



Crime & Safety: A 2023-2026 Council Priority

Taking action for a safer Kelowna



June 2023

Committed to addressing Crime & Safety

The City is committed to working with its partners to ensure that Kelowna residents, businesses and visitors are safe and feel safe in our city.

Investing in Crime & Safety responses

City Council approved an annual one per cent Public Safety Levy to help respond to community safety needs. In 2023, this is funding an additional six RCMP officers, four Bylaw Services officers, two Police Services support staff and one Community Safety Services employee.

Crime & Safety by the numbers

Our 2022 Citizen Survey found 81 per cent of residents feel safe in Kelowna. We are working to address issues and challenges when it comes to feeling safe in our community, but our city remains safe and vibrant for people of all ages and walks of life.

Community Safety
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4
kelowna.ca

Steps to confront crime and promote safety in Kelowna

Safety in numbers

City Council approved positions since 2018:

	2018	2023	Increase
RCMP officers	183	228	25%
Police Services support staff	70	100	43%
Bylaw officers	22	28	27%



RCMP initiatives

More officers on the road. In fall 2022, Kelowna RCMP secured significant staffing transfers, which re-stabilized its officer numbers. Greater officer capacity is already yielding results.

Business break-and-enters. Targeted enforcement of repeat offenders was renewed in August 2022 and led to a decrease in business break-and-enters. This proactive approach includes greater

patrols in identified hotspots which have led to several arrests.

Community Safety Unit (CSU). CSU members continue to focus on criminal behaviour and social disorder offences in priority areas, especially downtown and in Rutland. Plainclothes operations are ongoing downtown, along transit routes and in Rutland.

Enhanced bike patrols. All 12 CSU officers can patrol by vehicle, on foot and on bikes this summer. This hybrid approach means officers can be deployed with the vehicle most suited to the duties they are performing.

Youth Officer program. This new RCMP program will be underway this summer, focused on patrolling known hotspots and interrupting offences committed by youth. Participating RCMP members are also Community Youth Safety Officers. They are familiar to and experienced working with young people in Kelowna.

Bait bikes. RCMP bait bikes are deployable anywhere and anytime in Kelowna and fitted with a GPS tracking system. Their purpose is to immediately catch bike thieves and forward charge approval to the BC Prosecution Service. They have already led to several local arrests and have been instrumental in reducing overall bike theft this year.

Bylaw Services initiatives

Fully staffed for summer. Bylaw Services has been staffing up in advance of the busy summer season. There are more officers than last summer in general and staffing levels on weekends have increased in particular.

Better access to information. Enhanced Bylaw Services web content

will be added to kelowna.ca this year, including more user-friendly information on commonly-accessed bylaws.

City of Kelowna

New bike security. This year's Meet Me on Bernard will include a Bike Valet service, providing a secure space for cyclists to park their ride on the weekends this summer. Residents

and visitors can borrow a secure lock to protect their ride when visiting the Parkinson Recreation Centre thanks to our Loan-a-Lock initiative – just ask for a lock at the reception desk. The same program is being expanded to the Kelowna Visitor Centre starting on June 26, 2023 and in other locations soon.

Safety Toolkits. The City launched the Community Safety Toolkit and the Business Safety Toolkit this spring. The toolkits provide practical steps to help create a safer space for you and all the people close to you. Find them at kelowna.ca/safety.

The Mayor's Community Taskforce on Crime Reduction. Taskforce appointments were approved by Council on June 5. Once convened, the taskforce will work to reduce crime and increase sense of safety, engage the public in crime prevention, increase integration between parties involved in crime reduction, and improve public awareness around the reality and perceptions of crime through data and evidenced-based research.



Who to call, when to call

If you see criminal or nuisance behaviour in your neighbourhood, please report it.

Emergency response:

Police, fire or medical emergency

9-1-1

RCMP 24-hour non-emergency:

Report crimes that have occurred, stolen property, and suspicious or illegal activity

250-762-3300

ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/kelowna/en

City of Kelowna Bylaw Services:

Report parking, abandoned vehicles, panhandling and similar issues

250-469-8686

kelowna.ca/servicerequests

Sharps collection:

Kelowna Fire Department 24-hour line

250-469-8801