



METRO VANCOUVER TRANSIT POLICE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 TRANSLINK BOARD MEETING

TransLink Strategic Priority: Customer First

- **Community Safety Officers (“CSOs”)** – The third class of CSOs will graduate at the end of September 2024. They will begin deployment in October, joining the graduates from Classes one and two (thus fulfilling the full CSO Pilot Program complement of 24). The CSOs are part of the regular police service delivery and assigned to the four patrol squads and may assist the Targeted Mobile Enforcement Unit. Part of their duties does include fare enforcement and enforcement of the *Greater Vancouver Transit Conduct and Safety Regulation*.



- **Neurodiversity Decals** – The BC Association of Chiefs of Police and the BC Law Enforcement Diversity Network are working to promote safety for individuals living with autism and those who are neurodiverse. One initiative is the Autism Decal. The decal project aims to improve interactions between police officers and neurodiverse/autistic individuals by using decals to signal the presence of such individuals. When displayed on houses or vehicles, decals prompt police to adapt their approach, expectations, and communication styles to accommodate the unique needs and sensitivities of neurodiverse/autistic individuals. The decal promotes safety and reassurance that individuals are likely to receive appropriate and empathetic responses from first responders.

Transit Police has been helping to promote the decal program through attendance at events and distribution of decals to transit riders. One such pop-up event was held at Waterfront Station on July 24. Decals have additionally been distributed at community events throughout July and August.



Metro Vancouver Transit Police
August 8 at 3:23 PM · 🌐

Thanks to training provided by [Pacific Autism Family Network](#), Transit Police officers Sgt. Bunderla, Cst. Dhillon, Cst. Turner and Mental Health Liaison Officer Cst. Hayward were able to help a lost child self-regulate and address the external factors contributing to his unsafe behaviour after recognizing indicators of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The child and his family members, from whom he'd made his getaway, were soon reunited. Transit Police officers participate in training on an ongoing basis, and it's gratifying to find opportunities to put new skills and knowledge into use.

- **Persons in Crisis**

Strengthening support for persons in vulnerable circumstances is a Strategic Objective within the Transit Police Strategic Plan, in particular providing support to those experiencing a mental health crisis. Transit Police training includes the *Mental Health Act (“MHA”)*, crisis de-escalation and trauma informed practice. Transit Police works closely with TransLink operating companies, community and health care partners, and Jurisdictional Police to support persons in vulnerable circumstances and those experiencing a mental health crisis on transit, and to help prevent persons losing their life to suicide.

Transit Police has a Mental Health Liaison Officer and their assistance is usually initiated upon request of Transit Police Officers. Work includes, for example:

- Identifying community based programs for a client by working in collaboration with Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities;
- Safety planning for the client as well as transit staff;
- Seeking community support resources to assist the client, such as Assertive Community Treatment (“ACT”) teams, Community Mental Health Nurses attached to some JPDs (i.e., Car 87/Vancouver and Car 67/Surrey), and detox; and
- Informing Transit Police Officers of appropriate response or protocols when dealing with a client to enhance outcomes.

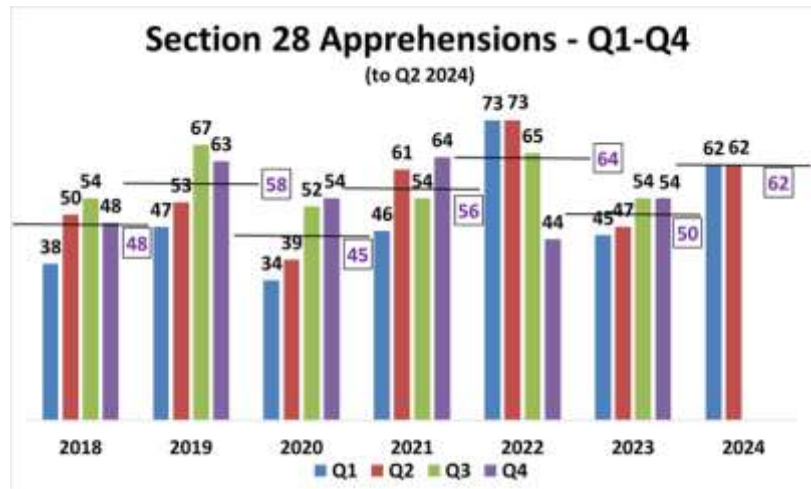
Transit Police Officers receive a variety of training related to persons in crisis, such as trauma informed practice, crisis de-escalation and suicide prevention. Over Q2 2024, Transit Police Officers were given a presentation from the New Westminster Peer Assisted Care Team (“PACT”) on their service and resources. PACT is a mobile, community-led team that offers support to individuals experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis. It is an alternative or auxiliary response to police intervention, providing crisis support that focuses on prevention, health and well-being. PACT is operated by the Lower Mainland Purpose Society. Each team is comprised of a Mental Health Worker and a Peer Support Worker (someone with lived or living experience), who attend to crisis calls during set service hours. This initiative is to help respond to the needs of individuals most impacted by mental health and substance use, and provide trauma-informed, culturally safe support to youth and adults. Transit Police will be able to link individuals to this resource, which can:

