



LETHBRIDGE POLICE SERVICE ANNUAL POLICING PLAN



2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A SAFER COMMUNITY FOR ALL

The 2026 Annual Policing Plan (APP) sets out the yearly priorities and initiatives of the Lethbridge Police Service (LPS).

The plan builds on the four-year vision of the LPS 2023–2026 Strategic Plan to support three areas of focus: Community Safety, Community Engagement, and a Healthy Organization. It further aligns with the Lethbridge Police Commission’s key priorities: partnerships, engagement, and organizational excellence.

The Annual Policing Plan is developed in consultation with LPS employees, the community, and members of the Lethbridge Police Commission. It is presented in the first quarter of each year. Progress will be reported in the LPS Annual Report.

The Lethbridge Police Service is dedicated to continuous improvement, opportunities to evaluate and adjust how we work, and ongoing collaboration to foster a safe community for all.

MISSION

Through partnerships and collaboration, the Lethbridge Police Service strives to create a safe community for all.

VISION

Guided by the highest standards of policing, we are committed to supporting our community by addressing crime, maintaining public safety and strengthening public trust.

VALUES

- Respect - *Inakootsiyssini*
- Courage - *likitapiysini*
- Accountability - *Aisstakataa*
- Professionalism - *Isspomaanitapiysinni*
- Collaboration - *Okamotapotakssini*



COMMUNITY SAFETY

We work to prevent and reduce crime and social disorder, hold offenders accountable, support victims, and help keep our roads and public spaces safe for everyone in our community.

LPS takes a balanced approach that combines enforcement with early intervention and collaboration with health and social service partners. By connecting people with the supports they need, we help improve outcomes for individuals, strengthen community safety, and reduce repeat demands on the justice system and police services.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LPS works closely with internal teams, community partners, and stakeholders to raise awareness and build a shared understanding of community safety priorities, needs, and diverse perspectives.

Maintaining a visible presence and strengthening relationships helps build trust and confidence, and supports meaningful collaboration to address safety issues together.

HEALTHY ORGANIZATION

LPS recognizes that supporting the mental and physical well-being of employees is essential to a strong and healthy organization. We work to ensure appropriate supports are in place so employees can develop, succeed, and grow throughout their careers.

We are committed to an equitable, diverse, and inclusive workplace, and continue to foster a respectful environment where barriers are reduced and everyone feels valued and included.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



COMMUNITY SURVEY

- In the most recent Community Survey, 70% of respondents reported they feel safe - up from 65% the year prior.
- Drugs were the main reason cited by those who feel less safe, along with issues related to homelessness.
- Residents' top three policing priorities are drug crime, crimes against persons and property crime.
- Priorities also included increased crime prevention and community policing activities.

PARTNERS IN POLICING FORUM

The forum brought together more than 60 community partners to discuss crime and public safety challenges facing our community, and explore opportunities for collaboration and problem-solving.

Community recommendations for 2026 included:

- Expansion of targeted visibility and problem-oriented patrols in high-impact areas (e.g., downtown, traffic hot spots), informed by CompStat data and repeat-offender analysis.
- Strengthen alternative response and referral practices by formalizing protocols with community partners, improving frontline awareness of available services, and prioritizing non-police responses where appropriate.
- Increase prevention and public education initiatives coordinated fraud awareness campaigns, clearer guidance on when/how to report crime, support for businesses, and promotion of tools like Bike Index and camera registries.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

GOALS:

- In partnership with the City of Lethbridge, develop and implement an alternative response model.
- Assess opportunities for expansion of the Police and Crisis Team (PACT).
- Conduct a review and realignment of the Criminal Investigation Division to ensure appropriate staffing levels and effective deployment of resources.
- Implement push notifications to support timely access to CompStat information.
- Refocus the Crime and Strategic Analytics Section to provide more comprehensive analysis of local crime trends and patterns.
- Collaborate with the Community Safety Strategy to identify and support City of Lethbridge priorities focused on crime reduction and community safety.
- Implement Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) for frontline officers in the first quarter of 2026, along with a supporting digital evidence management system.
- Evaluate the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) pilot to assess outcomes and long-term program sustainability.
- Strengthen retail loss prevention efforts through continued collaboration with Loss Prevention Officers and retail partners.
- Develop an enhanced information-gathering database to support serious and organized crime investigations.
- Continue targeted enforcement and deployment strategies to address downtown crime, social disorder, and traffic-related concerns throughout the city.
- Explore expansion of the automated enforcement program, including the potential addition of new enforcement sites.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS:

- Continue engagement between the Economic Crimes Unit (ECU) and financial institutions to increase fraud awareness and strengthen collaborative prevention efforts.
- Develop an Indigenous Youth Academy as part of recruitment initiatives to encourage Indigenous youth to consider careers in policing.
- Increase public education and awareness of the various reporting options available to community members.
- Strengthen collaboration between the Youth Engagement Unit (YEU) and schools to shift the focus from reactive to more proactive.
- Enhance efforts by the Recruiting Unit to raise awareness and promote civilian career opportunities within the Police Service.
- Expand education and awareness initiatives related to hate crimes, including definitions, reporting processes, and available supports.



HEALTHY ORGANIZATION

GOALS:

- Review tenure in specialty units to balance member development opportunities with the retention of specialized expertise required to support organizational effectiveness.
- Implement Down Regulation Skills Training service-wide, a program developed in partnership with Wounded Warriors Canada to support trauma-exposed professionals with practical strategies during and following high-stress events.
- Participate in a longitudinal study with Lethbridge Polytechnic where cadet cohorts will measure and assess mental and physical well-being through monitoring and self-reporting. Should further grant funding be received, the work would expand with continued data collection, implementation of the Healthy Foundations program and broader voluntary participation by sworn officers and civilian staff.
- Research and assess potential technology enhancements in police interview rooms, including improved recording, transcription, and artificial intelligence tools, to increase efficiency and officer capacity.
- Provide advanced training for the Wellness Coordinator to strengthen employee supports and expand in-house wellness programming.



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