



FOOTHILLS COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Foothills County Rural Policing Plan

We are pleased to inform you about this new rural policing plan, which aims to bring increased RCMP presence and improved service to Foothills County!

Rural residents told the Provincial Government that we need to fight rural crime at all levels. In response to concerns and as part of the new Alberta Provincial Policing model, the RCMP Southern Alberta District examined new ways to provide policing services to the rural communities within Foothills County, with a plan now coming into place.

In July of this year, a pilot project was created, where all of the rural RCMP policing resources of Okotoks, High River and Turner Valley Detachments were combined into a singular rural policing unit responsible for policing services for the complete Foothills County area. This amalgamation of resources enabled the RCMP to provide 24-hour policing services to these rural communities. It provided streamlined service and afforded the ability to move resources around the county based on crime trends and resource requirements.

The pilot project ran from July until the end of November and has now been recognized as a modern approach to rural policing for the RCMP, moving away from Detachment boundaries to more of a Zone policing model.

The new Foothills policing model for the Foothills County RCMP will be comprised of 17 Constables, 3 Corporals, 1 Sergeant and 1 Staff Sergeant, with Public Services employees available to assist the public in all three municipal areas within the County. Staff Sergeant Laura Akitt is currently at the helm.

With the Province requisitioning additional money for policing from our County taxpayers, there is a desire from Council, Admin and Residents to see results. We are now seeing these funds working for us here, in the creation of this new adapted policing model with custom deployment specific to our County. Resources have been aligned and more have been added, including frontline officers, support services, and capacity to the Crime Reduction Unit serving this area.

This new policing model, designed to be responsive to the specific needs within the county, will also support a more collaborative approach to enforcement services between the front line RCMP members and Foothills Patrol Community Peace Officers. Over the past year our Peace Officers have returned to having direct radio contact with RCMP members. Initiatives such as this result in a more coordinated approach to providing enforcement or responding to emergencies throughout the county. We look forward to further developing opportunities for joint enforcement, educational and community support initiatives in Foothills County.

For inquires please contact CAO Ryan Payne at 403.603.6214 or Ryan.Payne@FoothillsCountyAB.ca.