

Metro Vancouver Transit Police 2019 Report to the Community

Policing the Moving City

Video Companion

METRO VANCOUVER TRANSIT POLICE

Message from the Police Board Chair

A lot has happened since the period covered in this 2019 Report to the Community. Last year our Police Board, management team and employees were out in the field engaging with community partners and the public. Obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic changed some of the ways we engage with the public. In addition, the more recent conversations surrounding police reform are top of mind for me, my fellow Police Board members and the rest of our agency. Reflecting back on 2019, my hope is that we can gain insights into the best parts of what defines our community policing approach while listening closely to the public as we develop our priorities moving forward.



Delivering a safe and secure transit system is our number one strategic goal. In 2019 Transit Police saw good news, as crimes against persons and property decreased across the system. We increased our Bus System focus, adding the West Coast Express to our bus loop/exchange patrol initiative and implemented a bike bait program. As part of our annual sexual offence awareness campaign, 1100 advertisements were placed on buses, resulting in more reports made directly to Transit Police even as we saw a reduction in total sex offences reported. In addition, officers made over 1000 arrests for outstanding criminal warrants, a 14% increase over 2018. Sadly, our service saw a 17% increase in mental health apprehensions files. Every single file represents an individual in crisis and an intervention by our officers, to de-escalate difficult situations and prevent individuals from coming to harm.

A subject of much discussion for the Police Board in 2019 was how to turn our commitment to Reconciliation from words to actions and that work is reflected in the 2019 report on 'Strengthening Indigenous Relations at Transit Police'. Despite the constraints imposed by COVID-19, I am excited to see the work done in this area in 2019 bearing fruit in 2020.

We saw the end of an era in 2019, when Mark Reder, our Board Chair since 2011, retired from his leadership post. Transit Police is irrefutably in a stronger position today than when Mark joined the Board. His sure hand guided the service through many changes including the development and implementation of the community policing service delivery model, a comprehensive strategic plan, and a host of other achievements too numerous to list here. We are deeply indebted for his years of service, his fine example, and the lasting impact that his work has today. Thank you Mark.

Finally, I want to express how grateful we are for the recovery of Cst. Josh Harms, who was shot while on duty in January 2019. Policing comes with unique risks but despite this, our officers show up every day, rain or shine, dedicated to serving their community. On behalf of the Police Board, I want to thank Cst. Harms and all of our officers at Metro Vancouver Transit Police for their dedication and service to public safety.

Sara Levine - Chair, Transit Police Board

Message from the Chief Officer

2019 began with one of the most high-profile policing incidents at a transit location in TransLink's history. One of our Transit Police Officers, Cst. Josh Harms, was shot in the line of duty, resulting in a five-day manhunt for the suspect by the Surrey RCMP and other jurisdictional police agencies. We are immensely grateful that Cst. Harms has since recovered and returned to duty. We also want to thank both the Surrey RCMP and the Burnaby RCMP for their hard work in identifying, locating and arresting the suspect.

Since joining the Transit Police in 2019, I have reaffirmed to our officers and civilian staff the three goals of policing, listed in their order of priority:

1. To save lives;
2. To preserve the peace;
3. To enforce the law.

Our topmost goal will always be to save lives, to intercede and take action in order to guarantee the health and safety of individuals we encounter on and surrounding transit. This involves responding to texts and calls about those in distress, apprehending and transporting to hospital those people who require the support of trained physicians and, where necessary, making arrests of those who have committed crimes and risk the well-being of others.

In 2019, reported perceptions of safety and security on transit continued to be one of the highest-rated metrics for the TransLink Enterprise, with an overall score of 79.6 percent satisfaction reported by our transit riders. Since joining Transit Police last year, I've spoken to many people about establishing transit stations as recognized places of safety in the community. If you found yourself lost or stranded far from home, the closest transit exchange/station would provide a nexus of safety and support, with friendly, courteous and highly-trained transit, security and policing staff readily on hand. I am proud of the combined efforts of our employees in serving the 22 different communities that transit crosses each day, and as we strive to further improve feelings of safety, security, comfort and service for the travelling public.

