



REPORT TO THE POLICE SERVICE BOARD

Author: Deputy Kim Yeandle

Date of Report: 9/3/2024

Type of Report: Public

Title: Community Safety Report

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board finds that the Service complies with all provisions of the *Community Safety Ends Policy*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I hereby submit my monitoring report on your Ends Policy “Community Safety” according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.

I report compliance on all provisions of this policy.

DISCUSSION

Board Policy Statement:

The vision of the Durham Regional Police Service is to have the safest community for people to live, work and play. A strong sense of personal security is an important element of the quality of life that citizens and visitors enjoy.

It is the policy of the Durham Regional Police Services Board that the Durham Regional Police Service shall promote and protect the safety and security of all persons and property. In so doing, the DRPS shall contribute to making Durham Region a leader (within the top 50%) in community safety among the following comparator communities in Ontario:

- Halton
- Hamilton
- Niagara

- Ottawa
- Peel
- Toronto
- Waterloo
- York

Reporting

The following measures will be considered in an assessment of community safety:

- Overall crime rate
- Violent crime rate
- Property crime rate
- Crime severity index
- Clearance rate
- Weighted clearance rate
- Response time to emergency calls
- Motor vehicle collision injury and fatality rates

The sense of security felt by residents and visitors will also be considered a relevant factor in evaluating community safety, and will be assessed through regular public opinion surveys.

An assessment of community safety in Durham Region will also include a comparison to the previous years' statistics in Durham Region.

The Chief shall report annually on outcomes resulting from this policy.

Interpretation of the Chief of Police:

The Board End of Community Safety is related to Section 1, principle 1 of the Police Services Act, 1990 –“The need to ensure the safety and security of all persons and property in Ontario”. It is also responsive to Section 4(2) items (1), (2) and (5) of the Police Services Act regarding adequate and effective police services involving: crime prevention, law enforcement and emergency response respectively.

It is my interpretation that community safety outcomes are to be assessed based on a comparison against previous years’ statistics, and against our comparator communities, and that the measures used in this assessment will reflect the Durham Regional Police Service’s ability to effectively respond to emergency calls for service, and resolve criminal incidents.

It is my further interpretation that the Durham Regional Police Service will rank in the top half of our comparators when assessed on those measures that are commensurate between police services using data published by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), Statistics Canada. For those measures that are not comparable between police services, including response times, traffic injuries and fatalities, and the public’s sense of security, outcomes will be assessed based on comparison to previous years’ statistics within Durham Region.

Data Support:

Durham continues to be a leader in community safety by ranking in the top half of its comparators for measures where comparable data is available.

Board policy states that Durham Region shall be a leader in community safety among its comparator communities. The performance quadrant in the bottom right of the chart below (shaded in grey) denotes the leaders, those in the top 50% of the comparators, for both crime severity index and weighted clearance rate in 2023. As illustrated in the chart, the Durham Regional Police Service places among the top half of comparators within the performance quadrant (low crime severity and high clearance).

Crime Severity Index & Weighted Clearance Rate by Service, 2023
Performance Quadrant Highlighted in Grey (bottom right)



Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 35-10-0188-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, police services in Ontario (accessed: 2024-08-14)

Overall Criminal Code (Excluding Traffic) Crime Rate:

The crime rate is the number of criminal incidents reported to, and substantiated by, police services per 100,000 population. The following table contains crime rate statistics for 2019 through 2023 for Durham Region and its eight comparator communities.

Similar to the majority of jurisdictions, Durham Region experienced an increase in the crime rate from 2022 to 2023. Durham, however, remained one of the lowest jurisdictions and moved from the fourth to the third lowest rank for overall crime rate amongst comparator communities in 2023, placing it within the top 50%.