- Offer support to an individual over the phone or in-person;
- Provide crisis counselling and de-escalation;
- Facilitate connections to the appropriate resources, services and supports in the community to meet an individual’s underlying needs; and
- Provide advocacy and accompaniment to emergency departments, police stations, or community organizations.

The chart that follows shows the number of events during the 2024 Q1-Q2 period that the Transit Police handled in relation to disturbed persons, suicide and Section 28 *MHA* apprehensions. (*Under Section 28 MHA, a police officer may apprehend and immediately take a person to a physician for examination if satisfied from personal observations, or information received, that the person is acting in a manner likely to endanger that person's own safety or the safety of others, and is apparently a person with a mental illness in crisis.*)

METRO VANCOUVER TRANSIT POLICE			
	2023 Q1-Q2	2024 Q1-Q2	% Change
Disturbed Person	127	144	13%
Section 28 MHA	92	124	35%
Died by Suicide	2	2	0%
<i>Sudden Death</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>-9%</i>

For 2024 Q1-Q2, there was a 35% increase in the number of Transit Police Section 28 MHA apprehensions when compared to the same period in 2023. The historical quarterly comparisons are shown on the chart that follows.



For all persons apprehended under Section 28 MHA in 2024 Q1-Q2, 48 of the 124 persons (39%) had more than one Section 28 file with Transit Police (going back to 2018).

- **Reporting Sexual Assaults** – A new webpage was added to the Transit Police website to promote reporting of sexual assaults and to help inform victims of the investigation process and victim supports available. Click [Sexual Assault – Transit Police](#) to view.

Reporting a Sexual Assault

What is a sexual assault?

A sexual assault is any sexual contact that you do not consent to. This includes unwanted kissing, touching, penetration or attempted penetration. It may happen once or multiple times, and just because you agreed to sexual contact in the past does not mean you consent to it every time. You can be sexually assaulted by a stranger, a friend, a family member, or your relationship partner. Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, race and cultural background.



- **Saving Lives** – Transit Police Officers and CSOs (as well as many of our Transit Police volunteers) are trained and carry Naloxone so that they can administer it when overdose events occur on the transit system and in the community. During the January to July 2024 period, sworn members and volunteers administered Naloxone to 45 individuals. Unfortunately, the number of events continues to increase every year. Given the critical opioid crisis in BC, it is important that

the police service provides this valuable tool to its sworn members and volunteers to help save lives.

Naloxone Event – On an August evening, a Transit Police Officer and their police dog were conducting an explosive dog sweep of the Main Street SkyTrain Station. The Officer observed four individuals tending to a person and pouring water on this person’s head in an attempt to wake them up. The Officer approached and conducted checks, and found the individual to be unresponsive and their lips starting to turn blue. The Officer administered two Naloxone doses and the person began to have slow shallow breaths and faint pulse. BC Ambulance Service attended and transported the person to Vancouver General Hospital.

- **Patrol Squad Project** – On two days in July, a patrol squad launched a proactive project to address fare evasion and criminal activity at four targeted SkyTrain stations. Day 1 was at Main Street and Commercial/Broadway stations and Day 2 at Surrey Central and Metrotown stations. A mixture of plain-clothes and uniformed Transit Police Officers, and CSOs were utilized.