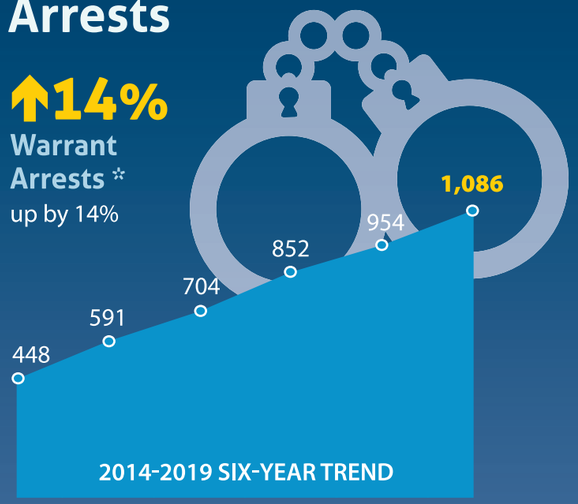


Dave Jones - Chief Officer
Metro Vancouver Transit Police

2019 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Arrests

↑14%
Warrant Arrests *
up by 14%

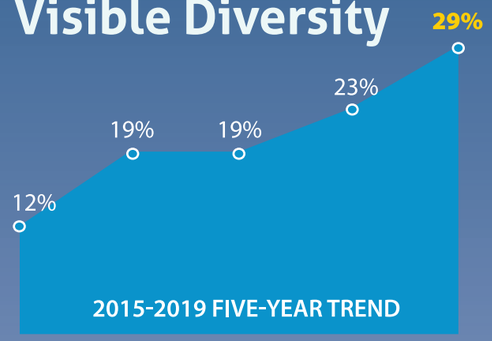


↓6%
Arrests on New Charges [1]
down by 6% from 780 (2018)
to 734 (2019)

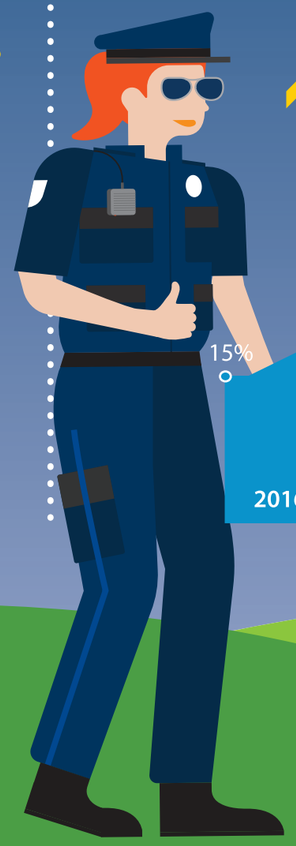
↑2%
Breaches [2]
up by 2% from 466 (2018) to 474 (2019)

[1] Arrest means an actual arrest and all other cases where charges were recommended to Crown Counsel.
[2] Breaches including secondary offences; does not include assists.

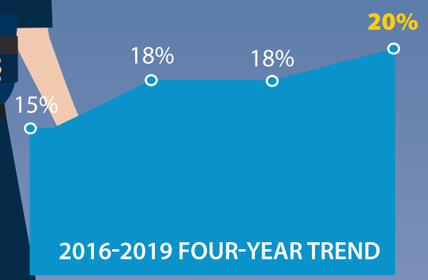
Visible Diversity



Number of Languages Spoken: 29



↑ Female Officers
now make up 20%
of our police officers



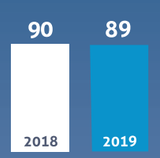
Offences



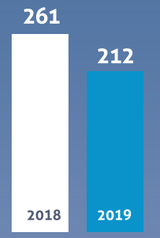
↓21%
Crimes Against Persons [3]
per 100k boarded passengers
down 21% from .466 (2018)
to .369 (2019)



↓24%
Crimes Against Property [4]
per100k boarded passengers
down 24% from .564 (2018)
to .430 (2018)



