residence regarding a prolific offender who was released on conditions back into the community. Investigators from EPS' Targeted Offenders Section attended the residence and located the individual in question. A week later, investigators conducted a vehicle stop and located the same individual, along with a second, wanted on outstanding warrants. Investigators located two firearms inside the vehicle and determined the vehicle was stolen. Both individuals had a combined total of 97 outstanding warrants and were taken into custody.

Upon further investigation, multiple search warrants were obtained for residences, vehicles, and a storage locker where a total of 28 non-restricted firearms were seized, along with two crossbows and a compound bow. In addition, approximately 2,300 stolen and fraudulent identification documents were recovered, including equipment to produce the fraudulent identification.

The accused are collectively charged with 77 offences including weapons trafficking, identity theft and other drug-related offences.



*Inspector Shane Perka stands with items recovered from the residences, vehicles and storage locker of the accused individuals.*

## RESULTS OF LGBTQ2S+ COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

After an extensive consultation process with community and police members, EPS identified several opportunities for growth to foster inclusivity, understanding, and communication with the LGBTQ2S+ community as part of reconciliation efforts.

Using the feedback from various interviews, survey and social media, EPS committed to making changes in areas such as recruit training, detainee management and police communications processes. These changes include new LGBTQ2S+ inclusivity and bias awareness training, a reevaluation of the Police Communications Branch training procedures, and updating the Detainee Management Unit's screening processes to enable citizens to share how they register or identify themselves.

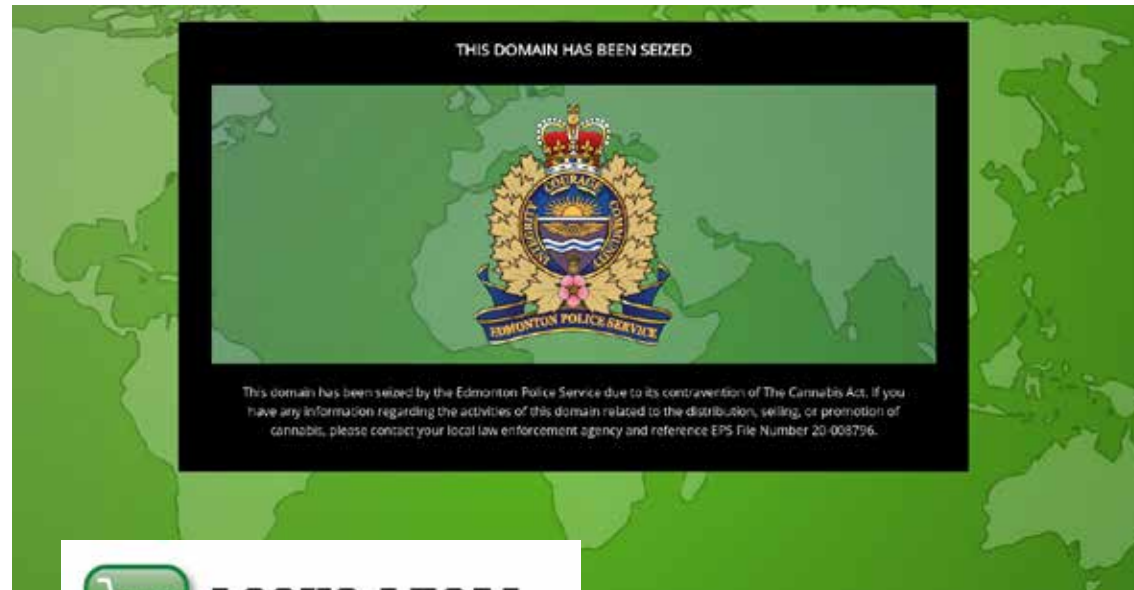
"This isn't the end, but the beginning of our journey," says Chief Dale McFee. "We won't always be perfect, we may make mistakes along the way, but this relationship is, and will remain, a priority for EPS."

EPS has also developed long-term strategies around community participation, recruitment, training, accountability and leadership that will roll out over the next year. The full report is available at [www.epsinput.ca](http://www.epsinput.ca).





## CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION



*EPS has taken a unique approach to cannabis law enforcement by seizing the web addresses of websites illegally selling cannabis products. On March 16, EPS began seizing more than 100 web addresses illegally selling, distributing or promoting products in contravention of the Cannabis Act, and launched an online advertising campaign to educate the public about illegal website.*

## MARCH IS FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH



*Detective Linda Herczeg kicked off the Fraud Prevention month at Ford Hall on March 2. Each year, EPS joins government, law enforcement agencies and business partners to educate the public on fraud impacting Edmonton most frequently over the last year. This year's campaign focused on online scams, identity theft, business scams, mass marketing scams, immigrant scams and COVID-19 scams.*



## PICKING UP THE PACE

In 2017, EPS recognized a service gap: each year members are invited to numerous community engagement events but lack the capacity to attend them all. This meant EPS missed out on numerous chances to engage with and get to know Edmonton's many communities. A better solution was needed to connect with citizens, so the Police and Community Engagement (PACE) team was piloted.

Three years later, EPS is happy to announce that the PACE team is now an official part of EPS following the pilot program's success. The PACE Coordinator strategically selects community engagement invitations, with priority given to culturally-diverse communities which are often under-represented in their proactive engagement with EPS. The goal is to foster relationships so EPS can work with citizens to build safer and happier neighbourhoods.

In 2019, PACE members attended nearly 200 community events.



Officers were invited by Bernadette Iahtil (2nd from the left) and Elder Emil Durocher (2nd from the right) to attend "Stories from Amiskwaciwaskahikan" on Sept. 21, 2019.

## POLAR PLUNGE: GOOSEBUMPS FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Chief Dale McFee is the first to jump into Lake Summerside on Jan. 26 for the 9th annual Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Polar Plunge to support Special Olympic athletes. As EPS' official charity, LETR hosts numerous events throughout the year that result in unique collaboration between law enforcement, Special Olympics and Edmonton's citizens.



## SIRENS FOR LIFE

From Jan. 1 to Feb. 29, 2020, Canadian Blood Services and Edmonton area emergency services partnered to extend the 'Season of Giving'. Typically, Canadian Blood Services sees a drastic drop in blood donations after Christmas. To help partners and citizens who need this lifesaving resource, EPS joined the Sirens for Life campaign.

The Sirens for Life campaign encourages first responders to pre-emptively help loved ones, co-workers, and citizens by donating blood. During the joint launch event on Jan. 17th, Deputy Chief Darren Derko, a volunteer coordinator, and a member of our cadets saved lives.

January 2021 will see a new donation competition: the battle of Alberta. A friendly competition for a worthy cause, Edmonton first responders will challenge Calgary first responders to see who can bring in more donations. Get ready to roll up your sleeves with us next year, Edmonton!



*Deputy Chief Darren Derko gives blood during the Sirens for Life event hosted by Canadian Blood Services on Jan. 16*

## A SWEET VALENTINE'S DAY TREAT



*Chief Dale McFee joined officers early on the morning of Feb. 14 to hand out a sweet Valentine's Day treat to motorists. The cookies serve as a reminder to not drive distracted*



## COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACCELERATOR UNIQUE FOR POLICING IN NORTH AMERICA

Through the support of the Edmonton Police Foundation (EPF), EPS has begun using the latest industry technology and innovative expertise to collaboratively solve the ongoing issues impacting our community.

The Community Solutions Accelerator (CSA) is a ground-breaking approach to public safety and well-being modelled on business applications that combine amalgamated data, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to solve complex problems.

“Some elements of community policing will never change, but resources are limited, so we need to find new ways to respond to the problems that continue to impact our citizens, strain our healthcare services, and overflow our criminal justice system,” says Police Chief Dale McFee.

Believed to be unique in North America, the CSA focuses on the interconnected challenges affecting Edmonton such as crime, addictions, homelessness, and mental health. The data will be a roadmap for change, and while the solutions will benefit the safety and wellbeing of Edmontonians, they could potentially be applied to other communities across the country and around the world facing similar challenges.