Over the two days, 125 Fare Infraction Notices and 53 Violation Tickets were issued, and 13 Compass Cards were seized for misuse. Five fare passes were provided to enable continuation of travel. Further, six arrests were made



– Warrant x5, Form 21 Director’s Warrant (return of a patient to hospital) and Breach Conditions, Theft Under, Obstruction and Assault Police Officer, and Obstruction (2) related to enforcement of the *Greater*

Vancouver Transit Conduct and Safety Regulation.

- **Bus Lane Enforcement** – In June, in response to complaints received from the bus operators and the public (via social media and Email), the Transit Police’s Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team (“TMET”) launched a project that focused on vehicles that were improperly using bus lanes to bypass traffic congestion. The project ran for four non-consecutive weekdays in Delta, Pitt Meadows, Richmond, Surrey and Vancouver. The project resulted in 334 Violation Tickets (“VTs”) being issued (268 VTs for bus lane misuse and another 66 VTs for secondary offences such as distracted driving, driving without a license, and speeding).



- **Stolen Merchandise from Theft Ring** – In July 2024, Transit Police arrested two men in connection with an alleged organized theft operation after a search warrant was executed on a



Burnaby residence. Seized were over 800 stolen items from lululemon, with a retail value of nearly \$100,000, as well as CDN \$17,638 and US \$1,700 in currency. The investigation commenced in April by Transit Police patrol officers arising from a ‘Theft Over \$5,000’ arrest at the Metrotown SkyTrain Station. The lululemon Asset Protection Officers had alerted Transit Police to the suspect’s alleged shoplifting routine and dependence on using SkyTrain. Plain-clothes Transit Police Officers intercepted the suspect. During the course

of the Transit Police subsequent investigation, it was found that there was a large scale, organized theft operation, targeting lululemon stores across the Lower Mainland, which led to the additional July arrests.

TransLink Strategic Priority: State of Good Repair

- **Transit Police 2023 Report to the Community**
Transit Police and the Police Board have released the 2023 Transit Police Report to the Community. Click here for the [video](#) and [written video companion](#).



- **Performance Measurement Culture**
Transit Police is an intelligence-led and data-driven police agency, and gathers comprehensive statistics in relation to crime and organizational performance. Transit Police shares statistical and performance information with the public, TransLink and stakeholders through a variety of tools, including reports on the Transit Police website. The following is a snapshot of key statistics for 2023 Q1-Q2 as compared to 2024 Q1-Q2.

In 2024 Q1-Q2, Transit Police had 6,869 Police Files, which is a 0.4% decrease from 2023 Q1-Q2.

Metro Vancouver Transit Police Crime and Safety Statistics	2023 Q1-Q2	2024 Q1-Q2	% Change	Positive Monitoring Needs Action
Rate of Crimes Against Persons/100,000 Boarded Passengers	.41	.36	-11%	
<i>Actual Number of Crimes Against Persons (includes assists)</i>	771	722	-6%	
Rate of Crimes Against Property/100,000 Boarded Passengers	.43	.38	-13%	
<i>Actual Number of Crimes Against Property (includes assists)</i>	820	750	-9%	
Other Criminal Code Violations/100,000 Boarded Passengers¹	.22	.21	-4%	
<i>Actual Number of Criminal Code Violations</i>	412	415	1%	

¹ Other Criminal Code Violations: Includes such offences as weapons, disturbing the peace, child pornography, obstruct peace officer, possess break and enter instruments, intimidation and threats, breach/bail violations, indecent acts/exposing, and counterfeiting.

<i>(includes assists)</i>				
Provincial Violation Tickets (“VTs”)	2699	4088	51%	
Arrests - Warrants Executed (All)	482	556	15%	
Arrests - New Charges²	226	266	18%	
Breaches <i>(includes secondary offences and assists)</i>	217	225	4%	
Total S. 28 Mental Health Act Apprehension Files	92	124	35%	
<i># of S.28 MHA individuals committed, held, voluntary admitted</i>	80%	82%	+2% points	
Rate of Sexual Offences/100,000 Boarded Passengers	0.04	0.04	0%	
<i>Actual Number of Sexual Offences (includes assists)</i>	80	86	8%	
SCBCTA Fare Infraction Notices	2435	6200	155%	
Number of Unique SMS Text Conversations	2984	3377	13%	
Number of Police Files Generated from SMS Texts Conversations	1187	1137	-4%	