↓1%
Workplace Violence Against Bus Operators (Assaults) are down [5]



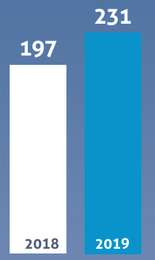
↓19%
Reported Sex Offences are down

[3] Crimes Against Persons: 2019 – 1,670 files/452,537,031 boarded passengers.
[4] Crimes Against Property: 2019 – 1,946 files/452,537,031 boarded passengers.
[5] Includes bus operator assaults only; does not included unfounded/ unsubstantiated/threats.



↑11%
Joint Initiatives/Operational Plans with Jurisdictional Police Departments
up by 11% from 103 (2018) to 114 (2019)





↑17%
Section 28 Mental Health Act Apprehension Files are up

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Community Engagement

Members of the Transit Police Community Engagement, Senior Management and Explosive Detection Dog Teams attend hundreds of events each year to help promote transit safety, the Transit Police *See Something Say Something* Campaign and the 87-77-77 text reporting service.

228 Community Events Attended

Student Outreach

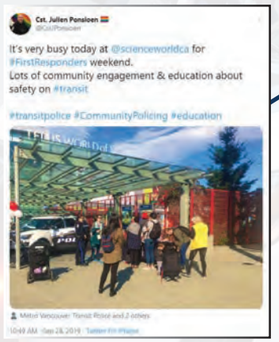


Seasonal Initiatives



Indigenous Relations





Safety Education



Community Partner Events
@CstDChua, Instagram



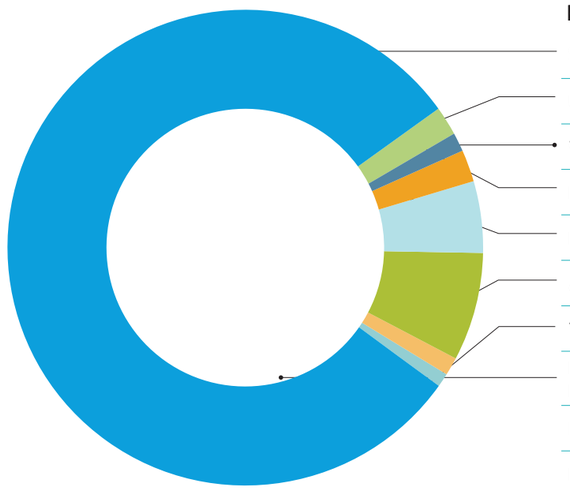
Helping Vulnerable People

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Financial Summary

The Transit Police budget for 2019 was $39,907,472. Total actual expenditures were $39,538,888. The expenditures include TransLink allocated costs of $4,561,478 for centralized services (premises rent and information technology services).



2019 Transit Police Budget	%	2019 Actual	2019 Budget
Salaries/Benefits	**83**	$32,756,214	$33,231,718
Uniform/Equipment	**2**	840,721	492,821
Vehicles	**1**	524,336	436,002
E Comm/PRIME	**2**	878,389	918,483
Facilities	**5**	2,029,091	2,143,619
Administration	**7**	2,949,394	2,657,240
Training/Education	**1**	558,805	580,681
Legal & Professional Fees	**1**	351,289	384,177
Recoveries*	**-3**	(1,349,350)	(937,022)
Net Expenditures	**100%**	**$39,538,888**	**$39,907,719**

*Salaries represent the net costs to Metro Vancouver Transit Police after recoveries (i.e. those officers seconded and paid for by other joint police initiatives).
**Transit Police salaries are consistent with those of independent municipal police agencies in Metro Vancouver.
***In 2019, the authorized strength of Metro Vancouver Transit Police was for 183 officers and 74 civilian employees.

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For a complete breakdown of strategic initiatives at Metro Vancouver Transit Police in 2019, see our Strategic Plan Year End Update located at: https://transitpolice.ca/news/strategic-plan-2016-2020/

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www.transitpolice.ca