

*In 2023, the Town of Olds commissioned a review of its policing services to assess their effectiveness, efficiency, and fit with the Town's values and needs. Western Management Consultants, assisted by Applications Management, was engaged to do this work.*

*The project looked at existing practices and evaluated them against similar municipalities and the future needs of the Town. The residents of Olds were important stakeholders in this work, and the views of citizens were gathered through both survey and consultation processes.*

*The project's main outcome was to find out if the current policing model is the best fit or if the Town should consider other options.*

## KEY FINDINGS

Residents of Olds believe they live in a **safe community**. Yet, many are not fully aware of how the police services are managed, and there's little desire to switch from using the RCMP to having a local town police force.

**Crime levels in Olds are as low or lower** than in similar towns, with crime rates trending down. There is more non-violent crime in the Town, but fewer violent incidents in comparison to similar towns.

The Town of Olds **spends less money** on protective services than other similar towns.

There are general concerns reported among people in Olds about **police visibility** and **consistency** in traffic enforcement.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintain its **current contractual arrangement** with the RCMP for the provision of policing services.

**Improve communications** about safety initiatives, policing activities, and related information. This could be accomplished by using social media programs, regular citizen surveys, and public consultations.

Be more proactive in **involving its citizens** in the development and policing and safety policies.

Improve police capacity to address concerns about visibility and response to minor incidents by **increasing the number of peace officers** and assisting the RCMP to fill its full staffing complement.