Total Criminal Code (Excluding Traffic) Rate per 100,000 Population

Police Service	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.
Halton	2,027	1	1,607	1	1,870	1	2,401	1	2,381	1	-21%	+16%	+28%	-1%
Peel	2,636	2	2,274	2	2,228	2	2,795	2	3,165	2	-14%	-2%	+25%	+13%
York	2,760	3	2,405	3	2,600	3	3,055	3	3,706	4	-13%	+8%	+18%	+21%
Durham	3,232	4	2,710	4	2,906	4	3,118	4	3,567	3	-16%	+7%	+7%	+14%
Ottawa	4,262	6	3,304	5	3,537	5	4,100	6	4,439	6	-22%	+7%	+16%	+8%
Toronto	4,474	7	3,760	6	3,881	6	4,498	7	5,216	8	-16%	+3%	+16%	+16%
Niagara	4,103	5	3,789	7	3,936	7	4,038	5	4,008	5	-8%	+4%	+3%	-1%
Hamilton	4,766	8	4,249	8	4,535	8	4,643	8	4,949	7	-11%	+7%	+2%	+7%
Waterloo	5,275	9	5,236	9	5,559	9	5,452	9	5,470	9	-1%	+6%	-2%	0%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 35-10-0180-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in Ontario (accessed: 2024-08-14)

Violent Crime Rate:

The violent crime rate is the number of violent crimes reported to, and substantiated by, police services per 100,000 population.

Over the past two years, Durham Region has experienced a modest increase in violent crime. Despite this increase, the region maintained a ranking of second (lowest) overall for violent crime rate among comparator communities in 2023, placing it within the top 50%.

Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 Population

Police Service	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.
Halton	364	1	352	1	336	1	427	1	388	1	-3%	-4%	+27%	-9%
Peel	623	2	546	2	573	2	713	3	758	3	-12%	+5%	+24%	+6%
York	646	3	632	4	692	4	812	5	998	6	-2%	+9%	+17%	+23%
Durham	691	5	621	3	653	3	692	2	730	2	-10%	+5%	+6%	+5%
Ottawa	828	6	709	5	758	5	803	4	805	4	-14%	+7%	+6%	0%
Toronto	1,113	8	1,002	7	1,047	7	1,117	8	1,210	8	-10%	+4%	+7%	+8%
Niagara	673	4	789	6	840	6	821	6	882	5	+17%	+6%	-2%	+7%
Hamilton	1,051	7	1,016	8	1,108	8	1,115	7	1,129	7	-3%	+9%	+1%	+1%
Waterloo	1,307	9	1,346	9	1,436	9	1,456	9	1,435	9	+3%	+7%	+1%	-2%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 35-10-0180-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in Ontario (accessed: 2024-08-14)

Property Crime Rate:

The property crime rate is the number of property crimes reported to, and substantiated by, police services per 100,000 population.

In 2023, property crime in Durham Region increased at a rate consistent with multiple jurisdictions. Durham Region continues to rank second lowest among its comparators thereby maintaining a position within the top 50%.

Property Crime Rate per 100,000 Population

Police Service	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.
Halton	1,358	1	1,063	1	1,222	1	1,615	1	1,767	1	-22%	+15%	+32%	+9%
Peel	1,782	2	1,537	3	1,481	2	1,883	3	2,186	3	-14%	-4%	+27%	+16%
York	1,824	3	1,535	2	1,624	3	1,924	4	2,350	4	-16%	+6%	+18%	+22%
Durham	1,990	4	1,723	4	1,716	4	1,820	2	2,126	2	-13%	0%	+6%	+17%
Ottawa	2,823	6	2,125	5	2,209	5	2,718	6	3,033	6	-25%	+4%	+23%	+12%
Toronto	2,965	7	2,441	6	2,483	6	3,037	8	3,606	9	-18%	+2%	+22%	+19%
Niagara	2,788	5	2,467	7	2,646	7	2,633	5	2,448	5	-12%	+7%	-1%	-7%
Hamilton	3,065	8	2,604	8	2,792	8	2,975	7	3,341	7	-15%	+7%	+7%	+12%
Waterloo	3,256	9	3,227	9	3,364	9	3,339	9	3,392	8	-1%	+4%	-1%	+2%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 35-10-0180-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in Ontario (accessed: 2024-08-14)

Crime Severity Index:

The Crime Severity Index (CSI) is a measure of crime that reflects the relative seriousness of individual offences. It includes all Criminal Code violations, including traffic, as well as drug violations and all federal statutes reported to police. The seriousness, or weight, assigned to an incident is based on the length of actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. These weights are adjusted on occasion to reflect current sentencing practices.