The CSA consists of two distinct sections: one side, governed by EPF, concentrates on issuing public challenges that calls on the ingenuity of entrepreneurs for innovative solutions, while the other side, guided by EPS, focuses on data and research. Through stewardship of the EPF, the CSA calls on entrepreneurship and corporate partners to make Edmonton and Alberta a safer place.



*The CSA is made possible by EPF and partnerships with Motorola Solutions, Telus, ATB Financial and the University of Alberta.*

## EPS LAUNCHES SAFE EXCHANGE ZONE



In early March, EPS launched a Safe Exchange Zone to provide the public a “safe space” for buyers and sellers to meet and conduct transactions involving online goods.

Located in the northwest public parking lot of EPS’ Southwest Division station, the Safe Exchange Zone is available to the public and the parking spaces are monitored by video cameras 24/7.

“Last year alone, we made 77 arrests and laid 218 charges, in relation to the face-to-face buying and selling of items listed online,” said Det. Michael Walkom, of EPS’ Cyber Crime Investigations Unit. “So obviously, there’s a need for this type of initiative.”

If successful, the initiative could expand to other police stations across the city.



*EPS announced the launch of online sexual assault reporting in early February creating another option for victims of historic sexual assault to share their information or file a report. The web-based tool allows individuals who have experienced assault more than seven days prior to choose whether they submit their report for investigation or information only. EPS hopes that providing another option for reporting encourages victims to come forward.*



## TOP EMPLOYER HAT TRICK!

EPS has been named one of Alberta's Top Employers three years in a row.

"It's an honour to be part of this winning team," said Deputy Chief Darren Derko. "EPS has been recognized because of its great employees and the way we respect one another, so this is an award we can all share in."

Alberta's Top Employers is a special designation recognizing organizations that lead their industries in offering exceptional places to work. Employers were evaluated on numerous criteria, and EPS was recognized for its leadership in community involvement, building outstanding workplaces, and progressive human resources programs that make a difference for employees.



Accepting the Top Employer award for EPS – Deputy Chief Darren Derko, Human Resources Consultant Jessica Wong, and Executive Director Darren Eastcott with Human Resources.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



In recognition of International Women's Day on March 8, EPS honoured some of its longest serving female members and recognized the many contributions women have made to policing and the City of Edmonton. Celebrations also recognized Arlene Omilian, the longest serving female police officer in EPS history with over 40 years of service to the community.



On March 12, EPS welcomed the Mawji Family along with Edmonton Oilers Captain Connor McDavid and his girlfriend, Lauren Kyle, to announce "Sammy" as the name of the Canine Unit's newest recruit. The unit asked Ashif Mawji, Chair of the Edmonton Police Foundation, if his family would be interested in naming the then eight-week-old Belgian Malinois. With the help of McDavid and Lauren, the Mawji's settled on the name to honour Oilers Alumni Dave Semenko.

## CONGRATULATIONS RECRUIT TRAINING CLASS 147



Recruit Training Class 147 graduated on Feb. 21 to join the ranks of those dedicated to serve and protect our city. While many in the class have backgrounds in law enforcement, there are others who made significant career changes to pursue their dreams of becoming police officers, including: a former firefighter, a paramedic, helicopter pilot, elementary school teacher, a stay-at-home mom, and an Edmonton Prospects pitcher, to name just a few.



