

Police Costs - 2018 - Greater Victoria

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	18,139	23	789	29	23	\$ 5,041,828	\$278	\$ 25,079,653	20.1%
Colwood (RCMP)	18,310	17	1077	35	39	\$ 3,337,162	\$182	\$ 21,445,528	15.6%
Esquimalt (Vic PD) (1)	18,818					\$ 7,997,757	\$425	\$ 35,036,264	22.8%
Highlands (RCMP) (2)	2,225		n/a			\$ 161,601	\$73	\$ 2,997,586	5.4%
Langford (RCMP)	39,368	42	937	51	48	\$ 7,227,170	\$184	\$ 59,742,274	12.1%
Metchosin (RCMP) (2)	4,708		n/a			\$ 223,768	\$48	\$ 5,007,228	4.5%
North Saanich (RCMP)	12,058	11	1096	24	27	\$ 1,808,600	\$150	17,329,162	10.4%
Oak Bay	19,228	23	836	28	23	\$ 4,723,740	\$246	\$ 37,705,417	12.5%
Saanich	122,245	161	759	38	29	\$ 33,760,250	\$276	191,942,196	17.6%
Sidney (RCMP)	12,543	15	836	36	30	\$2,378,549	\$190	20,495,518	11.6%
Sooke (RCMP)	14,298	13	1100	58	64	\$2,008,067	\$140	\$ 13,489,786	14.9%
Victoria (1)	92,041					\$ 46,408,756	\$504	198,914,194	23.3%
View Royal (RCMP)	11,318	10	1132	59	64	\$ 1,455,590	\$129	14,755,793	9.9%
Combined Victoria/ Esquimalt	110,859	245	452	105	48	\$ 54,406,513	\$491	\$ 233,950,458	23.3%
Combined Four Core Municipalities	252,332	429				\$ 92,890,503	\$368	\$ 463,598,071	20.0%
Regional Population (excluding CRD unincorporated areas)	385,299								
REGIONAL TOTALS		560				\$116,532,83		\$643,940,599	

Data Sources:

Police Strength (Police officers), Population, Population per Officer, Crime Rate, Case Load & Total Police Costs taken from BC Pol Report 2018 - see: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/publications/statistics/police>

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 municipal Audited Financial Statements for 2018
Notes to Police Costs 2018 - Greater Victoria:
Note 1: Victoria and Esquimalt do not provide separate officer strength for each Municipality nor are Crime Rate or Case Load per of data separated in the Police Resources Report.
Note 2: Metchosin & Highlands have populations under 5,000, hence are policed under the Provincial Contract (RCMP). They are or token Police Tax by the Province - there is no specific number of officers attached to either District and separate Crime Ra are not provided in the BC Police Resources Report. Westshore have 5 assigned RCMP members for Metchosin, Highlands, tl Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and 1 RCMP member assigned to First Nations.
Note 3: Police Services Division, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General release the annual Police Resources Report in Jan ending 12 months prior. The 2018 report was issued in December 2019.
Note on RCMP Policing Contracts:
The Federal and Provincial Governments sign long-term policing agreements. Municipalities may use the RCMP to Provide local Police subject to Provincial approval. Under the Master Contract, the RCMP acts as a Provincial Police Force. Municipalities with few are Policed by the RCMP under the Provincial Contract - such municipalities pay an nominal Police Tax to the Province (see Note
There are two forms of RCMP municipal contracts, as follows:
- Municipalities with between 5,000 & 15,000 population pay 70% of an agreed upon cost per RCMP member + accommodation & e.g. North Saanich, Sidney, Sooke, View Royal
- Municipalities with more than 15,000 population pay 90% of an agreed upon cost per RCMP member + accommodation & support e.g. Colwood and Langford
RCMP contracts tend to have a higher ratio of citizens' per Police Officer , e.g.: Colwood 1077 to 1 , Langford 937 to 1 , North Saanich 1096 to 1 , Sooke 1100 to 1 and View Royal 1132 to 1 and Sidney 836 to 1 . Policing costs are lower in those municipalities because of (a) the RCMP contract rate per member, which is shared with th Federal Government and (b) the citizens per officer. RCMP members are currently paid substantially below Municipal Pease Officers.
As of March 2020, the Salary of an RCMP Five Year First Class Constable is \$86,110. The salary for a 5 year Constable Vic PD is \$100,226 (Other local Municipal Police have salaries similar to Vic PD).
Vic PD (including Esquimalt) has the lowest citizen to officer and the highest crime rate due to the demands of policing the regions central business district, with its concentration of entertainment centres (night clubs, bars). The effects of homelessness, people wi issues, illegal drug use and various other factors contribute to this higher crime rate. The City of Victoria (92,041) which acts as a dc

a region of 385,299 (2018 estimate - BC Stats). Despite having a larger tax base, Victoria/Esquimalt spend a greater portion of their annual budgets on policing than all other Municipalities.

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

