

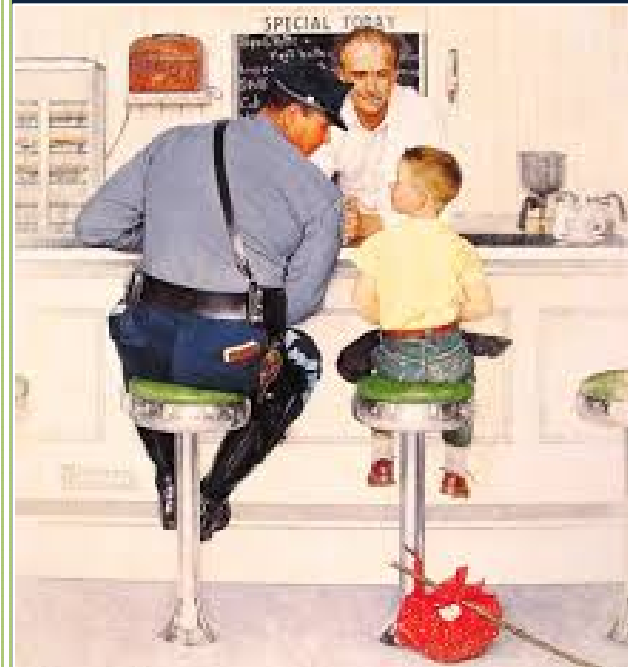


# LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

# 2014

## ANNUAL REPORT

**COMMITTED** to our **COMMUNITY**  
**CARING, COMPASSIONATE** and  
**COURTEOUS**  
**COURAGE** and **CHARACTER**  
**THESE** are my **COLLEAGUES**  
**THIS** is our **CITY**  
**THIS IS WHO WE ARE**



*Policing Excellence through  
Leadership and Community  
Partnership*

**LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE**



Message from the Chair of the Police Commission

On behalf of my colleagues on the Lacombe Police Commission, I am pleased to provide you with our annual report

The Lacombe Police Commission serves a vital role by providing civilian oversight to the Lacombe Police Service. The commission is the vital link between the community and the police with a mandate to balance requirements of public accountability with those of police independence. In accordance with the Alberta Police Act, the commission is responsible to:

- allocate the funds that are provided by the council;
- establish policies providing for efficient and effective policing;
- issue instructions, as necessary, to the chief of police in respect of those policies;
- ensure that sufficient persons are employed for the police service for the purposes of carrying out the functions of the police service.

This past year has seen the Commission take its final steps in becoming an effective governing body. Through the work of several sub committees, we have streamlined our policy, clarified our selection and training procedures, confirmed through policy adjustment the role of the Public Complaints Director, and identified future staffing needs. The Commission also completed the objectives set out in our Strategic Plan, as well as the Oversight Standards Audit.

I would like to give a special thank you to our outgoing Chair, Tammy Gagnon, who did a fantastic job of bringing our Commission into compliance with provincial standards.

So it is with a great sense of pride and accomplishment that we finish our year. Pride in the brave men and women of the LPS; and pride in the accomplishment in our governing achievements. We look forward to working together with the community and the LPS in 2015 to keep Lacombe a safe and vibrant community.

Jonathan Jacobson  
Commission Chair

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# LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

## Annual Report 2014



### Message from the Chief of Police



In partnership with the Lacombe Police Commission and the City of Lacombe, I am pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report to the community.

Once again, the annual crime statistics released by Statistics Canada showed favourable trending and reinforced that Lacombe remains one of the safest communities in Alberta. We know however those statistics are of little comfort to those citizens whose lives have been impacted by criminal acts so we must continually strive for improvement in how we prevent, predict and respond to crime. Keeping Lacombe the safe, friendly and vibrant community in which we are all proud to live, work and play is a shared responsibility.

We feel very fortunate to have interested and engaged citizens who are willing to get involved and do their part to make Lacombe the community they want. This community engagement and partnership with our team of staff and volunteers at the Lacombe Police Service is truly the key to why Lacombe remains such a safe community.

Community needs, social issues, and the role of the police in meeting those needs is constantly evolving. We are always looking for innovative, collaborative and inclusive strategies that focus on root causes of crime so we can deliver the best solutions custom made for our community. Ensuring we have quality and committed staff; investing in their training and development; and continually strengthening our relationship and partnerships with our citizens, is how we will truly achieve success.

I am extremely thankful and proud to work with such an amazing group of people. The staff and volunteers of the Lacombe Police Service consistently demonstrate our core values while serving through unique, sometimes stressful and often challenging events and issues. It continues to be a privilege to serve the citizens of this wonderful community.

