



GRANDE PRAIRIE RCMP NEWSLETTER

Click, Click, Hooray!!

Apply for Your Criminal Record Check Online Today!

On September 22, 2021, Grande Prairie RCMP launched a pilot project that allows the Grande Prairie citizens to request a criminal record check online.

A criminal record check is obtained to determine if a person has been charged or convicted of a crime. A Vulnerable Sector Checks (VSC) are included in the service provision for criminal record checks. A VSC is a police information check which is done to help protect children and other vulnerable people from physical, sexual, mental, and financial abuse. A VSC is the most thorough of all background checks available.

Online criminal records checks will be processed within the same time frame as when they are requested in person at the detachment and will be mailed to the applicant, unless otherwise arranged.

By offering the ability to conduct criminal record checks online, it provides Grande Prairie residents an efficient, contactless and convenient way to complete and request these checks.

To access online criminal record checks, please go to:
<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ab/online-criminal-record-checks-verifications-de-casier-judiciaire-en-ligne/index-eng.htm>

Flushing Away the School TikTok Challenge

Grande Prairie RCMP has seen a rise in the number of break and enter and vandalism complaints to local schools. This behaviour may be linked to a concerning trend spreading on the social media app "TikTok" where students are encouraged to damage and steal school property, such as soap dispensers. Students may think this is a fun challenge and "just a prank", but it can come with some serious consequences. This can include disciplinary action by the school and possibly result in criminal charges that could include break and enter, theft, and mischief. These actions are costly and also leave the school district scrambling to replace and fix any damage items. Any suspicious activity related to this trend should be reported to the Grande Prairie RCMP.

Halloween Is Just Around the Corner

The countdown to Halloween is on and it is just around the corner! All residents of Grande Prairie have a role in keeping everyone safe whether you are planning to bring children trick or treating, heading out to a small gathering, or just hanging out at home.

Grande Prairie RCMP are sharing a few simple tips to ensure everyone has a safe and spooky Halloween:

- Plan your route ahead of time, always walk on sidewalks and cross the street at designated crosswalks.
- Ensure Trick or Treaters are visible by wearing bright costumes or by wearing reflective tape/glow sticks.
- Remember to stay in well lit areas, don't cut through properties or take short cuts.
- For motorists, remember to keep a close eye out for little goblins, goons and any spooky creation in between. Plan extra time to get to your destination as there will be more pedestrians in residential areas seeking out treats...and hopefully, no tricks.

Grande Prairie RCMP will be sharing more safe and **spooktacular** tips during the month of October, so stay tuned.



Firearm Storage Safety

The fall has arrived, and hunting season has begun. Grande Prairie RCMP are reminding hunters to continue their responsible hunting practices by following all rules and regulations. While residents head to their favorite hunting areas, more vehicles will be transporting firearms. It is important to store and transport firearms safely to prevent injuries, prevent a theft and any criminal consequences.

Here are a few tips to keep safe while travelling to your hunting destination:

- When transporting firearms, they must be kept unloaded.
- Always have ammunition stored separately and secured.
- Have the action of the firearm open to ensure it is unloaded.
- If a vehicle is left unattended, firearms must be locked in a trunk or a lockable compartment. A firearm must be out of sight and the vehicle must be locked, which will deter someone breaking into your vehicle and stealing your firearm.
- Always remember to carry your Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL).



Protecting Your Home Away From Home

Now that summer is winding down, some Grande Prairie residents will be closing up their seasonal properties before the freezing winter temperatures arrive. Being proactive and prepared is the best way to prevent loss, theft, or damage over the winter months.

Here are some tips to keeping your seasonal properties in tip top shape and ways to keep unwanted guests from your property:

- Install motion detector lighting, security cameras, and/or audible alarms around your property. They can be a strong deterrent for crime and unwanted intruders.
- Turning your water heater to the vacation setting before you leave will limit unexpected failures that could spark a fire.
- If natural gas is used in the property, turning off the supply while away will limit the possibility of a leak.
- If the heat is turned off, remember to turn off the water supply to avoid frozen pipes.
- Remember to check all smoke detectors and consider putting fresh batteries.
- Tie down and cover any items that remain outside that could be blown away by the wind. Be sure to place any valuable items in a secure place and out of sight.

By following these few simple tips, seasonal property owners can keep their properties safe over the winter.





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Detachment Spotlight:

The Grande Prairie Police and Crisis Team (PACT)

The Grande Prairie Police and Crisis Team (PACT) was established in 2009 and is a joint initiative between the RCMP and Alberta Health Services.

PACT provides a joint mental health and police team available for response to mental health crises. It is an integrated intervention model, which ensures proper determination of care and referral for clients. The team is called to assist in situations within the community where mental health and/or concurrent mental health and addictions issues contribute to the individual's crisis. PACT helps to decrease potential escalation of the situation and/or criminal charges. PACT engages with clients and works with their partnering agencies, in a collaborative manner, to provide the highest level of wrap around service.



If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please call 9-1-1 or visit your nearest emergency department.

*If you are in crisis and wish to talk to someone, call:
AHS Mental Health HelpLine 1-877-303-2642
Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868*



PACT nurse, Jean Findlay, receiving a Service Award from Superintendent Sean Curry of the Grande Prairie RCMP Detachment

Truth and Reconciliation Day

On June 3, 2021, the federal government passed legislation to designate September 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day provides an opportunity for employees to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools, the thousands of Indigenous children who were forced to attend, and the importance for all Canadians to be on the reconciliation journey

The RCMP is taking part in whole-of-government efforts to engage on the memorialization of residential schools through initiatives such as the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. The RCMP will continue to pursue and strive to improve upon the services it provides to Indigenous people and communities.



Sgt. Shawn Graham and Cst. Lindsay Ralph at National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Ceremony in Grande Prairie

Grande Prairie At A Glance

Offence Type	City		Rural	
	September 2020	September 2021	September 2020	September 2021
Break & Enter	23	34	2	10
Theft of Motor Vehicle	22	27	16	13
Theft From Motor Vehicle	87	35	3	3
Possession of Stolen Property	34	21	11	10

*Crime statistics cover the period of Sept. 1 through Sept. 30, 2021 and are compared to the same period of the previous year. Note: The figures in the chart are raw and may be changed by our review process. They do not represent our final, official crime statistics.

All Events	City		Rural	
	September 2020	September 2021	September 2020	September 2021
Total Police Events	2627	2487	500	640

*Police events represent all police calls for service, officer generated files and traffic infractions. Note: These do not represent our final, official crime statistics

Online Crime Reporting
<https://ocore-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta/en>

Crime Mapping
Grande Prairie City
<https://www.cityofgp.com/city-services/emergency/rcmp/rcmp-crime-map>
County of Grande Prairie

<https://rcmp-k-div.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=572cd3cf20ed45b7bc09065bf79ce0ac>



TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
call the **Grande Prairie RCMP** at **780-830-5700**
or your local police detachment.



IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS
you can contact **Crime Stoppers** at **1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)**, online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the *Apple App* or *Google Play Store*.