Using the CSI reduces the impact of high volume, less serious offences compared to traditional measures such as crime rate. To facilitate comparisons Statistics Canada standardizes the index to a national score of 100 using 2006 as the base year. From the data in the table below, the 2023 CSI for Durham Region is equivalent to 46.8% of the crime severity measured in Canada in 2006.

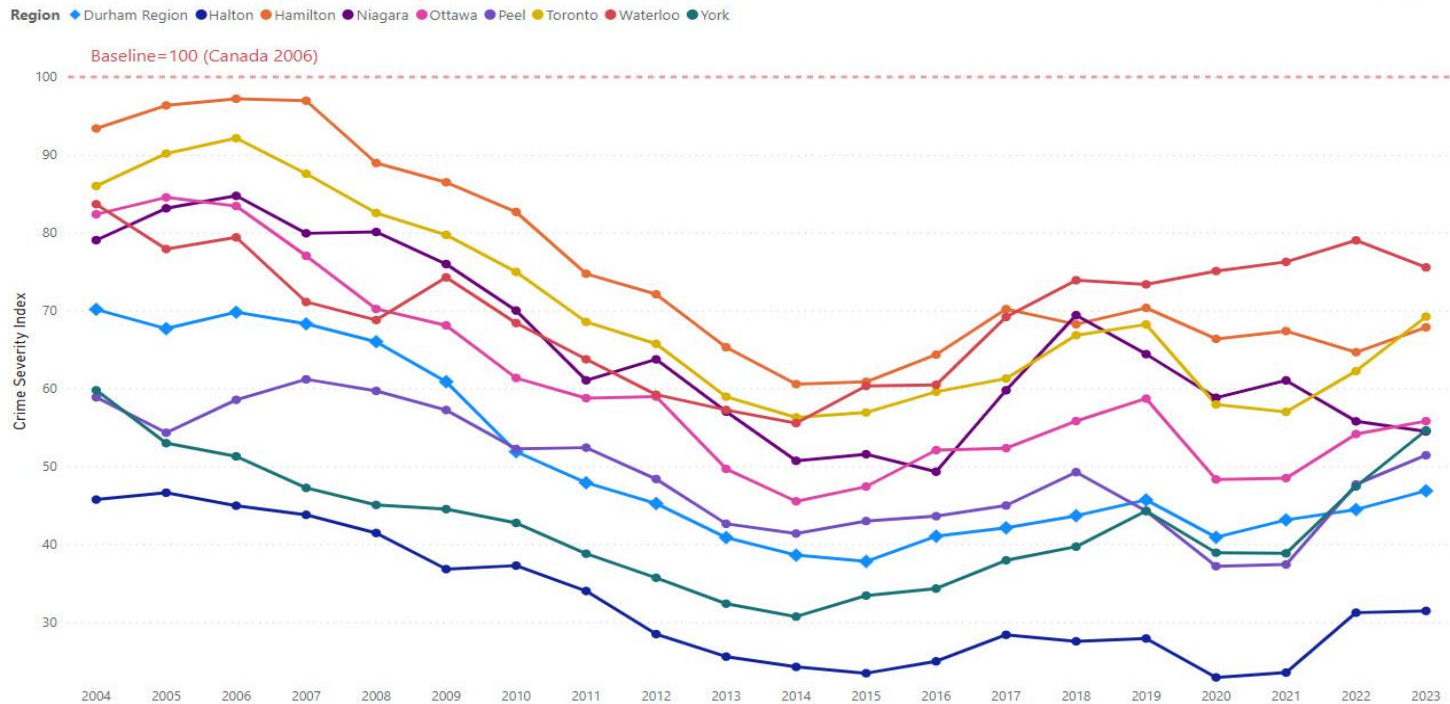
The following table provides the Crime Severity Index for Durham and its comparators over the five years between 2019 and 2023. Almost all jurisdictions experienced an increase from 2022 to 2023. Durham, however, maintains a second ranking in crime severity amongst the comparator groups in 2023, maintaining a position within the top 50%.

