



September 19, 2019

Protective Services Coordinator  
Foothills County Patrol  
309 Macleod Trail  
Box 5605  
High River, AB T1V 1M7

RE: Communication Gaps – Peace Officer Safety

**Dear Ms. Darlene Roblin,**

Thank you for your initiative in taking forward a very important resolution to the RMA regarding Peace Officer safety, specifically regarding the current communication gaps that exist between the RCMP and Community Peace Officers (CPO's). With the RCMP not sharing their encrypted talkgroups with CPO's, there has been a direct impact to our operations here at Lacombe County. There have been a number of incidents in our area that local CPO's have found themselves involved in since the RCMP's transition onto AFRRCS.

On Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> the Blackfalds RCMP responded to a complaint of a school bus collision on Township 372 and Range Road 281. First responders from a variety of agencies responded to this event including local Red Deer County CPO's. Because of the information sharing gaps created by the implementation of AFRRCS earlier in the month, responding CPO's had no clue that the individual involved in this collision was armed and had car-jacked a passerby who stopped to lend assistance.

<https://www.lacombeonline.com/local/suspect-wanted-after-school-bus-hit-passerby-car-jacked-at-gunpoint-south-of-rd>

On Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> the Blackfalds RCMP were responding to a complaint of shots being fired in the Town of Blackfalds. A Ford Mustang that was identified as being related to this incident was located by the RCMP whom attempted a traffic stop. The Mustang successfully evaded the RCMP for a period of time and was later found on Hwy 815 near Joffre. On this same Wednesday afternoon Community Peace Officer, Ray Kawai was performing speed enforcement in this same area and unknown to him was placed directly in the middle of a very dangerous situation without even knowing it.

<https://rdnewsnow.com/2019/07/31/crash-east-of-red-deer-shuts-down-highway-11-police-on-scene/>

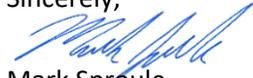
On Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> the Blackfalds RCMP were dispatched to a male suffering from gunshot wounds. This same day Lacombe County Peace Officer Kyle Friesen was requested to attend a location by a Public Works employee for an injured person. Very little information was able to be relayed by the employee and our Peace Officer soon found himself in the

middle of a criminal complaint that the RCMP were aware of and responding too, however our officer was completely unaware.

<https://www.todayville.com/rcmp-investigate-man-with-gunshot-wounds-blackfalds/>

Community Peace Officers fill an integral role within Lacombe County and as a municipality, we try to mitigate risk to an acceptable level for them to do their jobs safely. However, when it comes to cutting off this vital link with our local RCMP, these types of situations are occurring more frequently. Peace Officers have now lost that situational awareness component that previously allowed them to stay clear of these types of criminal events. I want to thank you for your resolution and the work you are doing to help keep Peace Officers safe.

Sincerely,



Mark Sproule

Manager CPO Services