## FINANCIALS

EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION (EPC) & AUDIT  
BUDGET VARIANCE BY MAJOR CATEGORY FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2020 (\$'000'S)

	CURRENT PERIOD*				YEAR END FORECAST**			
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	%	BUDGET	PROJECTION	VARIANCE	%
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>								
<b>PERSONNEL</b>								
Salary	153	146	7	5%	625	625	-	0%
Benefits	35	40	(5)	-14%	128	128	-	0%
EPC Overtime	2	0	1	79%	7	7	-	0%
	<b>190</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>NON-PERSONNEL</b>								
Materials & Supplies	1	1	(0)	-49%	2	2	0	8%
Furniture & Equipment	1	0	1	87%	4	3	0	9%
Contracts & Services	110	17	93	85%	439	379	60	14%
Building Cost	34	33	0	1%	134	132	2	1%
Travel and Training	24	6	18	75%	96	87	9	9%
Other General Costs***	5	10	(6)	-117%	20	20	-	0%
	<b>174</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>	-	-	-		-	-	-	
<b>NET POSITION</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>5%</b>

\* Variances for the current period are determined through a comparison of the year-to-date budget and actual results, and is composed of timing differences that are expected to reverse during the remainder of the year.

\*\* The year-end forecast is based on the information available as of March 31, 2020 and is subject to the uncertainty of unknown events or circumstances which may transpire during the remainder of the year.

\*\*\* Although the first quarter variance for Other General Costs is unfavorable, the forecasted activity in Q2 is anticipated to recover the deficit in this area.

## EXPENSES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2020

	Executive Director	T.O'Brien	M. Ruth	K. Mackenzie	L. Hawn	J. McDougall	A. Hussainaly	J. Hamilton	E.Ambtman	A. Singh
Conferences										
Hosting		461.41		30.45						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$461.41</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$30.45</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

## COMMISSIONER MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2020

COMMISSIONER	# COMMISSION MEETINGS ATTENDED
MICKI RUTH, CHAIR	3/3
JOHN MCDUGALL, VICE CHAIR	3/3
KAREN MACKENZE	3/3
LAURIE HAWN	3/3
JANET-SUE HAMILTON	3/3
ANEELA HUSSAINALY	2/3
TIM O'BRIEN	3/3
ERICK AMBTMAN	3/3
ASHVIN SINGH	2/3
SARAH HAMILTON	3/3
TIM CARTMELL	3/3

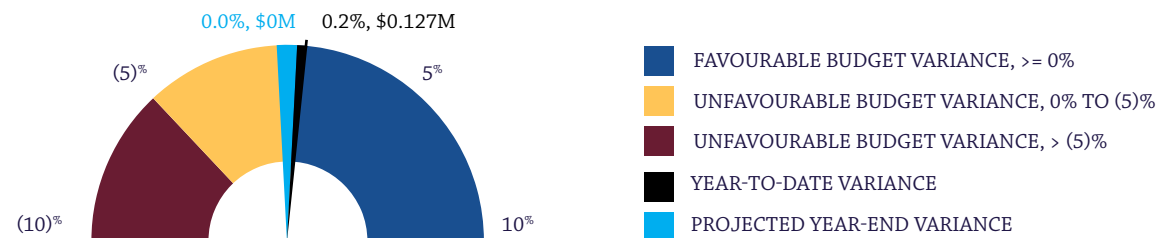


## EPS FINANCIALS

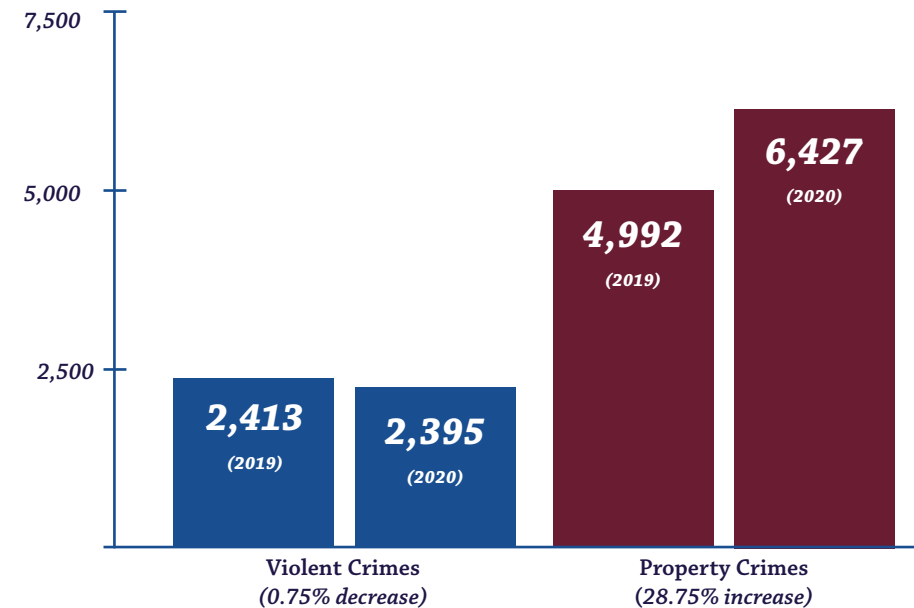
BUDGET VARIANCE BY MAJOR CATEGORY OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2020 FORECAST (\$'000'S)