T. Steve Murray  
Chief of Police

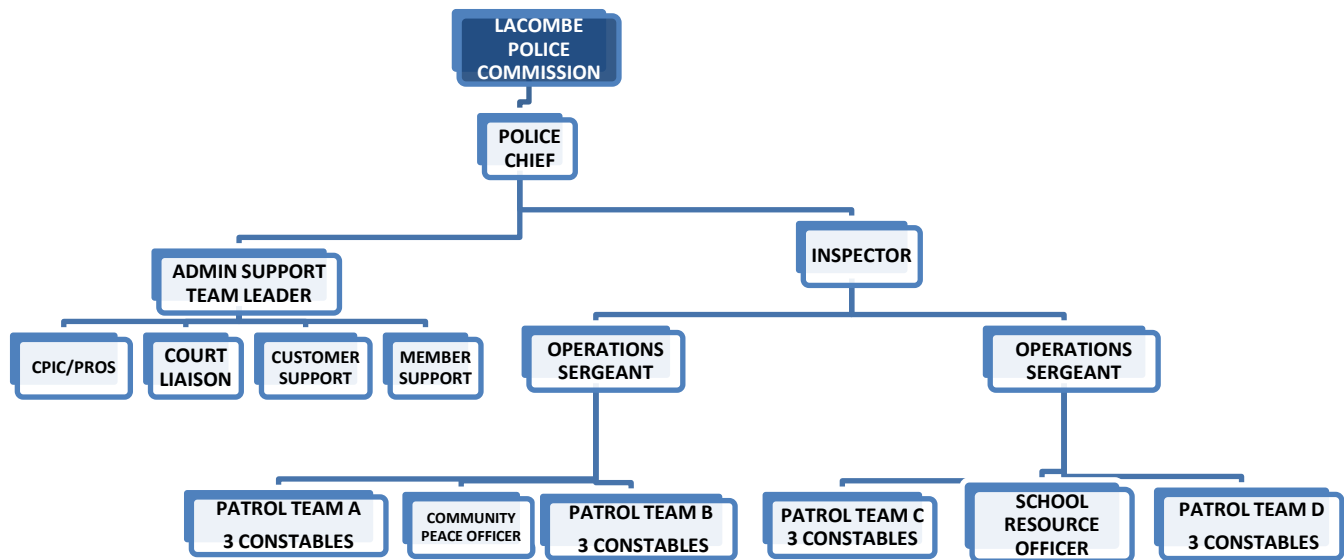
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# LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

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### Human Resources



2014 saw some staffing changes at LPS. Inspector Lorne Blumhagen joined the team and functions as the Operational Commander for the service. Cst. Travis Marcott and Cst. Vaughan Bleasdale also joined the LPS team to fill existing vacancies. The 2014 authorized complement for LPS is:

- *17 sworn police officers*
- *5 civilian support staff*
- *Community Peace Officer*

This represents a “Police to Population” ratio of 749 to 1, which is approximately 32% lower than the national average and 22% lower than the Alberta average.

LPS also has five (5) casual/on-call guards to help us ensure the safety and welfare of persons detained in our custody.

We are also proud to partner with the volunteers who make up the board and advocates of the Lacombe Victim Services Unit. Victim Services is a police-based program that provides support, advocacy, information and referrals to victims of crime after the police have completed their investigation and provide an ongoing liaison through the eventual conclusion of the matter in the courts.

# LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

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### Operational Highlights – Calls for Service



#### CALLS FOR SERVICE

2014 saw a significant **22% increase** in Calls for Service to 6,137.

Even though this increase proved challenging on our resources, we recognize that along with the growth experienced by Lacombe and Central Alberta, there would naturally be a corresponding increase in the demand for policing services. As police services become more integrated into the social fabric of society, this too increases the volume and diversity of the services we provide to our community.

The Lacombe Police Service recognizes that effectively solving public and personal safety issues requires a holistic approach involving all necessary partner agencies or groups. By acknowledging our role as only one part of the solution, LPS increased its assistance and engagement with other agencies by 90% in 2014.



