



 **CHESTERMERE**

What We Heard – Engagement Summary Report

Policing Priorities in Chestermere

March 2026

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present a clear summary of what we heard from residents through the City’s Policing Priorities Survey and to support Council in identifying and confirming Chestermere’s top policing priorities as part of the RCMP Community Priorities Plan (CPP) process.

This report is intended to reflect community input in a transparent and accessible way and highlight key areas of alignment and recurring concerns.

Approach

Public input was gathered through a short, targeted survey conducted over a two-week period in March 2026. The survey was promoted through the City’s communication channels to support broad awareness and participation.

A total of 483 responses were received. While participation was voluntary and not statistically weighted, the results show clear and consistent patterns across responses, supported by both quantitative rankings and qualitative comments.

The survey was intentionally designed to be concise and decision-focused. It included:

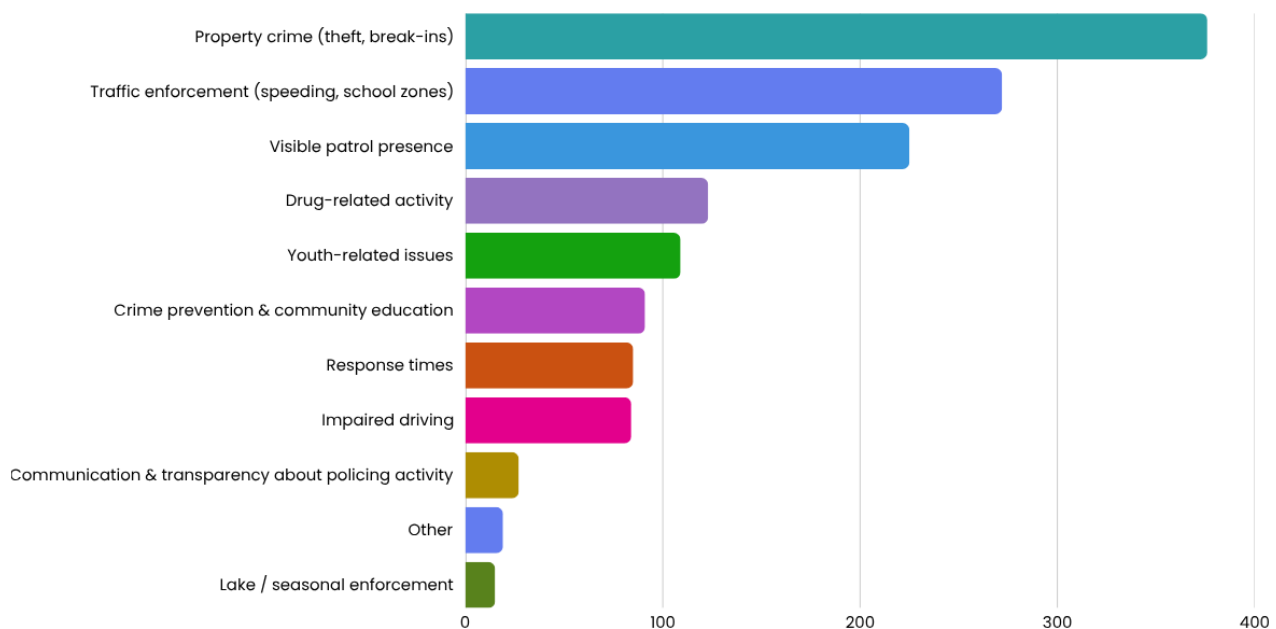
- A ranking question to identify residents’ top policing priorities
- A question to understand what residents value most in effective policing
- An open-text field to capture specific concerns, experiences, and perspectives

This approach was not intended to initiate broad new consultation, but rather to confirm and prioritize what we are already hearing across the community, and to bring that input forward in a structured way to support decision-making.



