



SURREY
POLICE SERVICE

SPS Updates

SAFER. STRONGER. TOGETHER.



August 2023

Policing Transition Update

Since [Minister Farnworth's recent decision](#) that the policing transition to Surrey Police Service (SPS) will continue, we have been working with all partners to resume the transition safely and efficiently. Chief Lipinski has met with the provincial strategic implementation advisor, RCMP, and City of Surrey to determine a timeline for the hiring and deployment of more SPS officers, with the corresponding demobilizations of RCMP officers.

SPS officers currently make up over 50% of Frontline policing response in Surrey. In September, SPS will be deploying another group of experienced officers into policing operations, and our fifth class of recruits will begin their training at the Justice Institute of BC.

You can learn more about phase one of Surrey's policing transition at www.surreypolice.ca/spspolicing-transition.

Indigenous Circles of Understanding

SPS's Indigenous Relations Unit (IRU) is committed to engaging with Indigenous people in a manner that is based on mutual respect, understanding and education.

To help our police officers understand the history of Indigenous people in Canada, SPS holds "Circles of Understanding" with officers and Indigenous people with lived experience. This in-person sharing circle, modeled after the Indigenous way of learning, involves a dialogue that highlights the profound and ongoing impact that the residential school system and other government policies have had on Indigenous people.

This past spring, the IRU hosted eight Circles of Understanding with guests Tina Taphouse, an Interior Salish artist, and Francis James, of the Stó:lō and Musqueam Nations. Tina and Francis openly shared their respective

life stories as survivors of the [Sixties Scoop](#), a period of time where Indigenous children were taken from their communities without the consent of their family and band. Officers were also educated on why police uniforms might be negatively perceived by Indigenous people, and how inter-generational trauma can lead to mistrust, fear, or anger.

Importantly, these Circles of Understanding help SPS officers understand why they may encounter a negative reaction from some Indigenous people while they are simply carrying out their duties or wearing their uniform. Officers are encouraged to use this new understanding to foster relationships with Indigenous community members during every interaction.

To date, 85% of our experienced officers have participated in a Circle of Understanding at SPS, and all SPS recruits experience this as a part of their training at the Justice Institute of BC.

Financial Update

The Surrey Police Board presents a financial update at each public board meeting. The June update outlines the year-to-date expenditures for SPS operations, totaling \$34.6M. The report details the amounts spent on salaries and benefits, capital expenditures, and other expenses such as training, communications, supplies, and outsourced services.

The City of Surrey also set up a one-time policing transition fund of \$63.7M in 2020. This fund is used for one-time costs required to establish SPS. The June financial update details the expenses that have drawn upon the policing transition fund in 2023, totaling \$4.2M. These expenditures included IT systems; purchases of equipment, uniforms and vehicles; and legal, financial and HR services related to the set-up of SPS.

View the full [June 2023 Financial Update](#) and previous updates on the [Surrey Police Board website](#).

Putting Community First

As a new police service, our goal is to put the community first in all that we do by developing relationships with Surrey's many diverse communities.

Over the summer, officers from our Community Policing Bureau and Community 1st Unit met with a variety of organizations, businesses, and communities to hear about safety concerns, conduct foot patrols, and introduce themselves. We also attended a number of events to meet Surrey residents and visitors, including Surrey Canada Day, Latin Fest, Canada Cup International Softball Tournament, Fusion Festival, Miri Piri Nagar Kirtan, and Cloverdale Market Days.

If you'd like to connect with us or invite SPS to your community event, please email communityevents@surreypolice.ca.

Surrey Police Service

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