Crime Severity Index

Police Service	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.
Halton	27.9	1	22.9	1	23.5	1	31.2	1	31.4	1	-18%	+3%	+33%	+1%
Peel	44.3	2	37.2	2	37.4	2	47.7	4	51.4	3	-16%	+1%	+28%	+8%
York	44.3	3	38.9	3	38.8	3	47.4	3	54.6	5	-12%	0%	+22%	+15%
Durham	45.7	4	40.9	4	43.1	4	44.4	2	46.8	2	-11%	+5%	+3%	+5%
Ottawa	58.7	5	48.3	5	48.5	5	54.1	5	55.8	6	-18%	0%	+12%	+3%
Toronto	68.2	7	57.9	6	57.0	6	62.2	7	69.2	8	-15%	-2%	+9%	+11%
Niagara	64.4	6	58.8	7	61.0	7	55.8	6	54.5	4	-9%	+4%	-9%	-2%
Hamilton	70.3	8	66.4	8	67.4	8	64.7	8	67.9	7	-6%	+2%	-4%	+5%
Waterloo	73.4	9	75.1	9	76.3	9	79.0	9	75.5	9	+2%	+2%	+4%	-4%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 35-10-0188-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, police services in Ontario (accessed: 2024-08-14)

Crime Severity Index over twenty years, 2004-2023



Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 35-10-0188-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, police services in Ontario (accessed: 2024-08-14)

Over the past twenty years, Durham Region and its comparators have remained below the baseline Crime Severity Index value of 100. The CSI declined throughout much of this period, although an upward trend began in 2015 and has resumed following an interruption during the pandemic years.

Clearance Rate:

The clearance rate is defined as the number of incidents cleared, by charge or otherwise, as a percentage of incidents reported to, and substantiated by, the police service in the same calendar year.

The following table contains clearance rate statistics for 2019 through 2023, with data from the eight comparator police services. Although the clearance rate declined for the last two years (similar to almost all other jurisdictions), Durham Regional Police maintained a first-place ranking in clearance rate amongst comparator services.

Total Criminal Code (Excluding Traffic) Clearance Rate

Police Service	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.
Halton	52%	1	52%	1	43%	2	41%	2	38%	2	+2%	-17%	-6%	-7%
Peel	42%	3	40%	3	36%	3	32%	4	30%	4	-5%	-10%	-10%	-7%
York	41%	4	39%	4	35%	4	32%	5	30%	5	-5%	-10%	-9%	-6%
Durham	47%	2	41%	2	44%	1	42%	1	40%	1	-13%	+9%	-5%	-5%
Ottawa	35%	8	35%	5	33%	6	30%	7	29%	6	0%	-5%	-10%	0%
Toronto	32%	9	30%	9	28%	9	26%	9	25%	9	-7%	-6%	-8%	-3%
Niagara	36%	5	33%	7	31%	7	35%	3	35%	3	-10%	-7%	+13%	+1%
Hamilton	36%	6	34%	6	34%	5	31%	6	28%	8	-5%	+2%	-11%	-9%
Waterloo	36%	7	31%	8	29%	8	29%	8	29%	7	-13%	-8%	0%	+1%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 35-10-0180-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in Ontario (accessed: 2024-08-14)

Weighted Clearance Rate:

The weighted clearance rate facilitates the comparison of clearance rates – the proportion of crimes solved by police – among police services, as it accounts for differences in the severity of crime. Similar to the concept behind the Crime Severity Index, the calculation of the weighted clearance rate places greater emphasis on more serious crimes solved by police.

The following table contains weighted clearance rate statistics between 2019 and 2023 for Durham Regional Police Service and the eight comparator services. There was a decline in the weighted clearance rate between 2022 and 2023 and Durham Regional Police moved into second place among comparator services.

