



GRANDE PRAIRIE RCMP NEWSLETTER

There's An App For That!

On January 7, 2022, the Alberta RCMP officially launched a mobile app which provides easy access to online reporting of non-emergency crimes, as well as both mental health supports and partner law enforcement services in Alberta. The app also provides easy access to detachment locations, crime statistics, Project Lock Up, crime mapping, Crime Stoppers, news and links to RCMP social media accounts.

The Alberta RCMP app is currently available for a free download via the Apple app store and google play store by searching for 'Alberta RCMP'.

Grande Prairie RCMP remind the public that the app is not used to report urgent crimes and the app does not collect personal data or your location.

Can We Have Your Attention, Please?

Grande Prairie RCMP continue to see distracted driving, in particular the use of cell phones while driving, while out on patrol. Distracted driving limits a driver's ability to focus on the driving task and on road conditions which can put your safety and the safety of other motorists and pedestrians at risk.

Distracted driving behaviours includes the following, even if a motorist is stopped at a red light:

- Using hand-held cell phones
- Texting or emailing
- Using electronic devices such as laptop computers, video games, cameras, video entertainment displays and programming portable audio players such as an MP3 player
- Entering information on GPS units
- Reading printed materials in a vehicle, such as a book or newspaper
- Writing, printing or sketching
- Personal grooming, such as brushing and flossing teeth, putting on makeup, curling hair, clipping nails, or shaving

Grande Prairie RCMP encourages motorists to practice the following tips to avoid distracted driving:

- Put your cell phone away – only use your cell phone when your vehicle is parked in a safe place. If your phone rings while you are driving, have a passenger take the call, let it go to voicemail, or use hands free
- Keep your hands on the wheel – never take notes or read while driving. Park in a safe place before writing things down or referring to a map.
- Pull over as needed – if you need to attend to your kids or pets while driving, find a safe spot to park first.
- Plan ahead – program electronics like music players, phones, and GPS units before starting to drive.

Check The Expiry Date

Grande Prairie RCMP are reminding motorists to check their driver's licence and vehicle registration expiry dates, as many are driving without valid documents without even realizing it.

Grande Prairie RCMP would like to point out that it is a driver's responsibility to ensure they have a valid drivers licence and motor vehicle registration. Operating a vehicle with an expired licence or expired vehicle registration is an offence under the Traffic Safety Act and could result in a violation ticket.

A driver's licence is valid from one to five years, depending on the class, and expires on your birthday. Vehicle registrations expire on an assigned month based on your surname.

Operation Cold Start – Freezing Out Theft

The Grande Prairie RCMP want to remind the public that vehicles that are left running and unlocked outside of homes, stores, post offices, or even gas stations make for an easy target for criminals and are crimes of opportunity that are often preventable. It only takes a matter of seconds for someone to get into your vehicle and drive away.

The Grande Prairie RCMP are providing the following tips to deter vehicle theft:

- Do not leave your vehicle running while unattended
- If you must leave your vehicle running, consider using a steering wheel lock, install a remote starter, or bundle up and wait with your vehicle while it warms up
- Always lock your vehicle
- Remove all valuables, spare keys, and garage door openers from your vehicle
- Park your vehicle in well lit areas
- Never leave children or pets in an idling vehicle unattended

If you have been a victim of vehicle theft or would like to report suspicious activity, please call the Grande Prairie RCMP at 780-830-5700 or call your local police. 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.





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Intersection Safe-T

There are several intersections throughout the City of Grande Prairie, some of which can be busy, high traffic areas. Common errors at intersections include unsafe left turns, speeding and violating traffic signals that can result in intersection collisions.

It is important to stay focused and alert when approaching an intersection so motorists can be aware of what is happening around them. Additionally, the winter months can increase risk due to snow covered roadways and decreased hours of daylight.

Grande Prairie RCMP are offering the following tips to safely navigate through intersections:

Drivers:

- Obey traffic signs and signals – Make a full stop at red lights and stop signs, even when turning right.
- Yield to pedestrians at all marked or unmarked crosswalks – Before making a turn, ensure pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk.
- Remember the right of way rule – At three and four-way stops, the vehicle that arrived first should proceed first. If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the right should proceed first.
- Even if you have the right away, always be aware of your surroundings when proceeding through an intersection.

Pedestrians:

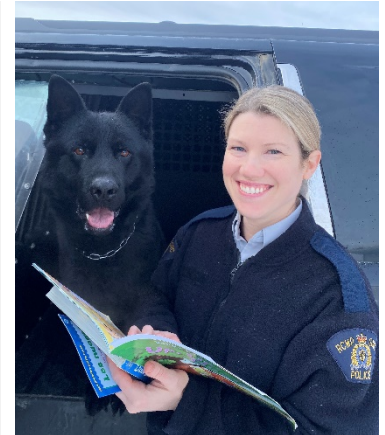
- Use crosswalks and pedestrian-activated signals – *If there are no crossing lights, wait until all vehicles have come to a complete stop before crossing.*
- Stay alert – Remove headphones and put away cell phones or other electronic devices when crossing the street.
- Be seen – Make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you. Extending your arm and pointing in the direction you wish to proceed shows drivers that you intend to enter a crosswalk. Wearing bright, reflective gear also helps motorist easily spot you in traffic.

Book 'Em!

The Grande Prairie RCMP Community Engagement and Diversity Unit participated in Family Literacy Week virtually by providing videos of Officers reading a variety of books in both English and French which were distributed to local schools throughout Grande Prairie.

Recipe for a Making a Police Officer

- Step 1 – When you first arrive at the scene of your kitchen, gather all of your cop fixings.
- Step 2 – Grab a handful of honesty and slice in some sacrifice, then mix in large kettle of kindness.
- Step 3 – Add a tablespoon of toughness and a hint of humour.
- Step 4 – Then pour a pint professionalism along with a dash of humble demeanour.
- Step 5 – Stir in a cup of compassion and watch the generosity grow.
- Step 6 – Place in a pan with bravery that has been broiled with intense integrity.
- Step 7 – Bake until fair but firm.
- Step 8 – Serve with a side of protection to the community.



Cst. Lindsay Ralph receives reading tips from our local police dog, Thor

Grande Prairie At A Glance

Offence Type	City		Rural	
	January 2021	January 2022	January 2021	January 2022
Break & Enter	26	21	10	5
Theft of Motor Vehicle	16	22	7	5
Theft From Motor Vehicle	32	26	1	3
Possession of Stolen Property	23	15	4	8

*Crime statistics cover the period of January 1 through January 31, 2022 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	
	January 2021	January 2022	January 2021	January 2022
Total Police Events	1961	2001	486	417

*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://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.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*.