



Manager
Public Security Peace Officer Program
Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security
10th Floor, John E. Brownlee Building
10365 – 97 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 3W7

July 4th, 2020

**Re: 2019 Annual Peace Officer Program Report
Originally Submitted March 3rd, 2020
With Revisions and Additions**

Located in the heart of oil country, near vast tourism and recreation opportunities, and along one of Alberta's busiest transportation corridors, Edson is a great spot for business to thrive.

The halfway point between Jasper and Edmonton, Edson has the main CN line passing through town, has a well maintained airport with major development potential, and has large tracts of developable land.

With a population of 8,696, Edson is one of the largest towns in the Province. Residents enjoy a high quality of life with brand new state of the art medical facilities, a brand new public school, a brand new senior's residential complex, beautiful parks and trails, and ample services. A budgeted \$70-million dollar multi-use recreational facility is slated to begin construction in late 2021.

Edson has over 12 km's of multi-use trails within the town site and another 20 plus km's of multi-use trails in Willmore Park as well as a brand new Mountain Bike Park. Willmore Park is a natural area and campground located 10 km's south of Edson on the McLeod River. Host to numerous events and festivals, Edson is known as the heart of the Yellowhead.

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Manager of the Public Security Peace Officer Program summarizing the activities of the Town of Edson Enforcement Services Department for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

The police service of choice for Edson is contracted to the RCMP. The 2019 compliment of sworn police officers was 22.

1 S/Sgt. NCO i/c Detachment Commander
1 Sgt. Ops. NCO

3 Cpl's.

12 Constables fulfilling both Provincial and Municipal responsibilities.

5 Provincial positions and 17 Municipally funded positions.

There are 6.5 support staff positions, 2 public servants, and 4.5 municipal employees. There is a three member municipal GIS unit.

Also housed at the detachment is a Provincial Traffic Unit as well as, regional district assets and a three member regional Identification Section.

The report will identify 2 aspects, 1 being the Automated Traffic Enforcement program and the 2nd being our Municipal Enforcement (Bylaw) activities. Our Automated Traffic Enforcement program is contracted out to Global Traffic Group Ltd. This contract expires on October 31, 2020. In 2019 approximately 4900 traffic violations were issued through our Photo Enforcement program.

The use of automated enforcement is done in direct consultation with the Director of Protective Services and the Detachment Commander, NCO i/c, of the Detachment. The Town of Edson had 20 approved locations for Automated Traffic Enforcement in 2019. Given that Highway #16 goes straight through the Town of Edson, thousands of vehicles enter and leave the Town daily. This volume of traffic can be problematic if the predominantly 50 km/h speed limit through Town is not adhered to by the flow of traffic.

Our Traffic Safety Plan takes into account the huge volume of traffic entering and leaving Edson coupled with a strong concern for our school zones, playground zones supporting the safety of our children and pedestrians. Our Traffic Safety Plan is geared towards the reduction of collisions, property damage and deaths on our roadways. This is consistent with the strategic plan identified in our local detachment's Annual Performance Plan as well as the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan 2019-2021. Our philosophy is based on the Safer System Approach, which aims to encourage safer drivers, safer vehicles, and safer roads.

Priorities are addressed using a number of core strategies including education and communications, new technologies in relation to automated enforcement, and local enforcement initiatives executed in partnership with the RCMP and Community Peace Officers.

Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) continues to play an active role in our community by reducing speed protecting our intersections and citizens. In addition to conventional law enforcement through the Town's police service (RCMP) and Community Peace Officers, ATE is used as another tool to carry out enforcement of these violations.

All locations (or "zones") where ATE is used are approved by the Edson Detachment NCO i/c RCMP, based on data that aligns with the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's Automated Traffic Enforcement Technology Guideline. For each location, a "justification sheet" is completed.

The Town maintains a list of all locations approved and used. This list is publicly available on the Town of Edson's website, located at www.edson.ca. The Town also provides public access to the justification sheets and supporting data through its website, where users can access an interactive map.

Edson reviews traffic count information, intersection survey reports, RCMP data collection, and Alberta traffic collision stats on an annual basis. Roadway signage is reviewed annually as well by the Town and the ATE contractor to ensure that all locations are signed as required by the Guidelines.

Current collision data on each of the specific locations was not readily available to the Town in 2019, and not directly factored into the justification; however, overall collision observations and anecdotal collision information from the police was considered. In previous years we used Alberta traffic collision data from 2011-2015.

Since 2017, the Town of Edson has purchased and erected portable speed signs to inform drivers of their speed and to provide warning to drivers to slow down if they are speeding. These signs are moved throughout the community within Town limits. There are also speed monitoring devices affixed to light poles at some locations. There has been a reduction of speed related ATE tickets in the corresponding zones. These signs also record and collect traffic data, and based on this data, there still are a significant number of violations occurring in some areas.

Our Protective Services Department received 6 complaints / inquiries on the photo enforcement program:

- 1 Angry he got a ticket
- 1 Photo radar truck is in the transition zone coming into town from East, doesn't think it should be there.
- 2 Lost ticket and needs a copy
- 1 Received notice of conviction, didn't receive original ticket, it was in his wife's name, he is the principle driver
- 1 wanted information of the operation of photo radar.

The current staff for Photo Enforcement consists of the following:

Photo Radar 4 Year Statistics

Year	Total Speed Violations Committed	Total Number of Enforcement Hours	Average Number of Tickets per Hour
2019	4904	832.9	5.8
2018	16530	1276.1	12.95
2017	15369	1227.6	12.51
2016	18315	1243.0	14.7

The Town of Edson Municipal Enforcement (Bylaw) department is responsible for providing services pertaining mainly to Municipal Bylaws, with minimal enforcement of provincial statutes. With respect to the Provincial appointment, primary involvement relates to the Provincial Offences Procedures Act and the Traffic Safety Act, for non moving violation enforcement.

The Municipal Enforcement department operates primarily on the philosophy of Education, Information and Enforcement.

Our staff model for 2019 had the following officers:

Mikaela Kuefler
Jim Desautels

I, Jim Desautels, am the Enforcement Services Manager for the Town of Edson and have the responsibility for program management.

The department operates primarily Monday to Friday with an alternating evening shift for the officers.

All active officers enforce in full uniform and the enforcement services vehicles are striped and decaled as per Community Peace Officer Level 1 standards with the exception of the Red/Blue light bar.

While both the uniforms and vehicles are not a requirement for Level 2 officers, the visibility and professionalism this displays works well for the Town of Edson.

Below are the 2019 Municipal Enforcement stats:

341 Traffic bylaw related inquiries
341 Nuisance bylaw related inquiries
289 Animal Control Bylaw inquiries
89 Waste management
161 Misc bylaw inquiries and infractions

Grand total bylaw calls for service: 1221

If you have any questions, or require more information, please contact myself at (780)723-3178 or by e-mail at jimd@edson.ca

Sincerely,



Jim Desautels, Peace Officer Sgt.
Enforcement Services Manager
Protective Services Department
Town of Edson

For:

Alan Schram, Director
Protective Services Department
Town of Edson