Operational Highlights – Crime Stats

CRIME STATS

In 2014 we saw some interesting trends in criminal occurrences:

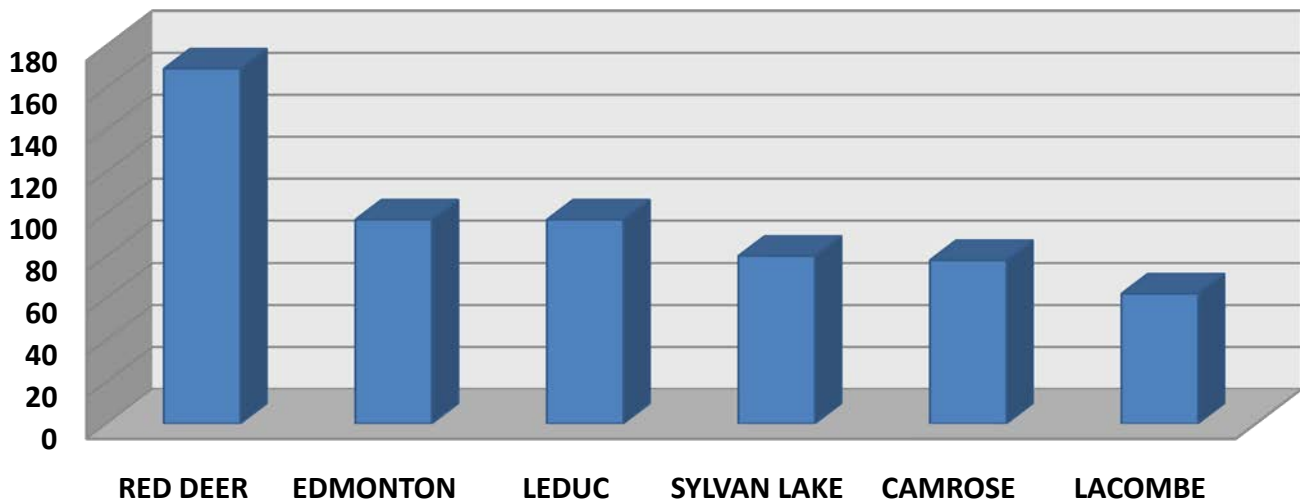
- ↑↑ THEFTS (64%)
- ↑↑ IMPAIRED DRIVING (36%)
- ↑↑ DRUG CHARGES (26%)
- ↓↓ MISCHIEF (33%)
- ↓↓ CAUSING DISTURBANCE (30%)
- ↓↓ BREAK AND ENTERS (10%)

Many of the increased charges in the areas of Impaired Driving and Drugs are a direct result of our targeted enforcement as both these areas were identified as high priorities by the community. The reduction in Mischief and Disturbances is also partly because of our pro-active patrol initiatives and the implementation of the Community Standards bylaw.

Annually, Statistics Canada releases a Crime Severity Index (CSI) using 100 as the median. Generally speaking, a community with a CSI of less than 100 is safer.

The CSI for the City of Lacombe **decreased 9%** in 2014 to 63. Lacombe also saw a **29% reduction in violent crime and a 2% decrease in non-violent crime.**

2014 CRIME SEVERITY INDEX







Operational Highlights - Investigations

RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES



Reducing the carnage caused by impaired drivers is a priority consistently identified by our community. LPS partnered with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, area RCMP and Sheriff units, as well as the Lacombe chapter of **MADD** to conduct several enhanced check-stops throughout the year. The combined results resulted in a 36% increase in Impaired Driving charges.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

One of the more unusual investigations undertaken by LPS in 2014 was the theft of company fuel cards from several vehicles and businesses throughout central Alberta and the resulting theft of almost 30,000 litres of fuel from cardlock facilities. LPS members uncovered over **8,000 litres of fuel** being stored in water totes in the back yard of a home in a residential area of Lacombe. An arrest was made and charges laid. Due to the serious risk to public safety, the fuel was removed and transported to a hazardous goods disposal facility with assistance from Lacombe Fire Services



# LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

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### Operational Highlights – Community Involvement

#### TRAFFIC SAFETY

Keeping our streets and the people who use them safe continues to be a priority for LPS. Through the combined efforts of our police officers, Community Peace Officer and Automated Traffic Enforcement, our goal is fewer collisions and injuries. In 2014, we partnered with other law enforcement agencies to conduct several **Commercial Vehicle safety operations** in an effort to take unsafe large vehicles off our roads and highways until they were made safe.



#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Thanks to our partnerships with the City of Lacombe, Wolf Creek Public Schools and Lacombe County, LPS continues to have a **School Resource Officer (SRO)** dedicated full time to all the public schools within the City. The primary role of the SRO is to build relationships with the students and staff to help foster a safe learning environment. The SRO delivers proactive and prevention programs well as investigates occurrences within the schools and serves as a resource for students, parents and staff.



The **DARE** program is also offered to Grade 6 students and Lacombe Ford generously donated the DARE vehicle as part of their ongoing commitment to the program.