Weighted Clearance Rate

Police Service	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.	% Diff.
Halton	55.2	1	56.4	1	50.1	1	42.9	2	41.3	1	+2%	-11%	-14%	-4%
Peel	45.1	3	46.0	2	41.9	5	38.5	3	34.2	4	+2%	-9%	-8%	-11%
York	40.0	4	39.6	4	42.2	4	38.1	4	33.9	5	-1%	+7%	-10%	-11%
Durham	45.8	2	42.1	3	46.3	2	45.1	1	40.6	2	-8%	+10%	-3%	-10%
Ottawa	35.9	6	35.5	6	34.5	8	34.4	7	32.3	7	-1%	-3%	0	-6%
Toronto	33.1	8	34.2	7	35.4	7	33.9	8	30.4	9	+3%	+4%	-4%	-11%
Niagara	32.7	9	32.8	9	35.4	6	36.1	5	35.3	3	0	+8%	+2%	-2%
Hamilton	37.0	5	38.8	5	44.2	3	35.0	6	32.8	6	+5%	+14%	-21%	-6%
Waterloo	35.2	7	32.8	8	30.0	9	30.4	9	30.9	8	-7%	-9%	+2%	+2%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 35-10-0188-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, police services in Ontario (accessed: 2024-08-14)

Response Time to Emergency Calls:

Response time is defined as the elapsed time between when a call from the public is received until the first police unit arrives on scene. Emergency calls are those calls that are citizen initiated, or would likely have been citizen initiated, and are dispatched as a priority one call through the regular dispatch queue. These exclude follow-up calls, duplicate calls, and calls that were cancelled by dispatch. Although the definitions of response time and an emergency call for service are similar across police services, they are open to variations in interpretation, and criteria may be applied differently between services. Unlike the reporting of criminal incidents to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, there is no standard reporting process for response times, or for calls for service in general. Factors such as geography and population density can influence response time. For these reasons, response times to emergency calls are not comparable amongst police services.

The following table displays the percentage of emergency calls for service that had a response time within the provided benchmark times between eight and twelve minutes over the past five years.

Response Times to Emergency Calls

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Under 8 minutes	49%	52%	55%	46%	44%
Under 9 minutes	57%	60%	63%	54%	51%
Under 10 minutes	64%	68%	70%	61%	58%
Under 11 minutes	70%	74%	76%	68%	63%
Under 12 minutes	75%	79%	81%	73%	69%

Source: DRPS records management system; citizen-generated calls, priority 1, regular dispatch queue

The median emergency response time in 2023 was a little over eight minutes (*8 min 42 sec*). This represents an increase of 24 seconds compared with 2022 (*8 min 18 sec*).

Motor Vehicle Collision Injuries and Fatalities:

The following table summarizes the number of motor vehicle collisions causing injury or death (a count of incidents), the number of motor vehicle collision fatalities (a count of persons), and the fatality rate per 100,000 population over the five-year period between 2019 and 2023.

The number of motor vehicle collisions causing injury increased by nearly 8% between 2022 and 2023. There number of fatalities resulting from motor vehicle collisions declined by 6% over the same period, dropping the fatality rate to 2.1 per 100,000 population. For comparison, the Canada-wide number of fatalities per 100,000 population was 5 in 2022, the most recent year for which there are published national statistics¹.

Number of Motor Vehicle Collisions Causing Injury and Motor Vehicle Collision Fatalities

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 2022-2023
Motor vehicle collisions causing injury	1,525	1,082	1,094	1,234	1,337	+8%
Number of fatalities related to motor vehicle collisions	21	17	22	17	16	-6%
Fatality Rate per 100,000 population	3.0	2.4	3.0	2.3	2.1	-9%