- Ridership Boarded Passenger levels increased 5% from 2023 Q1-Q2 to 2024 Q1-Q2 (189,109,964 versus 198,607,726). The 2024 Q1-Q2 results show continued positive movement with decreases in the rates of Crimes Against Persons (down 11%) and Crimes Against Property (down 13%) per 100,000 Boarded Passengers when compared to 2023 Q1-Q2. These rate decreases reflect the increase in ridership as well as small reductions in the actual number of crimes against persons and property files during the period.
- The number of sexual offence files for 2024 Q1-Q2 was similar to 2023 Q1-Q2, as well as the rate per 100,000 Boarded Passengers. Transit Police takes reports of sex offences seriously and investigates thoroughly. Transit Police recognizes there may be under-reporting of incidents and promotes reporting through a variety of initiatives, including texting 87 77 77 and anti-sex offending campaigns with community partners, of which there have been four so far. There will be a new school oriented campaign fall 2024, and school 87-77-77 campaign supplies ordered in preparation.
- When comparing 2024 Q1-Q2 to 2023 Q1-Q2, Transit Police had a 35% increase in apprehensions of persons under Section 28 of the *Mental Health Act* (“MHA”). Contributing to this increase is our new CSOs and their on-view observations (or interactions with transit staff) resulting in calls for Transit Police Officers to attend and assist the individual in crisis. These individuals were taken to hospital for assessment from medical practitioners and 82% were committed, held, or voluntary admitted once at hospital. Transit Police Officers refers some individuals/clients to the Transit Police Mental Health Liaison Officer, who will then work with the client and partner agencies to seek appropriate services/resources to support that client moving forward. *See earlier in this report for more on response to persons in crisis.*

² Arrest means an actual arrest and all other cases where charges were recommended to Crown Counsel.

- SMS text 87 77 77 continues to be promoted as a way for transit riders to discreetly contact Transit Police when issues of concern arise while on transit. There was a 13% increase in unique SMS Text conversations with the Transit Police - Operations Communication Centre when comparing 2024 Q1-Q2 to 2023 Q1-Q2. This increase is attributed to the continued impact from the expansive 2023 safety campaign on the bus system. 34% of conversations were converted to police files, with many of the other conversations redirected to transit customer service or other service providers.
- In 2024 Q1-Q2, Transit Police Officers made 556 arrests for outstanding criminal warrants, which included RCMP, Municipal Police and Transit Police issued warrants from BC and elsewhere. The number of warrant arrests³ in 2024 Q1-Q2 was 15% higher than in the same period of 2023, while ‘new charge’ arrests increased by 18% comparatively. As well, the number of breach files⁴ increased by 4%.
- The substantial increase in Fare Infraction Notices (“FINs”) and Provincial Violation Tickets from 2024 Q1-Q2 to 2023 Q1-Q2 is mostly attributed to the deployment of the new CSOs, whose duties also include enforcement of the *Greater Vancouver Transit Conduct and Safety Regulation* and issuance of FINs. CSOs prepared 64% of all FINs for the 2024 Q1-Q2 period, with two classes of CSOs now being operational. It is noted that there also was a 73% increase in *Greater Vancouver Transit Conduct and Safety Regulation* offences from 1,289 in 2023 Q1-Q2 to 2,228 in 2024 Q1-Q2.

³ Warrant arrests and breaches may arise from on-view work of police officer, calls for service, confirming identity incidental to criminal arrest or during enforcement of a provincial statute offence (i.e., misuse of a fare gates). Officers also familiarize themselves with criminals of concern or offenders wanted through law enforcement intelligence sharing, regional BOLFs (Be On Lookout For) and the Transit Police Offender Monitoring.

⁴ Total of breach files now includes assists, as it represents a more accurate count of those offenders removed from the transit system, even if Transit Police was in an assist capacity and not the lead. Currently, these numbers are limited to the files that are reported to Transit Police; there may be other breach files on/near the transit system not brought to the attention of Transit Police.