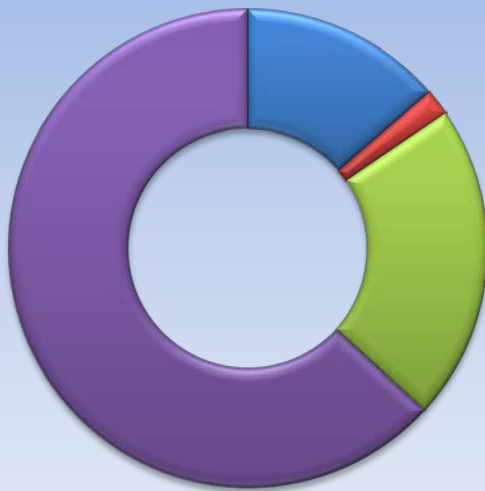
We were proud to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Blackfalds RCMP and a dozen volunteers to offer our **KIDS N KOPS** program for the seventh year. This four day program has proven to be very successful and popular for the 24 young citizens we can accommodate each year and is an excellent opportunity for us to shed some light on the daily life of a police officer and build relationships with our youth.





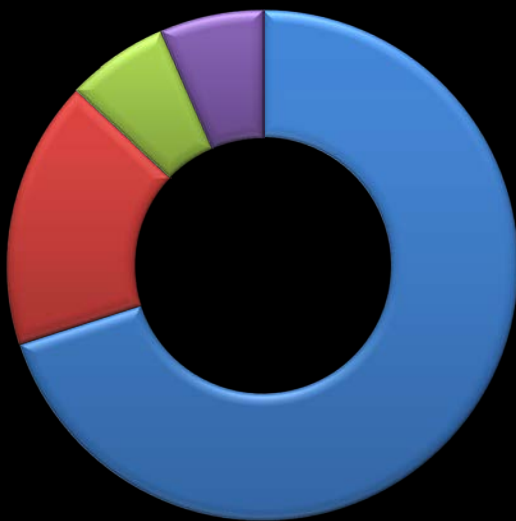
Budget – Revenue and Expenditures

### 2014 FUNDING SOURCES



- GOVERNMENT GRANTS (\$469,000)
- SALE OF GOODS & SERVICES (\$62,000)
- FINE REVENUE (\$734,000)
- TAX SUPPORTED (\$2,174,000)

### 2014 BUDGET EXPENDITURES



- SALARIES & BENEFITS (\$2,402,000)
- EXTERNAL SERVICES (\$584,000)
- INTERNAL CHARGES (\$221,000)
- OPERATIONS (\$224,000)

## LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

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## Professional Standards – Complaints, Concerns, Compliments

Police officers are not only in positions of authority, more importantly they are in positions of trust. Through our own internal policies and processes, as well as provincial legislation, police officers are held to the highest legal and ethical standards. When one of our members does not live up to these expectations, whether as a result of a public complaint or an internal review, we investigate the matter, or cause it to be investigated by an independent agency with a view to not only holding people accountable for their actions, but also to provide us with opportunities for organizational learning and best practices.

The Lacombe Police Commission monitors the public complaints process, handles complaints regarding the Chief of Police, and handles appeals regarding the policies of, or services provided by, the Lacombe Police Service. The Lacombe Police Commission and LPS track all citizen complaints and concerns.

Under the Alberta *Police Act*, the responsibility for the investigation of complaints against Police Service policies or service provided, as well as against specific police officers lies with the Chief of Police. The Police Commission is the civilian body which is empowered to oversee the complaints process and act as the appeal body for complaints regarding the policies of, or services provided by, the Lacombe Police Service. The Lacombe Police Commission's Public Complaint Director:

- Provides an independent review of the citizen complaints process of the Lacombe Police Service;
- Monitors the Police Service files of public complaints to ensure investigations are appropriate, fair and thorough;
- Reports his or her findings directly to the Lacombe Police Commission;
- Makes public presentations to interested groups concerning the complaint process; and
- Receives complaints from the public.

The purpose of the complaint process is to resolve issues between citizens and the Lacombe Police Service in a fair, transparent and reasonable manner.

In 2014, LPS received five complaints against officers that resulted in three being resolved through mediation or operational guidance and two resulted in disciplinary action against the subject officers.

***We always welcome your comments, feedback or concerns. We can be reached in person, by phone or by email: 5211-50 Ave, Lacombe, AB T4L1E8; (403)782-3279; [police@lacombe.ca](mailto:police@lacombe.ca)***