Source: DRPS records management system

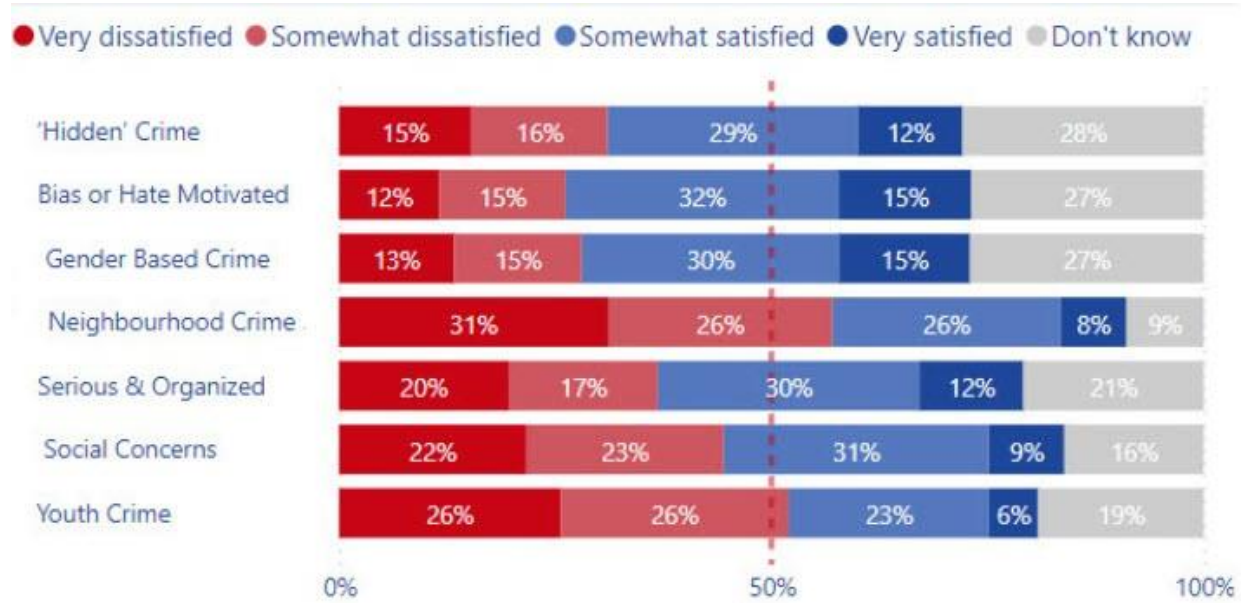
¹ Based on statistics reported in *Canadian Motor Vehicle Traffic Collision Statistics: 2022* published by Transport Canada, <https://tc.canada.ca/en/road-transportation/statistics-data/canadian-motor-vehicle-traffic-collision-statistics-2022>

Sense of Security:

The Durham Regional Police Service conducts a regular public opinion survey to collect information from members of the community. The most recent survey of this type received responses between September 2022 and January 2023. As this survey was focused on the development of the new strategic plan, the question wording changed, so historic comparisons are unavailable. As presented in the figure below, survey results indicate:

Thirty-four per cent (34%) of survey respondents indicated that they were Somewhat Satisfied (26%) or Very Satisfied (8%) with the DRPS response to neighborhood crime and concerns (e.g. auto theft, break-ins, disputes, harassment, property damage, thefts from motor vehicles, unwanted persons / trespassing). Forty-one per cent (41%) of respondents reported they were Somewhat Satisfied (29%) or Very Satisfied (12%) with DRPS' response to 'hidden crime' (e.g., child exploitation, cybercrime, elder abuse, human trafficking, intimate partner violence, organized crime). Forty-seven per cent (47%) of respondents were Somewhat Satisfied (32%) or Very Satisfied (15%) with DRPS' handling of bias or hate motivated incidents (e.g., assault, graffiti, hate speech, propaganda, property damage, verbal abuse). Forty-five per cent (45%) of respondents were Somewhat Satisfied (30%) or Very Satisfied (15%) with DRPS' response to gender-based crime (e.g., harassment, human trafficking, intimate partner violence, missing persons, sexual assault). Forty-two per cent (42%) of respondents reported they were Somewhat Satisfied (30%) or Very Satisfied (12%) with how DRPS handles serious and organized crime (e.g., assaults, auto theft, drug trafficking, fraud and identity theft, guns and gangs, illicit cannabis operations, robberies). Forty per cent of survey respondents indicated that they are Somewhat Satisfied (31%) or Very Satisfied (9%) with DRPS' response to social concerns (e.g., disputes, mental health and addiction, missing persons, people being drunk or rowdy in public places, people using or dealing drugs, unwanted persons/trespassing). Twenty-nine per cent (29%) of respondents reported being Somewhat Satisfied (23%) or Very Satisfied (6%) with the DRPS response to youth crime (e.g., assault, drugs, guns and gangs, harassment, theft, robbery, unsanctioned gatherings).

Community Satisfaction



Source: Community Input Survey (2022-2023)

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Community Safety Policy.docx
Attachments:	- Community Safety Policy_17Sept24.docx
Final Approval Date:	Sep 8, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Kim Yeandle was completed by delegate Susan Arnott

Kim Yeandle



Peter MOREIRA