

Greater Victoria Police Cost Statistics – 2015

Municipality	Population	Police Strength	Population per officer	Crime Rate	Case Load	Total Expenditure for Policing	Policing Cost Per Capita	Total Municipal Expenditure	% of Total Spent on Policing
Central Saanich	16,046	26	617	29	18	\$ 4,263,378	\$266	\$ 25,487,149	16.7%
Colwood (RCMP)	16,955	17	997	37	37	\$ 3,278,869	\$193	\$ 19,414,922	16.9%
Esquimalt (Vic PD)	16,697					\$ 7,332,628	\$439	\$ 31,362,038	23.4%
Highlands (RCMP)	2,184	n/a	n/a	33	n/a	\$ 132,706	\$61	\$ 2,902,776	4.6%
Langford (RCMP)	37,275	30	1243	47	58	\$ 5,829,461	\$156	\$ 40,234,962	14.5%
Metchosin (RCMP)	4,989	n/a	n/a	33	n/a	\$ 196,381	\$39	\$ 4,488,921	4.4%
North Saanich (RCMP)	10,994	11	999	30	30	\$ 1,595,863	\$145	\$ 16,113,916	9.9%
Oak Bay	17,474	23	760	29	22	\$ 4,550,452	\$260	\$ 35,173,064	12.9%
Saanich (see note below)	110,803	157	706	39	28	\$ 36,097,633	\$326	\$ 167,492,233	21.6%
Sidney (RCMP)	11,065	15	738	40	30	\$ 2,332,676	\$211	\$ 18,392,981	12.7%
Sooke (RCMP)	12,181	11	1107	57	64	\$ 1,521,130	\$125	\$ 11,980,898	12.7%
Victoria	84,793					\$ 38,454,918	\$454	\$ 185,600,918	20.7%
View Royal (RCMP)	10,834	9	1204	41	49	\$ 1,250,251	\$115	\$ 13,224,960	9.5%
Combined Victoria/Esquimalt	101,490	243	418	115	48	\$ 45,787,546	\$451	\$ 216,962,956	21.1%
Combined Four Core Municipalities	229,767	423	543						
Regional Population (excluding unincorporated areas)	352,290								

Data Sources:

BC Stats, Ministry of Technology, Innovation & Citizens' Services, Province of British Columbia. Last updated March 2016 (population estimates).

Police Strength (Police officers), Population per Officer, Crime Rate, Case Load & Total Police Costs taken from BC Police Resources Report 2015 – see <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/publications/statistics/police-resources.pdf>

Crime rate is the number of Criminal Code offences or crimes (excluding drugs and traffic) reported for every 1,000 permanent residents.
(includes both Indictable and summary conviction offences)

Total Police Costs include support staff (non sworn, e.g. jail, admin, communications) plus accommodation, vehicles, equipment, etc.
Police costs for each Municipality over 5,000, are provided to the Ministry annually.

Total Municipal Expenditures (for all services) obtained from the applicable municipal Audited Financial Statements for 2015

Victoria and Esquimalt do not provide separate officer strength for each Municipality nor are Crime Rate or Case Load per officer data separated in the Police Resources Report

Metchosin & Highlands have populations under 5,000, hence are policed under the Provincial Contract (RCMP). They are only charged a token Police Tax by the Province – there is no specific number of officers attached to either District and separate Crime Rate and Case Loads are not provided in the BC Police Resources Report.

Police Services Division, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General release the annual Police Resources Report in January (for the year ending 12 months prior. The 2015 report was issued in December 2016.

Note on RCMP Policing Contracts:

The Federal and Provincial Governments sign long-term policing agreements. Municipalities may use the RCMP to Provide local Police Services, subject to Provincial approval.

There are three forms of contract, as follows:

- 1) Municipalities with **less than 5,000 population** are assessed a **Police Tax** Annually by the Province e.g. Highlands, Metchosin.
- 2) Municipalities with **between 5,000 & 15,000 population** pay 70% of an agreed upon cost per RCMP member + accommodation & support staff, e.g. North Saanich, Sidney, Sooke, View Royal
- 3) Municipalities with **more than 15,000 population** pay 90% of an agreed upon costs per RCMP member + accommodation & support staff, e.g. Colwood and Langford

In **Greater Victoria**, RCMP contracts tend to have a higher ratio of citizens' per Police Officer, e.g.: Colwood 997:1, Langford 1243:1, North Saanich 999:1, Sooke 1107:1 and View Royal 1204:1 – Sidney was the one exception with a 738:1 ratio. Policing costs are lower in those municipalities because of (a) the RCMP contract rate per member (b) the higher ratio of citizens per officer.

Vic PD (including Esquimalt) has the lowest citizen to officer and the highest crime rate due to the demands of policing the regions downtown central business district, and concentration of entertainment centres (night clubs, bars). The effects of homelessness, people with mental health issues, illegal drug use and various other factors contribute to this high crime rate. The City of Victoria (84,793) which acts as a downtown core for a region of 352,290 (2015 estimate – BC Stats). Despite having a larger tax base, Victoria/Esquimalt spend a greater portion of their combined budgets on policing than any of the other Municipalities – see the following note on Saanich Policing costs for 2015.

Special Note on Saanich: An email inquiry was sent to the District of Saanich seeking clarification on the large year to year increase from 2014 to 2015 – The following answer came from Laurie Cruz – Saanich Police

Good afternoon,

The main areas for the increase in 2015 over 2014 were:

Impact of 3 years of wage settlements/adjustments (2013, 2014 & 2015), reserve accounts were established for fleet and IT replacement, an adjustment to operating accounts to meet existing un-funded operating demands, as well as other one time operational/investigative expenses.

I trust this answers your questions,

Laurie Cruz

Manager of Executive Services

Saanich Police

760 Vernon Avenue

Victoria, BC V8X 2W6

Tel. (250) 475-4321, Local 1514

Fax. (250) 475-6138

Special Note on Esquimalt – Policing of Esquimalt was taken over by Vic PD in January 2003 under a 10 year contract. The contract with Vic PD was renewed in 2012, only after Esquimalt attempted to change to an RCMP Contract (this had nothing to do with VicPD service but was based solely on cost). The initial contract with Vic PD utilized a formula based on Esquimalt's share of the total assessed (adjusted) tax base for both municipalities (which worked out to about 15%), thus Esquimalt pays approximately 15% of Vic PDs annual budget (this formula was adjusted slightly when the contract was renewed). VicPDs budget is higher as a percentage of total expenditures and per capita than other municipalities, hence it may be said that Esquimalt contributes financially to downtown Victoria Policing while no other local municipality does so. This is a situation unique in British Columbia.