
2016 CCMTA Police Partnership Award Nomination

Alberta Sheriffs Operations and the
Transportation Safety Plan Enforcement Committee

Submitted by: Wendy Doyle, Executive Director - Alberta Transportation



The Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), Alberta Transportation is pleased to nominate the Alberta Traffic Sheriff Operations and the Transportation Safety Plan Enforcement Committee for the *2016 Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA) - Police Partnership Award*.

Background



The Office of Traffic Safety has had long standing, strong relationships with enforcement agencies throughout the province. In 2007, along with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, a provincial traffic safety enforcement committee was established to work on enforcement strategies specific to the Traffic Safety Plan. This committee was comprised of 12 enforcement agencies which included municipal police agencies, the RCMP, sheriffs, commercial vehicle enforcement, and other enforcement personnel, in addition to the Office of Traffic Safety. This was the first time that a committee of enforcement agencies was set up to coordinate traffic safety strategies in the province. *(see Appendix A for a full listing of*

committee members.)

This committee provides leadership to enforcement agencies and promotes collaboration in implementing the two previous Traffic Safety Plans and the incumbent Transportation Safety Plan (TSP) 2020, including the enforcement strategies. This collaborative approach led to enhancements in traffic safety by improving the coordination and consistency of enforcement efforts throughout the province. A key to this coordinated effort is the traffic safety plan calendar (TSP calendar) which was developed by the Enforcement Committee. The calendar aligns enforcement activity with public outreach and education campaigns on a specific topic each month. *(See Appendix B for a copy of the 2016 calendar.)*

The Enforcement Committee, along with their agencies, work together using an integrated approach to enforcement in collaboration with communication tactics supporting the calendar. Campaign messages demonstrating the effects of unsafe driving behaviours are communicated clearly and consistently to road users, maximizing their impact. Ensuring enforcement activities are focused around the calendar topic builds consistency in deployment and assists in the difficult task of behaviour change. This endeavour has not only enhanced the efforts of law enforcement but has also formed a foundation for further traffic safety measures in the province, many of them spearheaded by local communities in conjunction with local enforcement agencies.

The TSP Enforcement committee provides a joint vision for traffic enforcement leading to a coordinated and consistent approach across Alberta. The committee collaborates to:

- develop the annual Selected Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) dates to focus law enforcement activities on selected monthly initiatives to support the TSP calendar;
- discuss emerging trends and issues relating to the enforcement of traffic safety;
- share best practices related to enforcement;
- provide a forum for discussion on policy issues relating to enforcement (ie. How to enforce helmet use for off-highway vehicles); and
- create provincial enforcement strategies that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the TSP and support the achievement of the plan's targets.

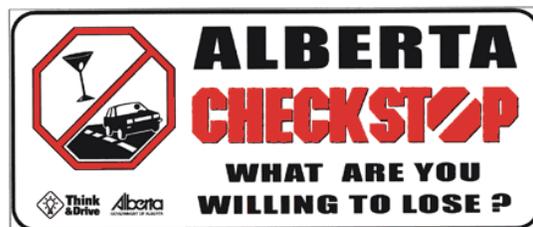
All of this contributes to improved networking, communication, partnership and cooperation among Alberta enforcement agencies and government departments in order to improve safety on Alberta's roads. One of the programs the committee heavily supports which has had positive impacts on safety is the Enhanced Alberta Checkstop Program (EACP).

Enhanced Alberta Checkstop Program

Members of enforcement agencies across Alberta can regularly be found conducting checkstops, looking for impaired drivers or drivers committing other offences.

While the checkstop program is aimed at detecting and removing impaired drivers from the road, a large component of the program is also aimed at educating the driving public of the dangers and consequences of driving while impaired. The main intent of the program is to change the public's attitude toward impaired driving by bolstering the budget agencies have to resource these checks.

The EACP program was developed through a pilot project in 2007. OTS collaborated with a few police agencies and offered financial resources to either increase the amount of checkstops the agency had planned, or to supplement overtime at those checks so they could run for longer hours. As a result of this pilot, the program was implemented province-wide in 2008. Since then coordinated EACP operations have been organized at locations around the province. Seven law enforcement agencies, including Alberta Sheriffs, have ramped up enforcement in relation to impaired drivers as part of ongoing efforts since 2007 to save lives and reduce injuries on Alberta's roads. EACP operations are sponsored to augment the day-to-day enforcement that is being carried out by the various agencies throughout the province. The funding for these additional checkstop events are made available by the Office of Traffic Safety each year.



