

Delta Police Department



CCMTA POLICE PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Honoring Achievements in Police Partnerships that Raise Awareness in Making Canadian's Roads the Safest in the World

The CCMTA- Police Partnership Award honors the achievements of active individual police officers, units or their overall service in delivering key relationships with those private or government sector agencies involved in Highway transportation safety at the local, regional, provincial/territorial or national level.

The purpose of this award is to identify and to recognize police involvement in building significant partnerships. These partnership activities should result in the development and/or implementation of unique strategies and/or programs that focus on reducing injuries and saving lives, while raising awareness within the police community and the public to make Canada's roads the safest in the world by the end of 2010.

CRITERIA AND QUALIFICATIONS

SUBMISSION:

Chief Constable Jim Cessford,
Acting Sergeant Kevin Jones,
Constable John Merryman
Mr. Hon Yee and Mr. Gordon Botha
Corporation of Delta Engineering Department

AGENCY: Municipal Police Department

DEPARTMENT: Delta Police Department

SUBMITTED BY: A/S/Sgt. Shawn Gain

ENDORSED BY: Insp. Jamie Ewatski

ACCEPTING REPRESENTATIVE:

Chief Constable Jim Cessford
Acting Sergeant Kevin Jones
Delta Police Department

STRATEGIC GOAL

Strategic Goals for the Delta Police Department 2011-2013.

1. **Delta Roads: Safest in BC**
2. Strategic Crime Reduction
3. Innovative Specialized Services
4. Leading Edge Technology
5. Leadership From Everyone
6. Facilities Enhancement

ACTION

In 2009 and 2010 the Delta Police Department had **multiple fatalities** on Nordel Way, a main arterial route in the Municipality of Delta, B.C. The fatal motor vehicle collisions were devastating for the community with multiple victims but the collisions also created numerous **complaints** from the **public** regarding lengthy road closures.

Recognizing the impact on the community and the potential for further tragic collisions on the road if no changes were made, Acting Sergeant Kevin Jones, the supervisor of the Delta Police Traffic Section, liaised with the Delta Police Departments Level Four Re-Constructionist, Constable John Merryman and conducted a thorough review of each fatal collision file. As a result of the review Acting Sergeant Jones was able to identify the contributing factors in each collision, exclusive of driver error.

In collaboration with the Delta Police Department Police Chief Constable Jim Cessford, Acting Sergeant Jones was able to identify the following areas of improvement for Nordel Way:

- The realization of the danger of high voltage power lines near a heavily traveled highway in Delta
- Determining that changes regarding the road and signage needed to be made
- Recognizing the need for the community to have a safely traveled road
- Recognizing the need to involve outside agencies
- Determining that lighting at night on the hill was insufficient

After identifying the areas for improvement Acting Sergeant Jones implemented a plan to make the improvements a reality and therefore greatly increase the safety of Nordel Way. In addition to his regular duties Acting Sergeant Jones:

- Met regularly with Delta Engineering to brainstorm solutions
- Worked in partnership with ICBC for funding of signs
- Discussed engineering and signage factors at the TSAC (Traffic Safety Advisory Committee) of which he was a member
- Met onsite with BC Hydro to discuss protection of high voltage power lines
- Took ownership for the traffic delays and was accountable for the closures
- Reviewed road closure times and forensically reviewed why they occurred
- Researched new equipment to expedite road closure time
- Drafted a proposals for the purchase of new equipment in the Traffic budget process
- Met with Engineering to acquire maps to organize and expedite traffic diversions
- Established safe routes for Commercial vehicle traffic, specifically large trucks
- Facilitated the use of Information signs notifying the public of road closures
- Investigated how other Police Agencies manage road closures
- Established that the public needed to be educated on why the lengthy road closures occur
- Worked with Chief Constable Cessford and the Delta Police Management Team to put together a Power Point Presentation to explain the importance of thorough collision investigation and the reasons behind the lengthy road closures.
- Provided a presentation to Delta Municipal Counsel with Chief Constable Cessford
- Presented a Power Point to the Police Board
- Presented to the Rotary Club, one of Delta's Stake holders
- Appeared on Delta Cable with Chief Constable Cessford to explain the investigation process

- Attended a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce president to explain the Delta Police Department's position on the required improvements for the road

RESULTS, BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES

Acting Sergeant Jones, Cst. John Merryman and Chief Constable Cessford fostered positive and effective partnerships with Delta Engineering, ICBC and BC Hydro aiding them in solving the current problems identified and allowing them to deal with any future problems that may be encountered.

As a result of Acting Sergeant Jones and Constable Merryman's review and presentations several enhancements have already been made to Nordel Way hill, including:

- Newly installed barriers between east and westbound lanes of travel to alleviate head-on collisions
- Installation of additional street lamps to alleviate identified lighting issues
- Addition of an LED slow down curve ahead warning sign
- Repainting and repairing of road lines
- Addition of 60 KMH speed limit signs for east and westbound Nordel Way hill
- An enhanced protective barrier installed at the intersection of Nordel Way and 116 Street to protect a vulnerable high voltage line and power pole
- A partnership between the Corporation of Delta and ICBC to install speed monitoring devices

Acting Sergeant Jones and Constable Merryman ensured a high standard of safety by familiarizing themselves and others with the best possible diversion routes in the event of lengthy road closures. They demonstrated and justified why the Delta Police Department investigations result in lengthy road closure time but also demonstrated that the Delta Police Department Traffic Section and entire department was accountable for their actions.

Acting Sergeant Jones and Constable Merryman protected the interests both civil and criminal, and in addition the liability of the Department by explaining the reasons for the lengthy road closures to the public and stakeholders resulting in the Delta Council, Police Board members and members of the community now having a much better understanding of the requirement and need to close down roads during serious and fatal collision investigations to ensure complete, thorough investigations are done.

SUSTAINED PARTNERSHIPS

In identifying contributing factors to the fatal collisions, making recommendations to help prevent further incidents, and overseeing the implementation of these recommendations Acting Sergeant Jones and Constable Merryman have both greatly increased the safety of Nordel Way hill and fostered long term, mutually beneficial partnerships with the following groups:

- The Citizens of Delta
- Delta Engineering
- BC Hydro
- ICBC
- Delta Council
- Delta Police Board

The overall result of these partnerships has been an effective and continuous commitment by all involved to making Delta's roads safer, with the greater impact of helping to achieve Canada's Road Safety Vision of having the safest roads in the world.

Please accept this nomination for the CCMTA-Police Partnership Award in recognition for the work and partnership between:

Chief Constable Jim Cessford

Acting Sergeant Kevin Jones

Constable John Merryman

Delta Police Department

Mr. Hon Yee- Corporation of Delta Engineering Dept.

Mr. Gordon Botha- Corporation of Delta Engineering Dept.

Respectfully Submitted,

Acting Staff Sergeant Shawn Gain

Operational Support Branch

Delta Police Department

2011 February 18

On behalf of the Delta Police Department, I endorse this submission for nomination for the CCMTA- Police Partnerships Award.

Jamie Ewatski

Inspector

Operational Support Branch

Delta Police Department