

Community Safety is a Priority

We are taking action



Commitment to Safety

The City is committed to working with its partners to ensure that Kelowna residents, businesses and visitors feel safe in our city.

Tax Investment

On an average home property tax bill for 2019 in Kelowna, safety represents the largest tax amount (43%).

Public Safety Liaison Report

"Enforcement plays an important role in dealing with the issues our community now faces, but this is only one part of the equation. Enforcement only deals with the symptoms and not the causes. The Journey Home strategy is correct: housing and treatment are the key to long-term success. Until we get there, the City should take a leadership role in a collaborative and coordinated intergovernmental approach to the issues we see on the ground today."

Community Safety
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4
kelowna.ca

Police/RCMP Initiatives

Downtown Enforcement Unit (DEU) has seven dedicated officers for 2019.

Bike Patrols: four dedicated members, 7 days/week beginning April until September.

Increased area covered by patrols through use of motorized carts and utility vehicles.

Inadmissible Patron Policy (IPP): Local businesses sign on to an agreement that allows the RCMP to act on their behalf, removing patrons that pose a potential threat.

A new team, **Watch 5** will provide support for the DEU with enhanced policing in the downtown core during the summer months.

Bylaw Initiatives

Community Response Unit: Initiated in 2018, fully staffed with four officers for summer 2019.

Bike Patrols: four dedicated officers, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., 7 days/week.

Foot Patrols: a team of two officers patrol the downtown area, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., 7 days/week.

Bylaw and RCMP communications and GPS locations shared on new devices to **enhance cooperation and safety.**

Sharps Response

Single number to call **(250-469-8801)** if residents find an improperly discarded needle, or several needles in **public spaces or outside private residences.**

Proactive actions:

- **Parks checked regularly** to keep as clean and free of debris as possible.

- **Additional \$32,500 added in 2019** to support quick sharps pick-up response on evenings and weekends.

- Park Services contractors conduct **mechanical beach sweeps** to keep beaches clear of debris.

- Parks **patrolled** by City Bylaw, Bylaw bike patrol and RCMP.

- Volunteers use **metal detectors** to **locate needles** and other debris in covered areas in parks and beaches.

- **Installation of safe needle disposal boxes** if warranted and have new robust boxes built for parks to install at key locations (replacing older models of needle disposal boxes).

- Three **large disposal boxes from Interior Health** have recently been installed at the following locations:

Kelowna RCMP Detachment
Outreach Urban Health Centre
Rutland Community Policing Office

- A list of **Local Health Unit drop off locations** can be found at:

kelowna.ca/safety > [safe needle disposal](#)

Security Resources

New City staff positions include a **Director of Community Safety**, who works with the community to respond to acute issues around safety and a **Security and Business Continuity Manager** (funded for June 2019)

responsible for improved oversight of security, community engagement and to act as a liaison between security resources and partners.

Enhanced mobility:

Spring to Summer

- one additional dedicated beach patrol car at night.

Year-round:

- One daytime car, two nighttime cars primarily dedicated to patrolling parks and City properties.
- Ten additional cars to support responses and emergency calls.

Security Cameras:

Cameras have been installed at the Queensway Transit Exchange and in all downtown parkades. **Additional (outdoor) cameras** to be installed in 2019 around the Kelowna Community Theatre, Apple Bowl and Rutland Arena.

Outcome: Demonstrated increased ability to intercept individuals prior to a disturbance/illegal activity taking place.

Security Patrols:

Location	# of Officers	Shifts
City Park	2	2200 - 0600 7 days/week
City Security Centre	1	24/7
Leon Ave	2	0700 - 1500 7 days/week
Queensway	2	1500 - 0000 Mon. - Sat.
Queensway	1	0900 - 1500 Mon. - Sat.
Stuart Park	2	0800 - 1600 & 1600 - 2300 both 7 days/week

DKA Information

Downtown Clean Team has extended shifts in the summer months with \$50,000 additional budget.

Additional **Downtown On-Call** staff added in 2019 with \$25,000 of additional budget. Call 250-470-9058, 7 days/week.

downtownkelowna.com

Civic Operations & Other

- Currently investigating additional **washroom options** and additional **litter bins** for the downtown area.

- Downtown street cleaning **budget expanded by \$35,000.**

- **Additional resources** added for contract pressure washing around various hotspots in the downtown area.

- DKA and City **coordinating** cleaning work and communication channels.



Fire Department Support

The Fire Department plays an important role in community safety and in addition to fire response, prevention, inspections and public education programs they:

- **Respond** to overdose, medical issues and vehicle accidents.
- **Collaborate** between agencies - multi-agency responses are often required.

Innovative Community Policing & Human Services

KOaST (Kelowna Outreach and Situation Table)

- Collaborative team that identifies and provides support to at-risk individuals in the community. By connecting people with the right resources we can reduce harm related to crime, substance use, lack of housing, abuse and other causes.

PACT (Police and Crisis Team)

- Pairs an RCMP member and Mental Health Nurse to identify people where they are, divert them from hospital emergency visits, provide care and connection to support services.
- Single team in 2018 expanding to two teams in 2019.

PEOPLE (Paid Employment Opportunities for People with Lived Experiences)

- A program under development to have PEOPLE contribute to downtown landscape maintenance and clean-up.

Summary of new safety positions for 2019:

- **7 RCMP Members**
- **8 Firefighters** (4 in 2019 and 4 in 2020)
- **2 Bylaw Officers**
- **5 Support Positions**