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE \$	%
<b>2020 YEAR-TO-DATE</b>				
REVENUE	7,381	7,118	(263)	-3.6%
<i>Personnel</i>	64,033	66,368	(2,335)	-3.6%
<i>Non-Personnel</i>	14,927	12,202	2,725	18.3%
EXPENSE	78,960	78,570	390	0.5%
<b>NET POSITION</b>	<b>71,579</b>	<b>71,452</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>0.2%</b>

	2019 PROJECTED YEAR-END			
REVENUE	93,822	96,801	2,979	3.2%
<i>Personnel</i>	377,391	386,323	(8,932)	-2.4%
<i>Non-Personnel</i>	82,365	76,698	5,667	6.9%
EXPENSE	459,756	463,021	(3,265)	-0.7%
TCA	7,070	7,070	-	0.0%
TRANSFER TO/FROM EPS RESERVE	-	(286)	286	0.0%
<b>NET POSITION</b>	<b>373,004</b>	<b>373,004</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>



## OVERALL CRIME IN THE EIGHT CRIME INDICATORS 2019 VERSUS 2020 Q1 COMPARISONS



\*2020 is a leap year and has one extra day. On Feb 29, there was 20 violent violations and 60 property violations.

## THE EIGHT CRIME INDICATORS ARE:

### PROPERTY CRIMES

- Break and enter
- Theft from vehicle
- Theft of vehicle
- Theft over \$5,000

### VIOLENT CRIMES

- Homicide
- Assault
- Sexual assault
- Robbery

The eight crime indicators are measured daily and the data is used to focus on criminal activity and identify trends, patterns, and hot spots in Edmonton. Police resources are then deployed to address emerging and enduring crime and disorder issues. Violent crime statistics are based on the number of victims of crime, rather than the number of incidents of crime.



BALANCE SUPPORT  
& ENFORCEMENT



PARTNER &  
ADVOCATE



INNOVATE  
& ADVANCE



GROW  
DIVERSE TALENTS

APPENDICES

## EPS STAFF COMPLEMENT

### SWORN, CIVILIAN, AND RECRUITS

STAFF	2020 AUTHORIZED FTE'S	2020 ACTUAL FTE'S	VACANCIES/ (OVER STRENGTH)
SWORN	1,851.00	1,815.54	40.46
RECRUITS	0.00	35.00	(35.00)
CIVILIANS	894.00	848.47	14.53
<b>FULL COMPLEMENT</b>	<b>2,745.00</b>	<b>2,699.01</b>	<b>(19.99)</b>

The authorized FTEs represent 2,719 authorized positions in 2020

## OTHER COMMISSION AND EPS PUBLICATIONS

The Edmonton Police Commission and the Edmonton Police Service publish a number of reports that provide further details on policing in Edmonton.

OPERATIONAL AREA	PUBLICATION
Performance Measurement	Annual Business Plan
Performance Results	Annual Business Plan Report Card
Complaints Against EPS	Professional Standards Branch Annual Report
Citizen Opinions on Policing	Citizen Survey

All publications can be found at [www.edmontonpolicecommission.ca](http://www.edmontonpolicecommission.ca) and [www.edmontonpolice.ca](http://www.edmontonpolice.ca)