The key objectives of the program are to:

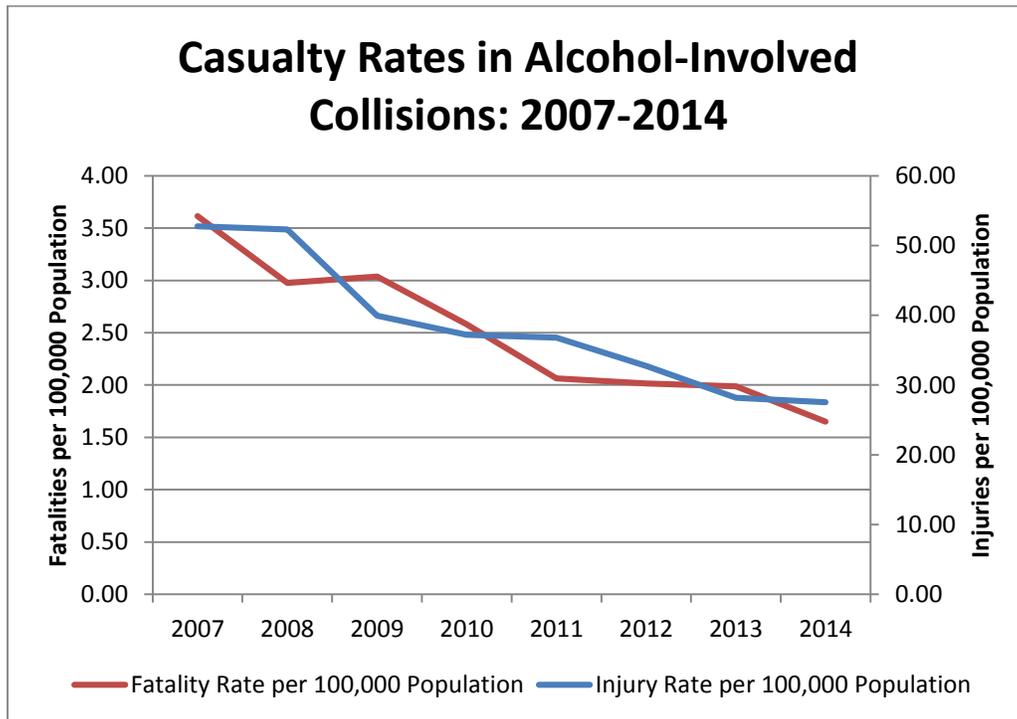
- promote a renewed Checkstop program by raising the profile with Albertans;
- raise public awareness of impaired driving and its consequences;

- show a strong, unified commitment across Alberta by uniting members from the major enforcement agencies (e.g., Calgary Police Service, Edmonton Police Service, Alberta Sheriffs and the RCMP); and
- share operational expertise between enforcement agencies.

Success of the Enhanced Checkstop Program

Since the program began, well over 300 EACP operations of varying sizes have taken place in both rural and urban communities. This is in addition to operations within enforcement agencies. These checkstops have resulted in 1,069 impaired drivers being charged from 2007-2014, and 1,822 drivers received various alcohol-related roadside sanctions. All of these drivers may have otherwise gone undetected and with potential negative consequences for their own future and that of other road users.

In Alberta in 2014, 1 in 6 drivers in fatal crashes drank alcohol (15.9%), and 1 in 30 drivers in injury crashes drank alcohol (3.3%). 2014 saw 68 alcohol-related fatalities, the lowest number recorded in Alberta. Compared to 2013, there were 15% fewer alcohol-related fatalities. Drinking drivers in fatal collisions decreased by 20.5% compared to 2013.



OTS has provided \$330,000 annually since 2007, thereby providing hundreds of additional man-hours of enforcement each year dedicated to reducing the very real impact of impaired driving on Alberta roadways. The EACP is an important component of Alberta’s Transportation Safety Plan

2020, which introduces and works towards the vision of zero deaths and serious injuries resulting from collisions on Alberta's roadways.

Alberta Sheriffs are sworn peace officers under the *Alberta Peace Officer Act*, and they perform a wide range of activities in concert with other law enforcement and policing partners in Alberta. They have been an integral supporter of the EACP since its inception. Their dedicated members have participated in 41 of the 86 operations in 2015 and over the years have been in attendance to support the EACP in a large percentage of the operations across the province.



