

Aug. 21, 2020

**Grande Prairie RCMP advise of increased presence at Canfor Bridge and Wapiti River private areas now closed to the public**

Grande Prairie, Alta. – Grande Prairie RCMP, in partnership with County of Grande Prairie Peace Officers continue to provide an increased presence South of Grande Prairie at the Canfor Bridge (17.5 km) and Wapiti River due to an increase in concerning behaviors.

In recent weeks, RCMP and County of Grande Prairie Peace Officers, have charged 32 individuals with various provincial act offences and two drivers with impaired operation of a motor vehicle. Several complaints have been received in regards to drinking and driving, underage drinking, assaults and parking in a manner that obstructs use of area roads.

The Canfor Bridge (17.5 km) is used on a daily basis for logging and gravel trucks. Public vehicles parked on the bridge or on the Canfor owned roads north and south of the bridge pose an increased public safety risk and a risk to the safety of industry vehicle operators.

“Our priority is to ensure public safety, and the safety of our employees and contractors who require daily access to the bridge and logging road,” says Michelle Ward, Senior Director, Communications & Government Relations for Canfor. “There will no longer be pedestrian access to the bridge, nor will vehicles be allowed to stop, park on the bridge or side of the road.”

Many of the behaviors that violators have been engaging in related to the previous complaints included life-threatening behaviors that have the potential to result in loss of life and are preventable. RCMP advise the public that educational efforts will continue in combination with enforcement where education is unsuccessful.

Grande Prairie RCMP are asking for the public's assistance in reporting suspicious activity in this area. Please contact the Grande Prairie RCMP at 780-830-5701. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at [www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com) or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

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