What We Heard - Top Priorities

Priority Ranking Results



Survey results identified three clear and consistent areas of focus for local policing:

1. Property Crime and Neighbourhood Safety

Property crime, including theft and break-ins, emerged as a significant concern.

Residents described:

- Repeated incidents of theft or suspicious activity
- Frustration with perceived lack of deterrence or follow-up
- A desire for increased attention to neighbourhood-level safety

“There are so many breaks lately and I don’t see much being done.”
(Response 285)

These responses reflect a concern not only with crime itself, but with **confidence in prevention and response**.

2. Traffic Safety and Road Enforcement

Traffic-related concerns were the most consistently identified priority across responses.

Residents highlighted:

- Speeding, particularly in residential areas and school zones
- Dangerous and aggressive driving behaviours
- A perceived lack of visible enforcement

“Dangerous drivers – not only speed, but failure to follow basic traffic rules.”

(Response 98)

These concerns were frequently described as **ongoing, visible, and directly impacting daily life**, making traffic safety one of the most immediate and tangible areas of focus for residents.

3. Visible Community Policing Presence

A strong and consistent theme across responses was the importance of seeing police in the community.

Residents indicated that visible presence contributes to both:

- Deterrence of unwanted behaviour
- A general sense of safety and reassurance

This was identified not only as a priority on its own, but as a **foundational expectation that supports other priorities**, including traffic enforcement and neighbourhood safety.

Overall Pattern

Across all responses, there is a clear preference for policing that is:

- **Visible** in the community
- **Focused on day-to-day issues** that residents experience directly
- **Consistently applied** across neighbourhoods

These priorities reflect a strong emphasis on **practical, community-based concerns** that are highly visible and locally impactful.

What Residents Mean by “Effective Policing”

What Matters Most



In addition to identifying priorities, residents were asked what matters most to them when they think about effective local policing.

Responses indicate that residents most value policing that is:

- **Visible** – officers present in neighbourhoods and public spaces
- **Responsive** – timely response to calls and concerns
- **Enforcement-focused** – consistent action on identified issues

Other approaches, including prevention, education, and community collaboration, were also selected, but less frequently.

Overall, the results suggest that residents are looking for policing that is:

- **Present**
- **Proactive**
- **Consistent in addressing day-to-day concerns**

This provides important context for how identified priorities are expected to be delivered.



Key Themes from Open-Text Comments

Open-text responses provided additional context and reinforced the patterns identified through the structured questions.

Several consistent themes emerged:

Traffic and Road Safety

Residents frequently referenced:

- Speeding in residential areas
- School zone safety
- Dangerous driving behaviours

These concerns were often described as **highly visible and ongoing**, with a desire for more consistent enforcement.

Property Crime and Suspicious Activity

Residents noted:

- Theft, break-ins, and suspicious behaviour
- Repeat occurrences in neighbourhoods
- A desire for stronger deterrence and follow-up

These comments reflect both **direct experience and growing concern over time.**

Visibility and Proactive Policing

A recurring theme was the importance of:

- Seeing police actively patrolling
- A proactive, rather than reactive, approach

In some cases, residents expressed concern about **perceived gaps in presence**, particularly as the community grows.

Positive Experiences

While less frequent, some residents shared positive feedback:

"I think the police are doing a great job."

(Response 59)

These comments highlight that positive interactions and trust are present and can be reinforced through continued visibility and engagement.



Closing Summary

The results of this survey reflect consistent and clearly expressed community perspectives on local policing priorities.

Across both the structured responses and open-text comments, residents identified a strong preference for policing that is visible, responsive, and focused on issues that are experienced in day-to-day life. Traffic safety, property crime, and community presence emerged as the most prominent areas of concern, supported by repeated and aligned feedback across responses.

As with all public engagement, these results represent resident perception and lived experience at a point in time. They provide valuable insight into how policing is experienced within the community and where residents are seeking greater attention or reassurance.

This input is intended to support a broader understanding of community priorities and to inform consideration of policing focus areas moving forward.