The Sheriffs are an integral part of the operations they attend. Their members augment the efforts and resources of partner enforcement agencies, through impaired driver detection, administrative and logistical support. Without their commitment, the program would not achieve the successes it has in detecting and removing impaired drivers from Alberta roadways and enhancing road safety for all Albertans. Their partnership in the program has played a significant role in increasing the resource capacity of enforcement to detect and apprehend 2,891 additional drivers operating their vehicles under the influence of alcohol or drugs (1,069 impaired charges; 1,822 administrative sanctions, etc.) since 2007. The collaborative partnerships between provincial police services and the Alberta Traffic Sheriffs provide increased resource capacity that maximizes impact at the checkstops. The EACP program builds collaborative partnerships amongst the different police services spread out across the province.

The enhanced checkstop program is one element of enforcement supporting Alberta's efforts to reduce deaths and injuries due to impaired driving. As there is no perceived risk of apprehension without actual risk of apprehension, these highly visible and well publicized enforcement units also contribute to a halo effect further deterring impaired driving.

These enforcement efforts focus on enhancing traffic safety in the province by:

- Demonstrating collaboration and coordination of multiple enforcement agencies in the province;
- Coordinating strategic enforcement activities across the province; and
- Promoting long term behaviour change related to impairment.

Conclusion

The partnership established between Alberta Transportation and the Sheriff Traffic Operations has been instrumental since the beginning of the Enforcement committee. Members of the Sheriffs have been involved by co-chairing the committee from inception as well as providing staffing to an Enforcement Coordinator position for over six years.

The various enforcement agencies involved have been essential to the success we've seen in the reductions in fatalities and serious injuries in the province. We look forward to this very effective and important traffic safety collaboration and partnership continuing into the future, which continues to go a long way in helping make Alberta's roads safer for all.

In nominating the Alberta Traffic Sheriff Operations and the Transportation Safety Plan Enforcement Committee, we hope to bring awareness to this very successful partnership and encourage other jurisdictions to try something similar. This award, if successful would be presented jointly to:

<p>Chief Sheriff Lee Newton Sheriffs Branch</p> <p>Justice and Solicitor General</p> <p>Phone: 780 638-1190 E-mail: lee.newton@gov.ab.ca</p>	<p>Staff Sergeant Paul Stacey Traffic Section & Airport Unit</p> <p>Calgary Police Service</p> <p>Office: 403-567-4002 E-mail: PStacey@calgarypolice.ca</p>
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Appendix A: Alberta – Provincial Traffic Safety Enforcement Committee Members (in alphabetical order)

- Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers
- Alberta Justice and Solicitor General – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
- Alberta Justice and Solicitor General – Criminal Justice Division
- Alberta Justice and Solicitor General – Sheriff Traffic Operations
- Alberta Transportation – Office of Traffic Safety
- Calgary Police Service
- Canadian National (CN) Police
- Canadian Pacific (CP) Police Service
- Edmonton Police Service
- Lethbridge Regional Police Service
- Medicine Hat Police Service
- RCMP ‘K’ Division
- Tsuu T’ina Nation Police Service

Co-Chair History

Co-Chair Transportation	Co-Chair Enforcement	Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendy Doyle, Alberta Transportation 	S/Sgt. Paul Stacey, Calgary Police Service	October 2015- present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeanette Espie, Alberta Transportation 	Lee Newton, Sheriff Traffic Operations	October 2013 – October 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaun Hammond, Alberta Transportation 	Vince Galeffi, Sheriff Traffic Operations	June 2007 – October 2013



Appendix B: TSP Calendar



JAN Intersection Safety Unsafe Left Turn Rolling Stop Winter Driving Rush and Drug Impaired Fatigue	FEB Distracted Driving CROTCHES KILL Winter Driving Fatigue	MAR Occupant Restraints Without a seatbelt, things can get real ugly. Aggressive Drivers Fatigue	APR BRAIN INJURE'S CHGNAE YOUR LIFE FEEQVR Speed Aggressive Drivers Motorcycles
MAY Young Drivers/Distracted Drivers Aggressive Drivers Motorcycles	JUNE Commercial/Passenger Vehicle Safety Cycling Construction Zones OHV Fatigue	JULY WORDS HIDE BY Motorcycle Safety Cycling Construction Zones OHV	AUG Impaired Driving WORTH THE RISK? Cycling Construction Zones OHV
SEPT Back to School Alcohol Speed	OCT Occupant Restraints KIDS NEED A BOOST Whistle	NOV Pedestrian Safety THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY. When eyes lock it's safer to walk. Whistle Fatigue	DEC Impaired Driving Winter Driving

The calendar was developed using targets from the Alberta Traffic Action Plan, collision information and the public's perception of issues.